

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

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Chairman: Allison Potts

UK Charity Registration No. 1123258

September 2012

FUTURE EVENTS

Monday 24 September 2012 - Christopher Saunders

Monday 1 October 2012 - Dawid Trzensimiech

Monday 29 October 2012 - Jane Pritchard

Monday 26 November 2012 - Darius James

New venue

The Dining Room, First Floor, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1

We are most grateful to all members who suggested possible venues for our meetings, following the announcement that we could no longer use Waterstone's in Piccadilly. The Civil Service Club has been investigated and found to be suitable for our needs, with many advantages and good transport links. Gt Scotland Yard, off Whitehall, is easily reached from Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross main line or underground (Northern and Bakerloo lines) and Embankment (District, Northern and Bakerloo lines), and not all that far from Leicester Square underground, for those of us wedded to the Piccadilly line. The room we shall be using is the Dining Room on the first floor (there is a lift). There are toilets on the ground and second floors. We are welcome to use the bar on the ground floor which is open until 11 pm.

Please note: although this will be our main venue in the foreseeable future we may also use other premises, so it is important to take note of what is printed in the newsletter.

Christopher Saunders - Monday 24 September 2012, 7.30 pm

The Dining Room, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1

Payment at the door, members £3, guests £6

We look forward to an enjoyable evening with Christopher Saunders, Ballet Master with The Royal Ballet. He did his early dance training with his aunt, Joan Stevenson, and appeared in *Gypsy* with Angela Lansbury in 1973, having an interest in musical theatre, before training at The Royal Ballet School, joining the Company in 1983. He has worked under four Artistic Directors, now his fifth with Kevin O'Hare, has danced in almost every production in the repertoire in the past 28 years, partnered most of the leading ballerinas, including Viviana Durante, Leanne Benjamin and Darcey Bussell, and toured with the Company in many parts of the world. His first major role was in the *Raymonda* pas de quatre, followed by many others, including Paris, Benno and Hilarion and his acting ability was rewarded when he danced Tybalt and von Rothbart. Kenneth MacMillan especially asked for him to dance in *Gloria* and he was equally at home in newer works as in the classics. With such a comprehensive Royal Ballet background his position as Ballet Master must be of incalculable value to the dancers he teaches.

Christopher is married to the now retired and very popular Royal Ballet soloist Tracy Brown.

Dawid Trzensimiech – Monday 1 October, 7.30pm
The Dining Room, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, SW1
Payment at the door, members £3, guests £6

It is a pleasure to be able to welcome Dawid Trzensimiech as our guest on this occasion. He trained locally in Olsztyn, Poland, where he was born, winning many prizes in international competitions, including the Prix de Lausanne in 2006 and the 1st International Competition in Beijing in 2011. He joined The Royal Ballet in 2008, was promoted to First Artist in 2012 and recently to Soloist. Dawid has already danced in many ballets in the Company's repertoire, the classics, Ashton and MacMillan as well as modern works, and has danced with many of the leading female artists in the Company, dancing James with Tamara Rojo and Sarah Lamb in *La Sylphide*, the Prince in *The Nutcracker* with Melissa Hamilton. He has partnered Melissa Hamilton on many occasions, as guest artists with Ballet Ireland, and with other companies abroad. He has received complimentary critical reviews for his appearances, marked enthusiasm being expressed for his role as one of the Rose Gardeners in *Alice in Wonderland*, in *Jewels*, when he partnered Helen Crawford and Emma Maguire and for his performances in *Polyphonia*, *Gloria* and *Chroma*. In the 2012/2013 Royal Ballet season Dawid will be making his debut in *Onegin* and *Monotones*.

Jane Pritchard - Monday 29 October 2012, 7.30 pm
The Conference Room, St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1
Payment at the door, members £3, guests £6

Anna Pavlova in London. We are very pleased that our distinguished LBC member, Jane Pritchard, in conjunction with her recently published book, '**Anna Pavlova Twentieth Century Ballerina**' published by Booth-Clibbon, will talk about producing the book and about the iconic ballerina Anna Pavlova, focusing in particular on Pavlova's performances in London. Jane has spoken to The London Ballet Circle on several occasions, most recently on the exhibition 'Diaghilev and the Golden Age of the Ballets Russes' of which she was co-curator. She also curated the season of 'Anna Pavlova on Screen' at the bfi Southbank last month. We are assured of a fascinating evening in her company. Copies of her book will be on sale for those wishing to purchase a copy, which Jane will be pleased to sign

Darius James – Monday 26 November 2012, 7.30 pm
The Civil Service Club, 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, London, SW1
Payment at the door – members £3, guests £6

As Director and main choreographer of Welsh Ballet, Darius James leads a breathtakingly busy life "on the road" with his Company (from 22 September until 1 December, for example, they are performing at 21 different venues throughout England and Wales), so we are very grateful that he is able to be our guest on this occasion (between Aberystwyth and Ilfracombe!).

