

# The London Ballet Circle

*Founding President and First Patron: Dame Ninette de Valois OM, CH, DBE  
President and Patron 1981 to 2004: Dame Alicia Markova DBE  
Founded in 1946 by Stanley Hawkins*

**Patron:** Sir Peter Wright CBE

**President:** Dame Monica Mason DBE

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Wayne Eagling, David Nixon OBE, Darius James, David Bintley CBE

**Associate Vice President:** Michael Broderick

**Chairman:** Susan Dalgetty Ezra

**UK Charity Registration No 1123258**

**April 2014**

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

**Wednesday 14 May 2014 - Visit to Central School of Ballet**

**Monday 19 May 2014 - Lauren Cuthbertson**

**Monday 2 June 2014 - Christopher Marney**

**Monday 23 June 2014 - Christopher Powney with Gerald Dowler**

**Wednesday 25 June 2014 - Visit to English National Ballet School**

**Friday 4 July 2014 - Royal Opera House Workshop Tour, Thurrock**

**Saturday 12 July 2014 - Visit to Rambert School of Ballet**

**Saturday 19 July to Saturday 1 August 2014 - Yorkshire Ballet Summer School**

**Monday 4 August 2014 – Xander Parish**

**Monday 22 September 2014 - Alex Beard CBE**

**Please note the changes and additions in the above list of events from the last newsletter**

**Visit to Central School of Ballet – Wednesday 14 May 2014, 1.45 pm for 2.00 pm  
10 Herbal Hill, Clerkenwell Road, EC1  
Payment in advance, members only**

We are delighted to have received an invitation from Central School of Ballet to watch students from their graduate company, Ballet Central, prepare for their performance in Leeds the following week as part of their 2014 nationwide tour. This is a visit that we have been privileged to enjoy over a number of years and is always eagerly anticipated, not only because of the warm welcome we receive from all members of staff but also because of the high standard of the students who never fail to impress by the quality of their dancing and variety of the choreography they tackle.

This information has already been given to all members who are on Email and as always they have been asked to give it to their friends who do not have Email access. However places have been going very quickly and are restricted to members only, so if you wish to attend please get in touch as soon as possible.

The suggested donation for this visit is £12.50 and if you would like to participate please send your cheque, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP (tel: 020 8361 2872, Email: [audrey8allen@gmail.com](mailto:audrey8allen@gmail.com)). Receipt of cheques and confirmation of places will be given by Email where appropriate but if you require a written receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

The nearest underground station is Farringdon (Circle and Metropolitan lines and overhead), turn right on leaving the station into Farringdon Road, cross at the traffic lights and turn right until you reach Clerkenwell Road, turn left and Herbal Hill is the first side turning you reach.

**Lauren Cuthbertson – Monday 19 May 2014, 7.30 pm**  
**The Dining Room, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

We are very happy to welcome Royal Ballet Principal, Lauren Cuthbertson, as our guest this evening. Lauren was born in Devon where she started dancing lessons at the age of three, becoming a Junior Associate of The Royal Ballet, then training at both the Lower and Upper Schools before joining the Company in 2002. She rose from Soloist, then First Soloist, to becoming in 2008 the youngest Principal of The Royal Ballet and has danced in all the major ballets in the repertoire, often at short notice. The many awards she has received demonstrate her early potential and its fulfilment, from (among many others) the Phyllis Bedells Prize, the Lynn Seymour Award for Expressive Dance and Young British Dancer of the Year (Silver) 2000, then Gold in 2001, to Arts and Culture Woman of the Future Award in 2007.

Following a sprained ankle she began to suffer from a baffling fatigue when rehearsing for her debut in *Giselle* in 2009. She nevertheless managed to dance the role, receiving exceptional praise from the critics, and was subsequently diagnosed with glandular fever followed by post-viral fatigue syndrome, or ME. This period of extreme incapacity is happily now behind her and she continues to delight her many admirers in principal roles, most recently as Hermione in *The Winter's Tale*.

