

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*

President: Sir Peter Wright CBE

Vice Presidents: Dame Beryl Grey DBE, Dame Merle Park DBE,
Dame Monica Mason DBE, Wayne Eagling, David Nixon OBE,
Darius James

Associate Vice President: Michael Broderick

Chairman: Susan Dalgetty Ezra

UK Charity Registration No 1123258

June 2013

FUTURE EVENTS

Thursday 27 June 2013 - Visit to English National Ballet School
Saturday 20 July to Saturday 2 August 2013 - Yorkshire Ballet Summer School
Thursday 5 September 2013 - Visit to Freed Factory
Monday 16 September 2013 - Dame Monica Mason with Gerald Dowler
Friday 27 September 2013 - Visit to White Lodge
Monday 30 September 2013 - Daria Klimentova and Vadim Muntagirov

Visit to English National Ballet School - Thursday 27 June 2013, 2 pm
Carlyle Building, Hortensia Road, SW10

Once again we are very happy to announce that our members have been invited to visit English National Ballet School to watch an open rehearsal by students preparing for their summer performance. This is a visit we always enjoy, both for the warm welcome we receive and for the insight we gain into the hard work of the students and their dedicated staff in producing a highly proficient show (details elsewhere in the newsletter of the dates and venue for this)

As you are aware, all money raised for visits to ballet schools is paid as a grant to the organisation concerned, often rounded up. We therefore get the pleasure of watching students train and develop into professional dancers while making a useful contribution to benefit their work. Previously we have raised the funds by requesting a payment of £12.50. Unfortunately we are not able to claim gift aid on this as we require payment in order to attend the event. The committee has decided, therefore, to see if it is possible to raise more funds by not insisting on payment but rather asking for a donation on which gift aid can then be claimed. This may increase the amount we are able to give by 25%. If you would like to join this visit please get in touch with Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP, tel 020 8361 2872, Email audrey.allen035@btinternet.com and enclose your donation (suggestion £12.50) made payable to The London Ballet Circle. If using PayPal please check that places are still available. All donations will be acknowledged by Email where applicable but should you require a written receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Yorkshire Ballet Summer School - Saturday 20 July to Saturday 2 August 2013
(normal LBC participation Wednesday 24 to Wednesday 31 July)
York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, York

If you would like to attend the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School this year, please send a cheque for £45 made payable to The London Ballet Circle (which is our contribution covering our donation to enable members to watch classes and for our annual bursary for a student to attend YBSS) and one for the appropriate amount made out to York St John University (with any special request, such as the floor you wish to be on) to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP. The tariff is £28.80 (including VAT) per day bed and breakfast on weekdays and £30 (including VAT) per day for Saturdays and Sundays.

**Visit to Freed Factory - Thursday 5 September 2013, 10.00 am -
62-64 Well Street, London, E9**

We are very pleased that we have been able to arrange a visit to the Freed Factory to observe how pointe shoes are made, a highly specialised and skilled occupation. Members will be given a tour of the premises and will be given an opportunity to ask questions.

Overhead trains run from Liverpool Street mainline station to London Fields station, which is near Well Street (there are no underground stations in the immediate area). Trains run roughly every 15 minutes. From the station walk up London Lane to Mare Street and turn right until you reach Well Street (or of course consult your A-Z). Buses 55, 106, 253 and 254 all run close to Well Street and you can get information from TFL. If you would like to take part in this visit please contact Audrey Allen (all details as before). The suggested donation for this visit, which will be sent to the Dance Teachers' Benevolent Fund, a charity supported by Freed, is £10 and cheques should be made payable to The London Ballet Circle.

**Dame Monica Mason with Gerald Dowler - Monday 16 September 2013, 7.30 pm
The Dining Room, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1
Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

Dame Monica Mason needs no introduction to us as members of LBC and as part of the wider ballet going public as she has been an active Vice President for many years and it is impossible to think of The Royal Ballet without thinking of her. She became the youngest member of the Company at the age of 16, having come from South Africa with her mother and sister, following the sudden death of her father, when she was 14 – they settled initially in Finsbury Park, where Dame Alicia Markova grew up, so perhaps there is something in the air in that area. She rose rapidly within the Company, becoming Principal in 1968 and in 1984, when she retired from dancing, she became Principal Repetiteur, Assistant Director in 1991, under Sir Anthony Dowell, and Director in 2002. It is impossible to do justice to her long and distinguished career in a few words. Many of us have been privileged to see her dance and have our favourite memories of the many roles she has danced, especially in her close collaboration with Sir Kenneth MacMillan, but perhaps one above all, that of The Chosen Maiden in *Rite of Spring*, which he created on her in 1962, will always be the one most closely associated with her. In addition to everything she brought to the position of Director, many dancers have spoken warmly and with gratitude about the therapy programme she devised for injured dancers.

