

# MATTHEW BOURNE AND NEW ADVENTURES

## ABOUT NEW ADVENTURES

New Adventures is an iconic and ground-breaking dance-theatre company. Since 1987, it has been known for creating works that have altered the public perception of what is possible when it comes to telling stories without words. The company is led by celebrated choreographer and director, Sir Matthew Bourne. New Adventures has become the most successful and busiest dance company in the UK and is a major exporter of British dance across the world.

## ABOUT MATTHEW BOURNE

For over 30 years, Matthew Bourne has been creating and directing dance for musicals, theatre, film as well as his own highly successful companies. Matthew's work has received an abundance of British and International awards and his dedication to the arts saw him awarded the OBE for services to dance in 2001, followed by a Knighthood in 2016. In 1987, Matthew became Artistic Director of his first company, Adventures in Motion Pictures, after 14 years dancing professionally. In 2002, New Adventures was launched alongside his Co-Director Robert Noble. In addition to being a prolific choreographer, Matthew's company supports the wider dance industry and its future by delivering projects and workshops to thousands of people of all ages and abilities, every year.

## INFLUENCES & INSPIRATIONS

Matthew Bourne is renowned for shattering stereotypes and exploring and pushing boundaries in dance. Key to his approach is the creation of new work from familiar titles that are accessible to audiences unfamiliar with dance. His work is eclectic in its influences, ranging from old films to musical theatre, but often featuring unique theatrical twists. He is inspired by a plethora of stimuli, eras and dance styles, with memorable references and images woven through the majority of his work.





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## STYLISTIC FEATURES

Matthew himself would argue that it is difficult to describe his dance style. Narratives, characters and relationships interest him, rather than a more abstract approach to movement. As he works with dancers from a mixture of contemporary, musical theatre and ballet training, he blends all these genres to create something unique. Key to his stagecraft is his unique approach to collaboration with his creative team and dancers, working with the musical score and storytelling through movement.

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## CHOREOGRAPHIC APPROACH

Once Matthew has established the story and structure of a work, ideas are explored through workshops to generate movement. A collaborative process is used where the dancers have ownership over their character development. Matthew believes it is vital for the dancers to know where their movement comes from and why they are performing it, so that it has truth and intention behind it. Once the choreography of a show has been created, Matthew begins the process of polishing and improving the performance, whilst also shaping the narrative and overseeing how any changes affect it. Reflection is central to his work, ensuring that it is always relevant to a new audience.

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## FIND OUT MORE

- To explore our Take Part activity [click here](#)
- To find out more about New Adventures productions [click here](#)
- To get to know the New Adventures team [click here](#), or to meet the dancers [click here](#)
- To learn more about New Adventures [visit our website](#) and find us on social media [f](#) [@](#) [d](#)

**NEW/ADVENTURES**



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