

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*

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UK Charity Registration No 1123258

Website: www.tlbc.org.uk

June 2012

FUTURE EVENTS

Friday 29 June 2012 - Visit to a Dress Rehearsal at Tring Park for the Performing Arts

Tuesday 3 July 2012 - Visit to English National Ballet School

Monday 9 July 2012 - Elizabeth Harrod and Steven McRae

Tuesday 17 July 2012 - Xander Parish

Wednesday 25 July to Wednesday 1 August 2012 - Yorkshire Ballet Summer School

Dress Rehearsal at Tring Park School for the Performing Arts - Friday 29 June 2012, 3.30 pm
Tring Park, Tring, Herts
Payment in advance - £12.50

We are delighted to have been invited for the second year running to see the dress rehearsal of the graduate year's end of year Summer Show. Those of us who attended last year enjoyed an eclectic programme of ballet, modern dance, jazz dance and music, both instrumental and vocal, which showcased the excellent training in the performing arts enjoyed by students at Tring Park.

If you would like to take part in this visit please send a cheque, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP (Email audrey.allen035@btinternet.com, tel 020 8361 2872). Acknowledgement of your payment and confirmation of place will be made by Email, where applicable, but if you require a written receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. If paying by PayPal please advise that you have done so and check in advance that places are still available.

Visit to English National Ballet School - Tuesday 3 July 2012, 1.30 for 2.00 pm

Places for this very popular visit are now allocated but if you would like to be considered for a cancellation, should one arise, please contact Audrey Allen (details as above).

Venues

We are sad to have lost our delightful venue at Waterstone's, following its change of ownership and some redeployment of staff and offices. Despite much hard work on the part of the committee it has been extremely difficult to find a convenient and economically viable venue in Central London for our meetings. If anybody has any possible suggestions and/or contacts please contact Allison Potts, our Chairman, or any other committee member, without delay.

Meanwhile careful note should be made of the locations and arrangements for our next two events.

Elizabeth Harrod and Steven McRae - Monday 9 July 2012, 7.30 pm
The Downer Room, Australian High Commission, Strand, WC2
Payment in advance – members £3, guests £6

We are delighted to welcome Lizzie and Steven, Mr and Mrs McRae, as our guests this evening. Both have spoken to us before (Steven in February 2007 and Lizzie, interviewed by Michael Broderick, in January 2008) and need little introduction. Lizzie and Steven were married in August 2011 and we look forward to a very enjoyable evening in their company.

Elizabeth was born in Yorkshire and received her training at the famous Skelton Hooper School in Kingston-upon-Hull, before going to The Royal Ballet School. She was a regular attendee at the Yorkshire Ballet Seminars where many of our members first came to know her. On graduation she was offered a three year contract with the National Ballet of Norway and joined The Royal Ballet in 2007 as an Artist, subsequently being promoted to First Artist. Since that time she has danced in much of the Company's repertoire and attracted favourable notices from the critics as Clara and in the Dance of the Mirlitons in *The Nutcracker*, the Spring Fairy in *Cinderella*, Princess Stephanie in *Mayerling* among very many other roles. She has taken part in charitable events, such as Marguerite Porter's Gala Evening of Song and Dance (in aid of the YBSS Trust) and in Mara Galeazzi's 'A Dream of Africa'.

Steven, born in Sydney, took up dancing when his sister began jazz and tap classes, training with Hilary Kaplan and Glen Wood. His original ambition was to follow his father into drag racing but his talent for dance quickly became apparent when he won the Genee International Ballet Competition at the age of 16 and the Prix de Lausanne in 2003. He came to The Royal Ballet School and joined the Company in 2004 where he quickly rose through the ranks, becoming a Principal in 2009. It would take several pages to detail all his achievements with The Royal Ballet but the key opportunity to demonstrate his talent in one of the most prized and demanding leading roles in the repertoire came when he replaced Johan Kobborg, who was injured, as Romeo at very short notice, and even managed to get his family over from Australia to share in his triumph. Since then he has tackled principal roles in the classics, MacMillan, Ashton and modern ballets, to great acclaim. Steven appeared in Gary Avis's charity concert, 'The Hunger Project', a global charity to end world hunger, in 2011. He is currently studying Business Management at the Open University.

