



entertainment

Bourne's evocative and exciting take on a classic

Cinderella

Milton Keynes Theatre

Matthew Bourne's wartime revival of Cinderella dances into the new city next week, writes Georgina Butler.

The admired choreographer's company, New Adventures, makes its annual visit to Milton Keynes Theatre from Tuesday with another exciting and evocative dance theatre production.

Bourne's radical retelling of Cinderella is set in London during the Second World War and the production follows hot on the heels of his double Olivier Award-winning *The Red Shoes*, which dazzled dance fans on tour last year. Dancers Ashley Shaw and Cordelia Braithwaite both triumphed playing ballerina Victoria Page in *The Red Shoes* and are now leading the cast for *Cinderella*, alternating the title role.

In this inventive interpretation, Cinderella is still a timid, mousy daddy's girl who undergoes a transformation but her "prince" is an injured young RAF pilot called Harry.

Their romantic encounter is aided by a male Angel figure, instead of a fairy godmother, and takes place at a swish do at the Café de Paris, rather than at a royal ball.

The magical evening is cut short when the venue is bombed - just as it was in real



Bourne's Cinderella: A wonderful, inventive production

life during the Blitz in 1941. Amid the chaos, as figures in gas masks emerge from clouds of dust and sirens wail, the dashing pilot finds himself searching all over London for the pretty girl who has misplaced her slipper...

Bourne's *Cinderella* premiered in the West End in 1997, was heavily reworked in 2010 and has been revived

to round off New Adventures' 30th anniversary celebrations.

The production features sumptuous, Olivier Award-winning costumes and sets by designer Lez Brotherston, Bourne's regular collaborator. All the character-driven dance and vivid storytelling is set to Prokofiev's glorious ballet score.

Ticketholders can look forward to experiencing the jubilant and involving melodies in rich and reverberating surround sound, thanks to a specially commissioned recording played by a 60-piece orchestra. With a wartime romance at its heart, Bourne's *Cinderella* promises to be the perfect Valentine's treat. atickets.com/miltonkeynes



Journey to the Impossible

Stantonbury Theatre, Feb 11

A coming-of-age quest, featuring epic songs, cinematic storytelling and hip hop dance. Three kids are in trouble. Well, what do you expect if you knock on the door of an inter-dimensional

portal and run away? By means of bicycles, bandanas and neural space travel, we travel with them on an adventure to the impossible, taking on intergalactic challenges, fighting invisible forces and making sacrifices... stantonburytheatre.co.uk



Pandora's Box

Stantonbury Theatre, Feb 12

An eerie forest, an abandoned palace and a mystery woman who holds the keys to the universe; if you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise...

Like the sublime stories

and mystical worlds of J.K. Rowling, Neil Gaiman and Phillip Pullman, this is a timeless tale that appeals to all ages; an epic story of friendship, courage and sacrifice.

An imaginative retelling of an ancient legend.

stantonburytheatre.co.uk



Romeo & Juliet

Northampton Derngate, Feb 12

The Russian State Ballet of Siberia is one of Russia's leading ballet companies. The superb soloists and corps de ballet never fail to delight audiences with their breath-taking physical

ability and dazzling costumes. Shakespeare's tale of passion and tragedy is brought to life by Prokofiev's soaring score, set in bustling Verona with emotionally charged choreography.

www.royalandderngate.co.uk