We are delighted to welcome Dame Monica and Gerald Dowler, the celebrated writer on dance for *Dancingtimes*, who will be in conversation with her, and look forward to a very enjoyable evening.

**Visit to White Lodge Museum - Friday 27 September 201, 2.00pm
Richmond Park, Surrey**

We are very pleased to be able to offer members a visit to the White Lodge Museum and Ballet Resource Centre, housed within the Royal Ballet Lower School at White Lodge. In addition to visiting the Museum there will be a talk in the Salon. The Museum, the first in the UK, has some wonderful balletic treasures and is of great interest to all with an interest in the history of ballet and in its future.

Numbers are restricted so this will be a members only visit and if you would like to participate please contact Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP, tel 020 8361 2872, Email audrey.allen035@btinternet.com. A suggested donation for this visit is £12.50; please make cheques payable to The London Ballet Circle and as usual please enquire in advance if places are still available when using PayPal. Acknowledgement of your cheques and confirmation of places on the visit will be made by Email where applicable but please enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you require a receipt. Full directions for getting to the Museum will be sent to you later, but please note that no parking is available at White Lodge.

Daria Klimentova and Vadim Muntagirov - Monday 30 September 2013
The Dining Room, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1
Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8

We are very pleased to offer our members another “double act” in welcoming Daria Klimentova and Vadim Muntagirov as our guests this evening. Their on-stage partnership has been widely feted by the ballet going public and we look forward to a very interesting evening in their company.

Daria attended the Dance Conservatoire in her native Prague and joined the National Theatre Ballet Company on graduation where, after a year, she was promoted to Principal. As Principal she moved to Cape Town City Ballet in 1992, Scottish Ballet in 1993 and in 1996 joined English National Ballet where she rapidly established herself as a much admired principal dancer in all the leading roles of the Company’s repertoire. Her dancing achievements speak for themselves to her audiences, including our members, but she is also a very talented photographer and this year published her autobiography, ‘*Agony and Ecstasy: My Life in Dance*’ (no doubt Daria will be prepared to autograph our personal copies of her book after the interview). For the past ten years she has organised ballet masterclasses in Prague, attracting some of the most prestigious names in the world of dance as teachers.

Vadim was born in Chelyabinsk, Russia and attended the Perm Ballet School before coming to London to The Royal Ballet Upper School. He joined ENB in 2009 as First Artist, quickly rising to Principal in 2011. Among other awards he has been awarded the Silver Medal at the Prix de Lausanne, Gold Medal at the Vaganova Prix competition and 1st place at Youth America Grand Prix. In 2012 he won the Critics’ Circle national Dance Award as Outstanding Male Performer (Classical). In 2012 he was a guest artist with ABT as Solor in *La Bayadere*. He has danced with all the leading women dancers in the repertoire of English National Ballet but most recently has delighted audiences in his partnership with Daria in *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker* and *Romeo and Juliet* among many other ballets.

Also of interest

Friday 5 to Sunday 7 July 2013, 7.30-9.45 pm

Cloud Dance Festival: Lacuna

Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Town Hall Approach Road, London, N15 4RX

Cloud Dance, remaining true to its ethos of supporting and promoting the most promising in new and emerging artists, all of whom are unfunded, will be presenting a diverse range of new artists, several choreographers to watch, Cloud Dance regulars and a number of special guests.

Tickets are £12 (£10 concessions), obtainable from the Box Office: 020 8365 5450, or www.berniegrantcentre.co.uk and for further information about Cloud Dance visit www.cloud-dance-festival.org.uk

Friday 5 July 2013, 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm

Saturday 6 July 2013, 2.00 pm

English National Ballet School Summer Performance

New Wimbledon Theatre, The Broadway, Wimbledon

The students will be performing Balanchine’s *Allegro Brilliante*, MacMillan’s *Soirees Musicales* and Alexander Whitley’s *New Piece* choreographed specially for ENBS third year students.

Tickets are £12.50 to £20. Contact www.atgtickets.com or Booking Office on 0844 871 7627

Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 July 2013

Ballet Central 2013 Tour

UAL Platform Theatre, Handyside Street, King's Cross, London, WC1

This is the last venue for Ballet Central's tour of its exciting and varied programme, which over 30 LBC members had the privilege of seeing rehearsed at our visit to Central School of Ballet on 21 May. Tickets for Saturday have already sold out but try platformboxoffice@arts.ac.uk for other dates.