Please note: It is a great privilege to be allowed to hold this event at the Australian High Commission but because it is a high security venue there are some security conditions, namely:

- Members must book in advance so that we can provide a guest list. If anybody who is not on the list turns up she/he will not be admitted.
- Those attending must bring some ID with them, something with their name on will do although a photo ID, though not essential, would be better (Freedom Passes for some of us!).
- There is a strict photography policy. Individuals must not use phones or cameras to photograph in the Downer Room or any part of the High Commission. We may select one person as photographer and this person must be made known to the event security on the night. Photographs must not show any identifiable background and must not show the entrance to the Downer Room and the area beyond.
- Please make your payment to The London Ballet Circle as usual via Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP (Email audrey.allen035@btinternet.com, tel 020 8361 2872). Acknowledgement of your payment and confirmation of place will be made by Email, where applicable, but if you require a written receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope and if paying by PayPal please advise that you have done so.

Xander Parish - Tuesday 17 July 2012, 7.30 pm
St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1
Payment at the door, members £3, guests £6

It is a great pleasure to welcome Xander Parish as our guest this evening. With his sister, Demelza, he came to us in April 2006, shortly after joining The Royal Ballet, he and Demelza having being the recipients of our two annual prizes at The Royal Ballet School's prize giving ceremony the previous year. Xander also is known to many of us from his attendances at the Yorkshire Ballet Seminars.

Xander was born in Yorkshire and like so many other successful dancers trained at the Skelton Hooper School in Kingston-upon-Hull. He trained at White Lodge from 1998 and went into the Upper School from where he joined the Company in 2005. He won many awards, including coming second in the Young British Dancer of the Year in 2004 and being a silver medallist in the Genee International Ballet Competition in the same year. In January 2011 Xander joined the Mariinsky Ballet as a coryphee and made his debut as the Poet in *Chopiniana*, much to the delight of his many British fans when he performed the role in the Mariinsky's summer season at the Royal Opera House. Since then he has performed many roles in the established classics, danced Tushkevich in *Anna Karenina* and made his debut as the Berangee in *Raymonda*. It will be fascinating to hear how Xander has adjusted to life in Russia and the differences he has experienced in two major national ballet companies.

Please note: Because of strict fire regulations no more than 40 people can be admitted. You are therefore advised to arrive in good time otherwise we will be unable to let you in once the 40 mark has been passed.

It is some time since we used this venue but the meeting room is in the basement and access is from Church Place, between the Rectory and Costa Coffee. Green Park (Victoria line) or Piccadilly (Piccadilly line) stations are both nearby and convenient for St. James's Church.

Yorkshire Ballet Summer School - Wednesday 25 July to Wednesday 1 August 2012

All requests and payment for accommodation at York St John University have been sent to the Conference Organiser, together with your special requests. Any member wishing to make a late application is requested to do so as soon as possible. A list of attendees will be sent to every person going nearer the time, together with information for any member attending for the first time.

Also of interest

Thursday 28 June, 5 to 7 pm, rehearsal of *Labyrinth of Love*, Charlotte Surman, Development Officer at Rambert, recently invited up to 10 members of LBC, to attend a rehearsal of this brand new work, led by choreographer Margaret Donlon, at the Rambert Studios, 94 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 1SH, followed by a drinks reception and an "in conversation" session at a small fee of £5 each. If you are interested in this fascinating opportunity please send a cheque for £5, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to Audrey Allen (all details as above) and reimbursement will be made by LBC to Rambert.

Monday 2 July, 6 to 9 pm, The Royal Ballet School, Floral Street, invitation to the launch of '**Ninette de Valois: Adventurous Traditionalist**' a new Dance Books publication. The book, including a DVD with 4 hours of material, will be available for purchase at £20. Drinks will be served from 6pm. At 7 pm there will be a short presentation followed by a screening of the Royal Opera House Collections documentary film *Come Dance With Me: Ninette de Valois and the story of The Royal Ballet*. As numbers are limited it is important that the School knows if you plan to attend. Please Email museum@royalballetschool.co.uk or telephone White Lodge Museum on 020 8393 8440, option 7.

Friday 6 to Wednesday 11 July, evenings 7.30 pm, matinees Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday 2.30 pm, Elmhurst School for Dance **Summer Show 2012**. Tickets are £16 for adults, £12 for children, students and senior citizens, a maximum of 2 tickets per applicant and priority is given to parents/guardians. If you wish to apply please send your cheque made payable to Elmhurst Ballet School Trust and **stamped addressed envelope** to Elmhurst School for Dance, 249 Bristol Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B5 7UH, clearly marked **Booking – TML**.