Lauren has a huge commitment to inspiring young dancers and is an involved and enthusiastic patron of National Youth Ballet and London Children's Ballet.

**Christopher Marney – Monday 2 June 2014, 7.30 pm**  
**The Dining Room, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

We are delighted that Christopher Marney, whose astonishingly varied and far-reaching career as dancer and choreographer is impossible to summarise in a few sentences, is to be our guest this evening. He trained at the Central School of Ballet in his early teens where he was greatly influenced by Christopher Gable who still remains an inspiration to him.

After graduating he joined Matthew Bourne's Adventures in Motion Pictures and within a few months was dancing the Prince in Bourne's *Swan Lake*, then appeared in *The Car Man*, following which he was invited to join George Piper Dances, a company of just seven dancers, which included directors William Trevitt and Michael Nunn, that toured extensively in the UK and abroad. Avid for a wide experience in dance he joined Gothenburg Ballet, creating roles and working with renowned choreographers such as Jiri Kylian and Nacho Duato, a turning point in his development being the creation of a role in Jo Kanamori's *L'Après Midi d'un Faun*. He then moved to Ballet Biarritz touring the world before returning to London where he has been successfully working as a freelance dancer and choreographer, in venues large and small, ranging from the Brideswell Theatre in Fleet Street to the Linbury Studio and the Peacock, and with companies such as Ballet Black, the Michael Clark Company, ROH2, Bern Ballet and Ballet Central.

Ballet Central will be dancing Christopher's *Carousel Dances* (music Rogers and Hammerstein) in their 2014 tour, the fourth ballet he has choreographed for them. He remains committed to Matthew Bourne's New Adventures and is an active and joint patron, with Doreen Wells, of The Chelmsford Ballet Company for whom he is staging a specially commissioned piece in 2015. Doreen came out of retirement from dancing to appear in his *Hotel Follies* in 2009.

We anticipate a very interesting evening in Christopher's company.

**Christopher Powney with Gerald Dowler - Monday 23 June 2014, 7.30 pm**  
**The Dining Room, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

Christopher Powney has just taken up his appointment as Artistic Director Designate of the Royal Ballet School and we are privileged to welcome him as our guest this evening, and are particularly grateful that dance critic and writer, Gerald Dowler, has agreed to be his interviewer. Jay Jolley continues in the role of Acting Director until Gailene Stock, who regrettably is still ill, retires on 31 August when Christopher takes over the running of the School, so the summer term will be a period of transition. Christopher comes from the position of Artistic Director of the Dutch National Ballet Academy. He danced with English National Ballet, Northern Ballet and Rambert before turning to teaching, having qualified on The Royal Ballet School's Professional Teachers' Course, has been being Assistant Artistic Director of Ballet Central and taught at The Royal Ballet Upper School and worldwide. During his dancing career he worked with eminent dancers and choreographers including Rudolf Nureyev, Christopher Gable, Jiri Kilian, Lynn Seymour, Christopher Bruce, Twyla Tharp, Frederic Franklin and Glen Tetley. His background and experience make it clear why his appointment as Director was a unanimous choice by the Board of Governors and we look forward to meeting him in his new role.

**Wednesday 25 June 2014, 1.30 pm for 2.00 pm**  
**English National Ballet School**  
**Carlyle Building, Hortensia Road, SW10**  
**Payment in advance**

We are delighted to inform you that Galina Wilkinson has invited LBC members to attend an open rehearsal at English National Ballet School on the above date. Long-standing members need no reminding that we feel very privileged to be able to participate in these visits, which are always greatly enjoyed and keenly anticipated, and we hope that some of our more recently subscribed members will be able to take advantage of them – we are always given a very warm welcome.

If you would like a place on this visit the suggested donation is £12.50 and you should send your cheque, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP (tel: 020 8361 2872, Email: [audrey8allen@gmail.com](mailto:audrey8allen@gmail.com)). As always your cheque and confirmation of place will be acknowledged by Email where applicable, but if you require a written receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. On this occasion members may apply to bring one guest.

