



HIT entertainment



**For Immediate Release**

## **ANGELINA BALLERINA TAKES TO THE STAGE WITH ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET**

### ***Angelina's Star Performance* to tour the UK throughout Autumn 2007**

**25 January 2007, British Toy Fair, London** - English National Ballet and HIT Entertainment, one of the world's leading independent children's entertainment producers and rights-owners, has today announced a new partnership to create a family ballet starring the popular children's character *Angelina Ballerina*<sup>™</sup>.

***Angelina's Star Performance*** brings the magic of *Angelina Ballerina* to life in her first live performance on stage. The production features a cast of eight dancers from English National Ballet with over 100 performances over twelve weeks in 20 venues across the UK.

Based on the classic book *Angelina at the Palace*, written by Katherine Holabird, ***Angelina's Star Performance*** follows Angelina as she prepares to stage her own performance of *The Sleeping Beauty*, at the request of the King and Queen in their splendid palace. She even has a real life Princess, Princess Valentine, to star alongside her in the show. It's Angelina's biggest challenge yet... will she manage to pull it off?

***Angelina's Star Performance*** will be a special introduction to ballet for children from the age of 3+ and the tour will be complemented by an education programme designed to give children the opportunity to experience ballet. The performances will also feature fun activities and workshops in the venues including the opportunity to take part in Angelina Ballerina Dance Academy<sup>™</sup> classes.

The stellar creative team behind the production includes ex Principal dancer and Head of Dance at English National Ballet School **Anthony Dowson** who will choreograph the two act children's ballet *Angelina's Star Performance*. The writers behind *Angelina Ballerina's Star Performance* are acclaimed children's writers **Paul Larson** (*Thomas & Friends*<sup>™</sup>, *Angelina & the Royal Dance*<sup>™</sup>, *Bob the Builder*<sup>™</sup>) and **Laura Beaumont** (*Angelina Ballerina & the Royal Dance*, *Bob the Builder*). Costumes will be based on the Angelina Ballerina character and designed by **Wizzy Shawyer**. The set will be created by **Al Riches** and based on the beautiful Angelina Ballerina Carrousel Books, published by Penguin and illustrated by Helen Craig.

Katie Rollings, VP Consumer Products & International Marketing, HIT Entertainment commented, "We are thrilled to be working with English National Ballet in bringing Angelina to life through her very own stage show. ***Angelina's Star Performance*** has a cast and crew that is world class and we hope that through Angelina Ballerina, dance and the arts will be more accessible to children around the country."



Craig Hassall, Managing Director of English National Ballet added, "English National Ballet's mission has always been to bring ballet to the widest possible audience; our collaboration with HIT Entertainment is a great way to do this by encouraging children to get involved and to enjoy ballet with Angelina Ballerina, who is such a good role model for today's children. A project of this scale also gives us the opportunity to perform in venues that we wouldn't be able to visit with the full Company, allowing more people to enjoy the performances."

HIT Entertainment, owners of the *Angelina Ballerina* brand around the world, are seeking sponsorship partners for *Angelina's Star Performance*.

***Angelina's Star Performance*** will have its world premiere at the **New Wimbledon Theatre** on **6 September 2007** before beginning a major UK tour visiting over 20 regional venues.

***Angelina's Star Performance*** runs for 1 hour and 20 minutes including a 20 minute Interval.

### ***Angelina's Star Performance* Listings at a glance**

#### **September 2007**

New Wimbledon Theatre  
Sunderland Empire  
New Oxford Theatre  
Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells  
Grimsby Auditorium  
Grand Opera House, York

#### **October 2007**

Grand Theatre, Blackpool  
Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham  
New Victoria Theatre, Woking  
Opera House, Manchester TBC  
The Grove Theatre, Dunstable  
Swan Theatre, High Wycombe

#### **November 2007**

Regent Theatre, Stoke on Trent  
Tameside Hippodrome  
Southport Theatre  
Civic Theatre, Darlington  
Lighthouse Theatre, Poole  
White Rock Theatre, Hastings

#### **December 2007**

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone  
Princess Theatre, Torquay  
Kings Lyn Corn Exchange

**For the latest national and international touring information and to book online, visit English National Ballet's website at [www.ballet.org.uk](http://www.ballet.org.uk)**

- Ends -

### **About English National Ballet**

English National Ballet is an internationally acclaimed classical ballet company touring nationally and internationally from its studio base in London. The full Company has 64 fulltime dancers and last year gave over 160 performances to an audience of over 200,000.

The original aspiration for the Company - to take popular ballet to the widest geographical audience at a price everyone can afford - remains as valid today as it was when first expressed by the Company's founders over 50 years ago. This aspiration is realised in an extensive national and international touring programme, reasonable ticket prices (prices start at £10 for all performances), discounts for children and the extensive education programmes the Company runs.

With an outstanding reputation for artistic excellence, an English National Ballet performance is a treat for all the senses.

For further information please visit English National Ballet's website at [www.ballet.org.uk](http://www.ballet.org.uk).

### **About HIT Entertainment**

HIT Entertainment, owned by private equity investment group Apax Partners since June 2005, is one of the world's leading independent children's entertainment producers and rights-owners. HIT's portfolio includes internationally renowned children's properties, such as *Bob the Builder*™, *Barney*™, *Thomas & Friends*, *Pingu*™, *Rubbadubbers*™ and *Angelina Ballerina*™. HIT acts as a representative for *The Wiggles*® in the UK, US and Canada and as worldwide representative for The Jim Henson Company's library of classic family brands, including *Fraggle Rock*™. HIT also owns the Guinness World Records™ publishing and television property and *Fireman Sam*™, a joint venture with S4C. Launched in 1989, HIT's lines of business span television and video production (including studios in the US and the UK), publishing, consumer products licensing and live events. With a catalog of more than 1,000 hours of young children's programming, HIT sells its shows to more than 240 countries worldwide, in more than 40 different languages and has operations in the UK, US, Canada, Hong Kong and Japan. In 2005, the Company joined Comcast Corporation, PBS and Sesame Workshop to launch PBS KIDS Sprout<sup>SM</sup>, a 24-hour digital cable channel and VOD service for preschoolers.

For more information, visit [www.hitentertainment.com](http://www.hitentertainment.com)

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

English National Ballet  
Rachel Branton  
020 7581 1245  
[rachel.branton@ballet.org.uk](mailto:rachel.branton@ballet.org.uk)

HIT Entertainment  
Nicole Price  
020 7554 3613  
[nprice@hitentertainment.com](mailto:nprice@hitentertainment.com)