Saturday Monday 9 July, ‘Big Dance Activate 2012’. Curve Theatre, Rutland Street, Leicester. Graham Fletcher, a teacher of ballet, school is putting on a show featuring “once a week children” who would never have danced had Graham not chosen them through the free to school Dance Activate scheme that he started. He writes that he would love it if any of our members would like to come and see the performance. Graham is motivated by his own passion for dance to passing on some of this to children who might otherwise not have the opportunity to experience ballet classes and performing and says of his activities with them that “much of this started with encouragement from LBC all those years ago”. We made a grant to enable him to buy barres for his school - “those barres are still used today and have sent students on to wonderful careers and give much enjoyment to many children”. Tickets: 0116 242 3595, tickets@curvetheatre.co.uk He would love to meet up with any LBC members after the performance.

Horizons Dance Theatre

Richard Chappell, a 16 year old dancer in his first year at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, has an ambition to be artistic director of his own company as well as dreaming of becoming a professional dancer. He has formed a group of other young dancers to dance for him under the title Horizons Dance Theatre, individuals whom he describes as “inspiring, fun, professional and, most importantly, passionate”. The dancers (from Central, Tring Park, Elmhurst and Rambert) are completely independent of their teachers and have performed around the country, choreographing, designing costumes and lighting and managing the financial costs of its productions.

Richard himself trained at Tring Park before moving to Rambert and writes that he remembers getting positive feedback from several members of The London Ballet Circle on two of our visits to Tring Park, hence his wish to make Horizons known to our members. Needless to say there are severe financial pressures in keeping this enterprising and enthusiastic young company going and with this in mind he is inviting people with an interest in dance and commitment to its future to become patrons of the company by making a one-off donation of between £25 and £50. It is not in the remit of the LBC committee to request our members to make donations of any kind and this is merely an item of possible interest. If you would like further information from Richard his contact details are: 16 Chase Gardens, Twickenham, TW2 7PB, tel 07952 682012, Richard@chappellfamily.plus.com. If you would like to “try before you buy” Horizons is performing at the Palace Theatre Devon (31 August), should you be on holiday there at the time, and the Bull Theatre Barnet (29 September).

News of people

Michael Broderick, our greatly esteemed Associate Vice President, has advised us that the consultants at the Cromwell Hospital told him on Thursday 14 June that the cancer, which had troubled him for nearly two years, had been eradicated. Michael is anxious to share this good news with us all and wants everyone to know how much he appreciated the messages of encouragement from everyone within LBC.

Drew Jackson, a student in year 10 at Elmhurst, is the recipient of The London Ballet Circle’s Dame Alicia Markova Bursary to the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School this year.

Jacob Wye, who graduates this summer from Central School of Ballet and is currently touring with Ballet Central, was “our” student at the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School in 2011 and has a contract with Scottish Ballet. We shall watch his progress as a professional with great interest.

David Brewer, who was awarded (from Tring School for the Performing Arts) our bursary to YBSS in 2010 is now dancing professionally with Ballet Theatre UK in its production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. David’s mother, Helen, tells us that “David is thoroughly enjoying professional life and particularly enjoys being the Wolf in the wedding scene. If LBC members are interested in going to see this valiant company the tour dates are on their website www.BalletTheatre-UK.com. So far David has found himself in various venues and it’s been very interesting hearing about tiny stages, raked stages, large audiences, small audiences – in short never a dull moment. I know that any support from the London Ballet Circle would be much appreciated. Apparently another dancer in the company, Julia Davies, also benefited from LBC whilst she was at Central”.

Julia Davies in fact has contacted us saying “I am a dancer with Ballet Theatre UK. We are currently touring with a new production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. I have enjoyed a long standing relationship with several of your members, ever since they so kindly supported me to go to the seminars in Yorkshire. I was wondering if you might be interested in offering them the opportunity to come and watch company class and have a ‘Q and A’ session with some of the dancers? I have spoken to our director who is happy to extend the invitation”. Ballet Theatre travels extensively and when we looked at the current tour there was no venue that seemed easily accessible to most of our members, but we liked the idea in principle and will certainly bear this invitation in mind and hope to be able to arrange something in the future.