**Tour of the ROH Bob and Tamar Manoukian Productions Workshop -Friday 4 July 2014, 1.30 pm**  
**Purfleet, Thurrock, Essex**  
**Payment in advance, £10**

A few places are still available for the tour we have booked for our members of this fascinating, huge and purpose built workshop, where it is possible to see painters, carpenters and metalworkers creating the scenery for ballet and opera productions, and to learn something of the skills behind theatre set construction and design. The tour is led by a professional and well-informed tour guide and there is an opportunity to visit the unique viewing galleries which the designers and craftsmen use to see from above how their creations will appear on stage. Although in our last newsletter we pointed out that the site is vast and the tour involves a lot of walking and stairs we did not mean to deter anybody with ordinary mobility from taking part.

If you would like to participate in this interesting visit please send your cheque for £10, made out to The London Ballet Circle, to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP (all details as above). Full details of travelling arrangements (taxis are necessary from the station to get to the site) will be sent to every member participating in the tour. If you wish to drive instructions are available.

**Visit to Rambert - Saturday 12 July 2014, time tbc**  
**99 Upper Ground, South Bank, SE1 9PP**  
**Payment in advance**

We are excited to have received an invitation from Kathryn Baildon-Smith, Development Officer for Rambert, to watch their dancers take class and follow this by a tour of their new building on the South Bank, which the Company moved into at the end of 2013, bringing dance to join the other arts which have their home in London's vibrant South Bank. It is a privilege to be able to see the Company's purpose built and state-of-the-art facilities.

The suggested donation for this visit is £12.50 and if you, or a guest, would like to participate please send your cheque, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP (tel: 020 8361 2872, Email: [audrey8allen@gmail.com](mailto:audrey8allen@gmail.com)). Receipt of cheques and confirmation of places will be given by Email where appropriate but if you require a written receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. The exact time of the visit has yet to be confirmed, but it is likely to be in the afternoon and the probable time will be 1.30pm. Everyone who books a place will receive full details.

**Please note:** the date of this visit has had to be changed for administrative reasons and Kathryn has apologised for this but hopes that those who cannot manage the new date will be able to take advantage of other events to be held later and these will be advised in due course.

**Yorkshire Ballet Summer School - Saturday 19 July to Saturday 1 August 2014**  
**Usual LBC participation Wednesday 23 to Wednesday 30 July 2014**  
**Askham Bryan College, Askham Fields Lane, York**

Regular attendees at the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School are aware that the venue has changed this year to the above address. Askham Bryan is about 10 minutes drive from the centre of York and there is extensive free parking at the college. Public transport to and from the city centre is limited to two buses a day so a taxi is recommended for arrival and departure, possibly shared at other times if wishing to get into the City or other parts of the surrounding area. Askham Bryan itself is a very interesting and attractive area, having many buildings and items of historical interest and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The College website is worth visiting: [www.askham-bryan.ac.uk](http://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk)

The cost of Bed & Breakfast en-suite accommodation is £35.50pp/pn including VAT. There are currently up to 63 bedrooms (all single occupancy) available for the Ballet Circle in a self-contained block. The block has 3 floors with 17 rooms on the ground floor and 23 rooms on each of the other floors. Each floor has 2 kitchens equipped with a kettle, toaster, microwave and fridge. Guests will need to bring their own cutlery and utensils and provisions. The Refectory will be open and lunch and an evening meal can be purchased on an ad hoc basis. There is also a very good pub in the village where food of a high standard can be obtained.

Teachers include Patricia Linton, Laurent Novis, David Pickering, Marguerite Porter, Yosvani Rama and Christopher Tudor.

