

dance

● Scottish Ballet: 40th Anniversary Tour London

Scotland's award-winning national ballet company has seen out many different directors and almost as many changes of identity but, as it celebrates its 40th anniversary, it looks in confident and vigorous form, and still grounded in the rigorous classical technique that was at the roots of its creation. Under the directorship of Ashley Page it has acquired a cherry-picked repertoire that



embraces both classical and contemporary styles. It has revived major classics while experimenting cleverly with new work. For this London season (before moving on to tour around Scotland), the company moves from the jazzy virtuosity of Balanchine's 1961 *Rubies* to the postmodern tonal shifts of *Workwithinwork*, one of the last seminal pieces that the internationally renowned American

choreographer and dancer William Forsythe created for Ballet Frankfurt. Completing the programme is Krzysztof Pastor's *In Light And Shadow*. Set to music by Bach, this kinetically dynamic piece opens with the delicate *Aria* from Goldberg Variations and builds to the rich crescendo of the third *Orchestral Suite*.

JUDITH MACKRELL
Sadler's Wells, EC1, Thu to 3 Oct

● English National Ballet: *Giselle/Men Y Men* Manchester

One of the treasures in English National Ballet's repertoire is this production of *Giselle*, first staged by Mary Skeaping back in 1971. Skeaping first learned of *Giselle* as a dancer in Anna Pavlova's company in 1925 and created a version that has a rare attention to both romantic style and modern storytelling.

First cast in the title role is the charismatic Elena Glurdjidze, who is fast becoming the company's most interesting ballerina. Her singularly dramatic gift should be fascinatingly showcased in the role of the peasant girl in the first act and the betrayed ghost in the second act. In a bold departure from tradition, ENB



director Wayne Eagling has opted to pair this classic with a new work

of his own. Set to music by Rachmaninov and choreographed for eight male dancers, *Men Y Men* not only aims to show off the virtuosity of its cast but also to provide a shot of testosterone that contrasts with the delicately feminised world of *Giselle* and the warm-hearted story of redemptive love. **JM**
Palace Theatre, Sat & Sun

● Vincent Dance Theatre: *If We Go On* Newbury

Charlotte Vincent's latest work could have been inspired by Samuel Beckett and the closing words of his novel *The Unnamable*: "You must go on, I can't go, I'll go on." Vincent's cast of actors, dancers and musicians explore



what it feels like to be waiting in the wings - of the theatre and of life - with only the basics

of movement, words or song to entertain their audience and make sense of their existence. A list of collaborators drawn from the cutting edge of European performance include Wendy Houston, Patrycja Kujawska, Aurora Lubos,

Alex Catona and Henry Montes. They ask who they are when they perform, and what gives them the confidence to do it, with surprises at every turn, from sudden exits to spontaneous bursts of song. **JM**
Corn Exchange, Fri

PATRICK BALDWIN