Christopher Moore, Artistic Director of Ballet Theatre UK, writes that “Ballet Theatre UK has recently launched the Red Shoe Appeal, a campaign aiming to raise funds to help with our annual pointe shoe costs. In January 2013 we will be changing the way the company operates as we will be moving forward and employing our company of dancers in a full time/year round basis and moving to a new studio facility Leicestershire. I would be very grateful if you could include a note about The Red Shoe Appeal in your newsletters”. Chris can be contacted on director@ballettheatre.com

Elaine Garwood

We were very sad to hear the news that Elaine Garwood died on 26 March at the age of 80. Elaine had been ill for some time but until the end of last year was maintaining her interests, especially in the world of ballet. Violet Hopwood, her friend of many years standing, who had been a great support to Elaine during her illness, arranged a very moving funeral service for her at the church she had attended for many years, conducted by the vicar who had known her well and attended by many friends from LBC, the ballet world and friends from the congregation. It felt very appropriate and cathartic by those attending.

Violet had given the vicar many items of interest about Elaine from which to draw information for his address, and I think many of us learned more about her as a result. She had been a member of The London Ballet Circle since the 1940s and even had an original LBC badge! As somebody who had taken ballet classes throughout her adult life, until comparatively recently, Elaine took part in an LBC production of *Hiawatha* in 1949. She was awarded a medal by the Royal Opera House in recognition of her 25 years work in the press office. She was a loyal member of LBC, attending most of our events, a keen supporter of the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School and a familiar figure at the Opera House, the Coliseum or wherever ballet was being performed. Although sad that Elaine was no longer with us, I think we were all conscious of a life well lived and greatly enjoyed – she gave so much and received great happiness from her friends and many interests. After so many years of friendship, which is often a rather underrated relationship but for many of us one of the most enduring and valued things in life, Vi will miss Elaine very much but we hope that all her good memories and the affection of her friends will comfort her.

Elaine Audsley

We were also very sorry to hear that Eileen Audsley died peacefully, after a short illness, on 9th May aged 93. Eileen was a longstanding member of The London Ballet Circle but was obliged to give up her membership in 2004 when increasing frailty made it necessary to move into residential care in the North of England to be near her family so we had not seen much of her in recent years. She was a much loved sister-in-law of Pam and Geoffrey Holden and aunt of Penny and James Audsley who will miss her greatly.

Ballet Cymru/Welsh Ballet

As members are aware, following the death of our founder, Stanley Hawkins and in honour of his Welsh heritage, we are to make a bursary annually in his name to enable a student chosen by Artistic Director, Darius James, to attend Ballet Cymru's Riverfront Summer Advanced Ballet course. We shall be letting members know the name and some brief biographical details of the student selected in due course. The Advanced Ballet course for age 18+ is designed for professional/graduate dancers and runs from Monday 30 July to Saturday 4 August at The Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre, Kingsway, Newport, NP20 1HG. Newport is a relatively short and easy journey from London. It is hoped that LBC members may like to attend the Summer School and in time build this up to regular participation. Initially we would like to have expressions of interest from our members so that we can give informed details to the organisers of the course. Please contact Audrey Allen or any other committee member (contact details as usual published at the end of the newsletter).

The Russians return

The Russian State Ballet of Siberia and Moscow City Ballet made repeat visits in the winter to, respectively, the Fairfield Hall Croydon and the Churchill Theatre Bromley. Once again, accompanied by their excellent orchestras, they are undertaking wide-ranging tours of the country from Cornwall to Edinburgh, and many towns in between. This can only create a more knowledgeable and discerning audience.

The Siberian repertoire included *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle* and enterprisingly *La Fille mal gardee* by Dauberval. Moscow brought *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Both companies have the highest Russian standards in music, costume and dance. Of the performances I was able to see, the Siberian *Giselle* was one of the best versions I have seen. It was relatively short, omitting the peasant pas-de-deux, which tightens the story though perhaps for London audiences it should be preceded by a short ballet or pas-de-deux. Interestingly Hilarion is now Hans – perhaps more appropriate for a ballet set in Germany. Ivan Karnaukhov's interpretation of this role was very powerful. Contrasting well with the tall aristocratic languor of Albrecht (Dmitri Sobolevsky) he was a different, stockier, more down-to-earth build and his deep love for Giselle, almost verging on madness, was very moving. Anne Aulle was a sensitive, lyrical Giselle and the costumes in Act I were suitably autumnal and muted. All in all, a fine production, which hopefully will return.

Still to come*, Boris Eifmann with *Anna Karenina* and *Onegin*, and not forgetting the ballet films live from the Bolshoi, *The Bright Stream* and *Raymonda*, almost, though not quite, as good as the most expensive seat in the Bolshoi, without the hassle of travelling to Moscow.