The London Ballet Circle donation for attendees is £45 and this is a contribution towards our student bursaries and for being allowed to watch classes during the day and the special evening coaching session to be given by guest teacher, Sir Anthony Dowell. If you would like to support YBSS and enjoy seeing these carefully selected students benefiting from expert tuition, in the company of fellow enthusiasts, please send your cheques, one made payable to Askham Bryan College for the appropriate amount, depending on how many nights you wish to stay, and one for £45 made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP. If you would like a written acknowledgement of the safe receipt of your cheques please also enclose a stamped addressed envelope. If you have any special needs or requests please indicate these so that the College can be advised.

**Xander Parish – Monday 4 August 2014, 7.30 pm**  
**The Dining Room, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

We are thrilled that Xander is to be our guest this evening, during the Mariinsky's season at the ROH and soon after many of us will have seen him appearing as Romeo, the second time since he has been with the Mariinsky that he has come to talk to us. He needs no introduction as he and his sister, Demelza, have been known to many of us since he was a child taking part in the Yorkshire Ballet Seminars (now Summer School) and we have watched his career with great interest and pride. In 2005 he and Demelza were awarded a special bursary from The London Ballet Circle at the Royal Ballet School's Prize Giving ceremony to honour the memory of Dame Alicia Markova, so we feel a modest proprietorial pleasure in his achievements.

Born in Yorkshire he began his dancing career aged 8 at the Skelton Hooper School of Dance in Hull, went on to White Lodge, then to the Royal Ballet Upper School and in 2005, with Demelza, joined the Company, dancing in most of the established repertoire. In 2009 he was invited to join the Mariinsky and did so in January 2010, the first and, so far, only British dancer to do so. His debut was as The Poet in *Chopiana* and since that he has had the opportunity to tackle a variety of roles including Siegfried, Albrecht and Romeo. He has toured extensively with the Mariinsky to Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Oman, Switzerland, UAE, UK and the USA. Xander has been promoted to soloist and we look forward to his performances during the 2014 London season as well as to this special evening in his company.

**Alex Beard CBE – Monday 22 September 2014, 7.30 pm**  
**The Dining Room, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

It is with very great pleasure that we announce that the new Chief Executive of The Royal Opera House, Alex Beard, has agreed to be our guest on this occasion (you will notice that the date has had to be changed). After graduating from King's College London he worked for a year at KPMG before joining the Arts Council of Great Britain, moving in 1995 to the Tate as Director of Finance and Administration, Director of Business in 1999 and Deputy Director in 2002. With Director, Nicholas Serota, he was closely involved with the development of Tate Modern, Tate Britain and Tate St Ives. In 2012 he was awarded the CBE for his services to the arts. He has an enduring love of opera and, more recently, a keen interest in ballet; other interests include cycling, cricket and cooking.

Pundits in the arts world found his appointment surprising initially, but all are united in judging that his contribution to the creation of Tate Modern cannot be overestimated, nor his importance in the growth and success of the Tate enterprise as a whole. His business and financial credentials speak for themselves and these are going to be important in the need to oversee the forthcoming redevelopment of the Royal Opera House's public areas, in order to open up the organisation more fully to the public, and the continuing requirement for the House to raise funds and diversify its income. Those who know and have worked with him are confident that his unquestionable ability as an administrator will bring to the Opera House the skills to support and complement the work of the Artistic Directors.

**Please note:** Allison Potts will be interviewing Alex and, because of the scope of his work and remit, thought that our members might like to suggest particular areas of interest that they would like to be discussed. We have to date received one question and additional thoughts would be welcome. If you have any ideas please contact Allison on: [allison.potts@clara.net](mailto:allison.potts@clara.net), or pass them on to any member of the committee.

## Memorial Service for David Wall

A service in memory of David Wall will be held on Thursday 22 May at 11 am at St Martin-in-the-Fields. All are welcome to attend but if you intend to be present please notify Elizabeth Ferguson, Deputy Company Manager of The Royal Ballet by Email at: [elizabeth.ferguson@roh.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.ferguson@roh.org.uk) so that appropriate seating arrangements can be made.

