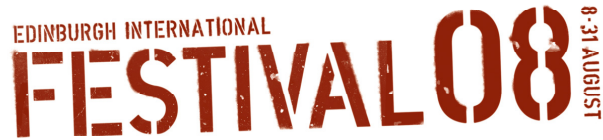


Thursday 21 August 2008

For immediate use



***Matthew Bourne's Dorian Gray* is biggest selling dance show
in Festival history.**

On the eve of its world premiere at the King's Theatre on 22 August 2008, *Matthew Bourne's Dorian Gray* has today been **officially confirmed as the biggest selling dance event in Festival history.**

11,212 people have already booked to see the Matthew Bourne's first new show in nearly three years, breaking the Festival's previous record of 10,146 tickets for Mark Morris's *Hard Nut* in 1995. With ten days of booking left until the last performance of *Dorian Gray*, and some tickets still remaining, total sales could reach the season capacity of 13,000 seats, an increase of nearly 30% on the previous record.

In this new production, premiering at the Edinburgh International Festival, Bourne turns his vibrant imagination to Oscar Wilde's cautionary fable. Set in the image-obsessed worlds of contemporary art and politics, this dark fairy tale tells the story of an exceptionally alluring young man who makes a pact with the devil. Amongst London's beautiful people, Dorian Gray is the "It Boy" - an icon of beauty and truth in an increasingly ugly world.

The master storyteller is best known for his adaptations of classics such as *Swan Lake*, *The Car Man*, *Edward Scissorhands* and *Nutcracker!* - a production which also received its premiere at the Edinburgh Festival (in 1992, with Bourne's former company Adventures In Motion Pictures, in a double bill with OPERA NORTH).

Matthew Bourne, choreographer said:

“I am thrilled with this news. My company last came to the Edinburgh Festival in 1992 and it is so rewarding and exciting that after such a long time there is so much interest in our new show Dorian Gray.”

Jonathan Mills, Festival Director said: “Matthew Bourne’s Dorian Gray has become the biggest selling dance show in the Festival’s history, and I am delighted that it is proving so popular, though it doesn’t come as a surprise! He has been thrilling dance fans and bringing new audiences to dance successfully for years now. I am very pleased that we are able to present the world premiere of his new work based on Oscar Wilde’s The Picture of Dorian Gray.”

- ENDS –

Matthew Bourne’s Dorian Gray

Friday 22 – Saturday 30 August, 8pm

Saturday 23 & Saturday 30 August, 2.30pm

No performance Monday 25 August

For tickets: www.eif.co.uk or 0131 473 2000

For more information please contact Susie Burnet or Martin Reynolds in the Edinburgh International Festival press office on +44 (0)131 473 2020 or press@eif.co.uk