Lorraine Williams (*written before the recent Eifmann season)

Accessibility to our website

It has recently come to our attention that disabled members of LBC may have difficulty in accessing our website. As we value all our members and wish to do everything in our power to enable them to enjoy our events, news and information we would greatly appreciate any comments or suggestions from anybody who has experience, personally or through people they know, or any thoughts on this subject. Please get in touch with Allison Potts, or any other committee member.

Recent visits

We had an absolutely superb afternoon at **Central** on 18 April, and since speaking to fellow attendees I know that my enthusiasm was shared by everyone else who enjoyed the School's hospitality and the rehearsal. I've been every year since we started our association with them and this was definitely the best ever. The graduate year has some wonderful young dancers and their teachers must be immensely proud of them all. The excerpts from the programme that we saw were so varied – I couldn't choose which I liked best. I was on such a high watching them that I felt tears come into my eyes (I get like that!). All the dancers had great personality and the technical standards were very high, the rep a delight and, as always, Philip Feeney's music a treat – they are really lucky to have such a first class musician and, indeed, such enthusiastic and dedicated staff who clearly work together with great enthusiasm and dedication. William Glassman and Carole Gable were, as ever, friendly and great to watch with the students. They both said that the standards of the year were so high that they had been able to give them works that might not always be possible. A special bonus for us was that the LBC sponsored student from last year's YBSS (Jacob Wye) was very prominent and on talking to him afterwards we were thrilled to discover that he has a contract with Scottish Ballet. From a youth last summer he has grown and filled out and is most definitely now a young man and the year has made a huge difference to him technically as well as in maturity.

I felt exactly the same as I do when I've been to a performance in the theatre, a bit spaced out and just happy to have had such intense pleasure. If you haven't booked for one of their performance please do: you won't regret it and when assessing the remarkably high standards and achievements of the dancers and their staff it is worth bearing in mind that, of all the major dance schools in London, Central School has the least favourable conditions – in terms of physical surroundings, no purpose built studios - although a wonderfully warm atmosphere and a friendly welcome from its reception and all other staff.

Audrey Allen

Our visit to **Tring Park** on 13 June was also a great success and we feel privileged to be invited to these prestigious schools. Some comments: "the visit yesterday to Tring was excellent. Catie, our host, was very helpful and welcoming. Such a wonderful place" "We had a wonderful day" "We had a wonderful day. As usual everything was organised perfectly and everyone was friendly and charming. Please convey our sincere thanks for a successful day".

We do of course always express our appreciation to the schools in question and send them a donation, details of which will be given in a later newsletter.

Want a ticket for an LBC special event, tour or visit?

Then why not save yourself the price of a stamp by paying online via PayPal. Go to <http://www.londonballetcircle.co.uk/events.htm> and click on the 'Apply now' button, insert the appropriate amount as shown in our newsletter and follow the instructions on the acknowledgement page which will appear once payment has been completed. (Please note that this facility does not apply to our regular talks where payment on the door is necessary).

Do you shop online?

If so, did you know that you can help The London Ballet Circle raise funds to support more student dancers while you shop online? This can be very relevant at this time of the year. Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury, John Lewis, Boots and Amazon and at least 2,000 other famous stores 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
- 2) Selecting 'Register as a user'
- 3) Clicking London Ballet Circle as the charity you wish to support
- 4) Then, each time you shop online, log on to 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.

In these difficult times for student dancers, help us to help more students. Thank you.

Easysearch.org.uk

Easysearch is a search engine which allows you to raise funds for your chosen cause, 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 any other search engine, you should generate over £20 per year for your cause. We've combined the results from several major search engines - Bing, Yahoo and many more to track down the most relevant results from across the web, which means you'll find what you're looking for quickly and easily every time - in one 'easy' search! Easysearch is completely free to use, so this is a great way to support your cause - just by searching the Web as you do already!

Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers to help run LBC. Please contact Allison Potts allison.potts@clara.net 0787 011 6302 if you would like to find out more.

The 2012 Committee of The London Ballet Circle

Allison Potts - Chairman (0787 011 6302)
Susan Dalgetty Ezra - Vice Chairman/Publicity (020 7224 5594)
Audrey Allen - Newsletter (020 8361 2872)
Esme Chandler - Committee Member/Honorary Auditor (020 8346 1571)
Diane Dewar - Honorary Secretary (020 7736 6269)
Susan Johnson - Honorary Treasurer (07785 373678)
Dr Sandra Kendall - Committee Member
Serena Martin - Honorary Membership Secretary (020 7402 6799)
Tim Rooke - Venues Secretary (020 8352 0492)
Felicity Trew – Committee Member

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