## Other items of news and interest

**Yorkshire Ballet Summer School Scholarships:** the London Ballet Circle is giving two scholarships to students, chosen by their respective schools and approved by Marguerite Porter, to attend this year's Yorkshire Ballet Summer School. They are **Ann Wall**, who is 18 and a first year student at English National Ballet School, and **Brogan McKelvey**, a 17 year old first year student at The Royal Ballet Upper School. Both students have expressed their pleasure and excitement at being given this opportunity and members going to YBSS will be able to see them in action and it is possible that those attending the visits to the RBUS and ENBS may see them there. Judging by the other students we have sponsored (and seen) at Yorkshire over the years it would seem that Ann and Brogan both have very promising futures and are names to be remembered.

A portrait of **Dame Monica Mason** has been unveiled recently at the National Portrait Gallery and we have no doubt that our members will be eager to view it.

**The Royal Academy of Dance:** we have received the following request from the Examinations Department of the RAD:

We know that many people working in the dance industry today started their careers with RAD dance training. Please help us to reach as many people as possible by sharing this request with dancers you work with or others you may know.

Have you ever taken ballet exams with the Royal Academy of Dance? Or have you been involved with the RAD in another way? If so we would like to hear from you. We would appreciate 5 minutes of your time to complete our short survey (with the chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher). Please complete the survey here: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/BWDQZ8D](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BWDQZ8D)

**The Chelmsford Ballet Company:** LBC member, Marion Pettet, Chairman of the Company, reports that their recent production of *The Nutcracker* was a tremendous success attracting an audience of 98%. They are now looking ahead to 2015 and with this in mind are looking for a new intake of dancers. The staging of *Peter and the Wolf* is being considered, along with two other pieces.

Applications are sought from male and female dancers, and the annual auditions for dancing membership take place on 22 June (closing date for applications 8 June). Members are selected at audition for entry to the Company. Junior dancing members must be aged 10 or above on 1 September and have a Grade 2 ballet certificate or be working at an equivalent level. General/senior dancing members must be at least 13 on 1 September and female candidates for senior dancing membership must be working en pointe.

Full membership rules and an application form can be requested from the Membership Secretary on [cbcenquiries@hotmail.com](mailto:cbcenquiries@hotmail.com) or downloaded from the website: [www.thechelmsfordballetcompany.co.uk](http://www.thechelmsfordballetcompany.co.uk)

As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, Christopher Marney will be staging a specially commissioned piece for the Company of which, with Doreen Wells, he is Patron, in 2015.

LBC member, Bill Boyd, is currently rehearsing the part of Cardinal Wolsey in Harold Brenton's riveting play *Anne Boleyn* with Putney Theatre Company. Anybody who saw the play at the Globe Theatre two years ago will agree that it is a captivating piece of theatre and well worth seeing. The production will be performed at Putney Arts Theatre from 24 to 28 June. 7.45 pm, with a Saturday matinee. The theatre is in Ravenna Road, SW15, box office 020 888 69423.

If any of our members is holidaying in Italy in the Tuscany region in August they may be interested to know that **Ivan Putrov** is performing in *Men in Motion* at the Teatro in Versiliana on 16 August.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, for those living in or near Wales, or able to go, on 3 May, 7.30 pm, **Ballet Cymru** is putting on a double bill of new Welsh dance at the Riverfront Theatre, Newport: *Week of Pines*, choreographed by Darius James and Amy Doughty to music from the award winning album of the same name (recording artist, Georgia Ruth, will be playing the music live on stage) and *The Same Flame*, collaborating with Thomas Hewitt Jones (BBC Young Composer of 2003) to a new score.

Ballet Cymru moved into their new premises at the end of last year and all members of the small company have been working to get everything, from cleaning and painting, organised. They are still working on their new website and it isn't yet up-to-date. Some details of their tour with *Beauty and the Beast* are available and in the South East/Greater London area these include: 14 May The Ark Theatre, Borehamwood, 020 8238 7288, 2 and 3 June Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage, 01488 365200 and 5 June, The Corn Exchange, Newbury, 01635 522733. Other dates will be passed on when these are known (or consult the listings in Dancing Times).