Tuesday 30 July to Saturday 3 August 2013

The Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, London, EC4

Tower Theatre Company's production of 'Dying For It' by Moira Buffini

LBC member, Bill Boyd, plays Father Yelpidy, a dissolute priest, in this play which is based on *'The Suicide'* by Nikolai Erdman. Visit www.stbridefoundation.org or Email info@stbridefoundation.org for further information.

Tuesday 27 to Saturday 31 August 2013

Back to the Barre

Guildford County School, Farnham Road, Guildford, Surrey

We have been advised of the dates for the annual Back to the Barre classes, but not the date when a small number of people are invited to watch the classes. This is a popular event for members who have attended in past years. If you are interested please contact Anya Grinsted on 01483 533971 or Email Caroline on pennants@tiscali.co.uk. Guest teachers include Doreen Wells and Caroline Hutchings.

Saturday 14 September 2013, 7.30

Richard Chappell Dance

Arts Depot, Nether Street, Tally Ho, London, N12

Richard Chappell Dance presents a Dance Gala, comprising 6 pieces, including Richard Chappell's *'IRIS'*. Telephone Box Office on 020 8369 5454. Tickets £10, concessions £8. Buses 82, 125, 134, 221, 263 run to the adjoining Bus Station. There is a car park with 47 spaces, time allowed 4 hours.

Sunday 29 September 2013, 7 pm

Gala evening of Song and Dance in aid of the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School

Sadler's Wells Theatre

Regular attendees of the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School are aware that the eagerly anticipated biennial Gala will not be held at the Grand Opera House in York this year. To reach a wider audience it will be staged in London at Sadler's Wells instead. Hosted again by Sir Anthony Dowell and Sir Derek Jacobi - "Sir Ant" and "Sir Dec" - guests will include Tamara Rojo, Imelda Staunton, Ballet Boyz, artists from The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Rambert, The Talent, Northern Ballet and Scottish Ballet. Tickets range from £12 to £60 (including some for £85 which include a free programme and an invitation to a 'Cast After Party') are already on sale from Sadler's Wells and the event will be publicised extensively nearer the date of the performance.

Sir Peter Wright

We were very proud to learn that our distinguished and popular President, Sir Peter Wright, has been honoured by a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Critics' Circle. We send him our sincere congratulations on this richly deserved tribute. Unbelievably, Sir Peter celebrates in October the 70th anniversary of his first professional performance in *Green Table* (choreography by Kurt Jooss).

People

We were very sad to hear the news of the death of our honorary member, **Frederic Franklin**, CBE, and a tribute to him from Michael Broderick, Associate Vice President, is enclosed. We are also sorry to learn that long time members **Joyce Malone** and **Enid Theobald** have died. Both were enthusiastic members of LBC and Joyce served on the committee for many years.

On a happier note we are pleased to learn that **Frances Cowen** is making slow but good progress following her accident earlier this year and is planning to attend the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School in July. **June Scully**, following a complicated hip replacement operation, is now doing well and becoming more mobile, planning her first visit to the Royal Opera House to see the Bolshoi Ballet in August, and **Denis Lishman** is back at home after his hospitalisation and is well supported by his LBC friends.

Grants and Scholarships

Our bursary enabling a student to attend the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School this year has been awarded to **Emma Walker**, a second year student at the Central School of Ballet from Tunbridge Wells. The Stanley Hawkins Bursary is awarded to **John O’Gara**, also a second year student at the Central School, from Swansea, to attend Ballet Cymru’s Riverfront Summer School.

The London Ballet Circle’s Dame Ninette de Valois Bursary and The London Ballet Circle’s Michael Broderick Prize will be awarded to two students from The Royal Ballet School at the School’s annual Prize-Giving and names will be advised.

