

## DANCER OF THE WEEK – Liam Mower *Fri 20 May*

Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* is about to bid farewell to the UK with one week to go, heading to the Wycombe Swan, in High Wycombe next week before it flies 5,500 miles to Seoul, South Korea. Nick Kyprianou, our Audience Engagement Coordinator spoke to Liam about his dreams coming true with New Adventures.



Liam has been with the Company since 2011, first seen performing in *Nutcracker!* and has already had the chance to play a plethora of leading roles in Matthew Bourne's productions. He is currently playing Carabosse/Caradoc, Count Lilac and Tantrum in *Sleeping Beauty*.

### ***When did you start taking dance classes?***

As a kid, I was always very into music, and I used to dance around the living room, choreograph dance routines and put on shows for whoever was round for a cup of tea! I'm from a family of four boys, so it was quite a sporty household. I'd dabbled in a lot of hobbies such as football, rugby, baseball, karate. But when I found myself in my first Musical Theatre class, I knew that was the hobby for me! My late great Nanna Jean was a massive influence in me taking my first class, as she'd suggested I go.

### ***Where did your formal training take place?***

I began my formal training at White Lodge, The Royal Ballet School and then completed my BA (Hons) Degree at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, graduating with a 1st class honours.

### ***What drew you to the Company?***

It was when I saw Adam Cooper in his swan pants make his giant leap at the end of *Billy Elliot* the movie. That's when I first set eyes on Matthew's *Swan Lake* and that really inspired me. Not only was it the dancing that drew me to Matthew's work, but also the narrative too. It's really rewarding to get the best of both worlds, to dance a lot but to also tell a story and play other characters. My first production with the company was *Nutcracker!* in 2011 and I was so thrilled!



Liam in *Sleeping Beauty* as Count Lilac (photo: Johan Persson)

### ***What's it like being on tour and in a different place every week?***

I love traveling. Tour is fast paced and I like that. Week to week is a different venue, which means we get to visit a lot of places. It's nice to perform in all the beautiful theatres and play to different audiences. It was a real highlight when we toured the USA with *Sleeping Beauty*, and I'm very much looking forward to performing in Asia this summer!

### ***Do you have a favourite venue to perform at?***

Wales Millennium Centre, in Cardiff is pretty epic! But I love touring to Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Newcastle because of the fun city vibes! A real highlight though has been performing at the City Centre in New York City and Buckingham palace!

# NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE

**In many of Matthew Bourne's shows the dancers have to learn more than one role, performing several tracks in one show and *Sleeping Beauty* is no exception. How do you remember more than one role?**  
It's tricky in rehearsals as you often find that you have to learn two or sometimes three things at once, but you get used to it once you're in performance mode. It's nice to swap roles every evening; it keeps you on your toes!

**Do you have a favourite costume you've worn during your time with *New Adventures* so far?**

The Count Lilac costume I have to wear at the moment in *Sleeping Beauty* is pretty spectacular! I love the colours on the jacket and the shredded effect at the back. Lez Brotherston's attention to detail is mega. Also, the Prince's pajamas in *Swan Lake*, which are comfy, practical and easy to dance in!

**What's your favourite role that you have performed as so far, in the Company, and is there another *New Adventures* production that you would love to take part in?**

Obviously portraying the role of Billy is one of the highlights of my life that I will never forget! Playing Edward Scissorhands was also incredible. The Edward character is so famous, so I felt that there was a lot of pressure, but it was the most rewarding show. Not to mention playing The Prince in *Swan Lake*, which was a dream come true.



*Liam as The Prince in Swan Lake (photo: Helen Maybanks)*

**You are able to follow Liam on Instagram (@liammower) for a further insight into his world!**