A reminder that on Sunday 1 June 2014, 3.30 pm Ivy House Music and Dance is hosting **Lady Deborah MacMillan** with **Clement Crisp** and **Donald MacLeary** to explore Kenneth MacMillan's legacy to British Ballet, his evocative and spellbinding choreography as exemplified in ballets such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Manon* and *Mayerling*. His genius continues to inspire dancers and audiences worldwide. Lady Deborah MacMillan, his wife and custodian of her husband's works, will discuss this legacy with distinguished dance critic Clement Crisp. A masterclass will follow given by former Principal dancer Donald MacLeary coaching the part of Romeo with a soloist from The Royal Ballet. Tickets £20 may still be available, but dance events at Ivy House tend to be sold out quickly. If you wish to find out if there are still places visit [www.ljcc.org.uk](http://www.ljcc.org.uk), tel: 020 8457 5000, or Email [admin@ljcc.org.uk](mailto:admin@ljcc.org.uk)

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### Email

There are times when we receive last minute information and invitations, or events are advised, and as the newsletter does not have set dates for sending out (depending as it does on the very busy professionals who make our programmes possible) Email is the only way to send this out as quickly and efficiently as possible. We are always conscious of our members who do not have Email access and if you are one of those we do encourage you to make sure that you know at least one person who has the facility and who can pass on items of possible interest promptly. Members who receive these Emails are always requested to let their friends know about them.

### PayPal

When making payments or donations to LBC why not save yourself the price of a stamp by paying online via PayPal. Go to <http://www.tlbc.org.uk/events.htm> and click on the 'Apply now' button, insert the appropriate amount as shown in the newsletter and follow the instructions on the acknowledgement page which will appear once payment has been completed.

## **Do you shop online?**

If so, did you know that you can help LBC raise funds to support more student dancers while you shop online? Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury, John Lewis, Boots and Amazon are among over 2000 stores that have teamed up with **EasyFundRaising.org.uk** so that every time you shop online the stores donate money to your favourite charity – and it costs you nothing! Register quickly and free of charge by:

1. clicking on [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
2. selecting 'Register as a user'
3. clicking London Ballet Circle as the charity you wish to support, then each time you shop online log on to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and go from there in the usual way and up to 15% of what is spent will be donated by the retailer to The London Ballet Circle.

## **Easysearch.org.uk**

Using Easysearch is another way to raise funds for your chosen charity, simply by surfing the web. When you search you'll raise funds for your cause and by making just 10 searches a day with Easysearch instead of Google or other search engine you should generate £20 a year. Easysearch has combined the results from several major search engines - Bing, Yahoo and others - to track down the most relevant results from across the web which means that you'll find what you are looking for easily in one search. Easysearch is completely free to use so this is a great way to support your cause.

## **...and finally**

We are always glad to receive offers of help from our members in running LBC. Currently we would be very grateful in particular for volunteers to write up some of the reports of our events. Please contact Susan Dalgetty-Ezra if this is something you would like to consider.

### **The 2014 Committee of The London Ballet Circle**

Susan Dalgetty Ezra - Chairman (020 7224 5594)  
Audrey Allen - Newsletter (020 8361 2872)  
Esme Chandler - Honorary Auditor (020 8348 1571)  
Diane Dewar - Honorary Secretary (020 7736 6269)  
Susan Johnson - Honorary Treasurer (07725 149482)  
Dr Sandra Kendall - Committee Member  
Istvan Lengyel - Co-opted Member/Website (07505 406331)  
Serena Martin - Honorary Membership Secretary (020 7402 6799)  
Allison Potts - Talks Host (07870 116302)  
Tim Rooke - Venues Secretary (020 8352 0492)  
Felicity Trew - Committee Member