An award of £250 has been made to **Richard Chappell** of Richard Chappell Dance (formerly Horizons Dance Theatre) to help pay for a Ballet Mistress for his Company, which is performing at the Arts Depot, North London, in September (full details elsewhere in the newsletter). It was felt appropriate to our remit to support young dancers’ education to make this grant and we were impressed by Richard’s achievements. Since starting his company two years ago, at the age of 16, he is now legally employing dancers and gaining the knowledge needed as a dance manager, as well as a choreographer, and taking on ten virtually professional dancers (all of them in vocational training, 80% of them are going into their final year and applying for professional work) as well as musicians, composers and choreographers, costume designers and acting coaches. The young dancers will have to sign and understand professional dance contracts, giving them invaluable experience before their final year of training. The company helps itself financially by regular workshops they teach around the country. Richard himself took part in the following:

YDE Young Creatives

On the 17th May there was an event called YDE Young Creatives in the Linbury Studio Theatre. Designed for 15-19 year olds, the Young Creatives programme aims to give young choreographers the skills needed to create high quality dance by working in partnership with the Royal Opera House, The Royal Ballet School, Yorkshire Dance and professional choreographers. They are given a unique opportunity to develop their skills in choreography through residential programmes at the Royal Opera House and The Royal Ballet School, with mentoring by professional choreographers and a public performance of their work in the Linbury Studio Theatre at The Royal Opera House.

Amongst the works of other young choreographers, the first short ballet was the piece of Richard Chappell. Richard is a student of Rambert School and directing his own company, Richard Chappell Dance (formerly Horizons Dance Theatre), since he was 16. The piece we saw on Friday, 'Unto The Ground', is dynamic and powerful. The young dancers were superb and with the mixture of soft and energetic movements made a dramatic impact. The music and the choice of costumes added to the great production

Istvan Lengyel

Ballet Cymru **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

Many London Ballet Circle members will remember Darius James coming to talk to us last year. It was a very interesting evening and many of us also enjoyed the company's performances at the Lilian Baylis Studio (Sadler's Wells).

On 16 May I went to the Ark Theatre at Borehamwood to see Ballet Cymru's performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It was choreographed by Darius James and kept closer to the original Shakespeare story than the Frederick Ashton version with which we are more familiar.

The ballet begins with Theseus, the Duke of Athens, preparing for his marriage to Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons. His plans are interrupted by Egeus, an Athenian nobleman, arriving at Court in a state of fury with his daughter, Hermia, and two young men, Demetrius and Lysander. Hermia is resisting her father's wishes for her to marry Demetrius as she is in love with Lysander and he with her. Theseus tells Hermia that she must comply with her father's wishes or she will be executed or sent to a convent. When the anger subsides, the Duke and his bride to be dance a beautiful and regal pas de deux. Hermia and Lysander plan to run away into the forest but before doing so Hermia tells her best friend, Helena, of their intentions. On hearing this, Helena decides to tell Demetrius in the hope of gaining his love as she is madly in love with him. However, he does not love her and decides to go into the forest to claim Hermia as his rightful bride. He is closely followed by Helena.

The forest is indeed a place of magic and mayhem in this outstanding adaptation of Shakespeare's play. Oberon, Titania, the young Indian prince and Puck interact with the frantic lovers. The younger members of the audience especially enjoyed the hilarious antics of Bottom and the rustics who are busy rehearsing a play to entertain the Duke and his bride and their wedding guests. The rest of the story will be familiar and it is beautifully danced. There are eleven dancers (including an apprentice) who all show a tremendous versatility. They dance several different roles each and do amazingly quick changes of costumes behind the scenes. The costumes themselves are beautiful. Before the performance, Yvonne Williams, Administrative Director, told me she made the costumes. This is a huge achievement and is a true indication of the enthusiasm of this Company.

The last act includes the play performed by the rustics and the dancers have the opportunity to really bring out the characters and to portray the actors as they might have been in Shakespeare's play. The play concludes with a beautiful pas de deux by the Duke and his wife to celebrate their wedding.

This company is a wonderful team and it was a joy to see them.

Janet Mayberry

Unfortunately the Company's tour is over for the summer but it is well worth keeping an eye on their movements. Apart from the Lilian Baylis Studio they perform at Newbury, Stevenage and Borehamwood regularly as well as at venues throughout the United Kingdom. Visit their website on www.welshballet.co.uk for details.

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. Please note that this facility does not apply to our regular talks where payment on the door is necessary.

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 quickly and easily in one search. Easysearch is completely free to use so this is a great way to support your cause.

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
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

The 2013 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)
Laura Dodge - Marketing
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

Unfortunately Paul Rodgers who has been managing our website is unable to do so for the time being and Istvan Lengyel has kindly undertaken to keep it up to date for us.

*The London Ballet Circle was formed, with Dame Ninette de Valois as Founding President, to promote interest in dance and kindred arts.
The Circle is registered in the UK as a Charity, Registration No. 1123258
Website: www.tlbc.org.uk*