Darius was born in Newport where Ballet Cymru/Welsh Ballet is now based, and trained at The Royal Ballet School for 7 years, going on to dance with Northern Ballet Theatre, the Alexander Roy Ballet Theatre and as a guest artist with Weiner Ballet Theatre (Carmel, Indiana) and Nafsika Ballet Company in Greece. He returned to Newport in 1986 when he founded Independent Ballet Wales, which later became Ballet Cymru, a neoclassical ballet company specialising in narrative works. Darius has choreographed numerous works for the Company, including some one-act ballets and at least 19 full-length works using a wide variety of literature as his inspiration, including works by Shakespeare (*The Tempest*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Dylan Thomas (*Under Milk Wood*), legends, myths and fairy tales (*The Lady of the Lake* and *Beauty and the Beast*) and more modern works such as *How Green Was My Valley*, to name but a few. He received the Creative Wales Award from the Arts Council of Wales in 2008. Darius and his Company are of great significance in their own right but in view of LBC's association with them through our late founder, Stanley Hawkins, this evening will be of great interest to our members.

Advance notice for your diaries

Confirmation and full details of the items below will be given in a later newsletter but, knowing how quickly your diaries get filled, you may wish to have the following important dates now:

AGM and Annual Party - Saturday 12 January 2013
17 Dragon Hall, Stukeley Street, London WC1

Lady Deborah MacMillan - Monday 21 January 2013
Civil Service Club 13-15 Gt Scotland Yard, London, SW1

We are delighted that Lady Deborah MacMillan, who will be interviewed by **Jann Parry**, author of the acclaimed biography of Sir Kenneth MacMillan, '**Distant Drummer**', has agreed to be our guest to start the new year off on a high note.

Also of interest

Horizons Dance Theatre Saturday 29 September 2012, 7.30
The Bull theatre. 68 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SJ

As mentioned in our last newsletter this young company, started by Richard Chappell, is giving one performance in London, comprising a triple bill. "The first piece is a neo-classical piece inspired by the science of adrenaline called *April*. The second is a piece inspired by us looking back and reflecting on our generation's childhood, to soundscapes and soundtracks of Disney-Pixar films and is called *So long, Partner!* Our final piece is inspired by the work of Tim Burton and is the feature piece of the tour choreographed by Resident Choreographer, Alfred Taylor-Gaunt, and is called *Remains of the Day*".

Adult ticket: £10

Senior Citizen (60+): £8

Student with college ID card: £8

Child aged 5 - 18: £8

Family booking (2 adults 2 children): £32

Disabled: £8

Nearest station to The Bull is High Barnet on the Northern Line and buses 34, 184 and 263 pass the theatre. Telephone 020 8441 5010 or visit www.thebulltheatre.com

Patrons of Horizons Dance Theatre will be invited to attend Company Class at 10 o'clock and a pre-performance talk.

A Dream of Africa 2012 Sunday 30 September 2012, 7.30
The Britten Theatre, Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Rd, London SW7 2BS

The 5th annual Ashanti Charity Gala presents an evening of ballet and music, with dancers from The Royal Ballet and English National Ballet, and including three completely new ballets specially created by Daniel Jones and Nancy Osbaldeston (ENB) and Erico Montes (RB).

Tamara Rojo's Pas de Deux *Into the Woods* will be danced by Camille Bracher and José Martin, with further recent choreography by Nathalie Harrison and Thomas Whitehead of RB. Elena Glurdjidze, Principal Dancer of ENB, will dance *The Dying Swan*, and other dancers include Emma Maguire, Romany Pajdak, Sian Murphy, Ryoichi Hirano and Sander Blommaert (RB) and Crystal Costa, Ksenia Ovsvyanick, Lauretta Summerscales, Nicola Henshall and Shevelle Dynott (ENB). The music, played by Robert Gibbs, Adrian Bradbury, Oliver Davies and Henry Roche, includes Coleridge-Taylor's *Five Negro Melodies* for piano trio and Delius' *Idyll* for violin and piano, in celebration of the anniversaries of both composers.

All proceeds raised during the evening will go to Ashanti Development, a charity set up by a group of London Ghanaians and their friends. Many villages in the Ashanti region of Ghana have few or no basic facilities, and the farmers can barely earn enough to feed their families. There is much hunger and malnourishment, and the infant mortality rate is much too high. The women spend up to six hours a day fetching water, and spinal and other medical problems are widespread. The Ashanti Development Trustee Martha Boadu has said: "We aim to bring clean water to over 15,000 villagers over the next two years. As soon as a village gets clean water, hygiene training and sanitation, the mortality rate improves out of recognition, with the babies benefiting the most."

Tickets £30 obtainable from Royal College of Music Box Office 020 7591 4314 or www.rcm.ac.uk/boxoffice

Ballet Cymru/Welsh Ballet Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 October, 7.30 pm
Lilian Baylis Studio, Sadler's Wells Theatre

16 October, *Little Red Riding Hood*, choreography Darius James and Amy Doughty, based on Roald Dahl's 'Revolting Rhymes'.

17 October, *Cold Rolling*, choreography Tanya Raman, based on the ghostly remnants of Ebbw Vale's rich industrial past, and *Tir*, choreography by Darius James and Amy Doughty, featuring 11 songs from the album by Cerys Matthews of Welsh folk music (performed live by Cerys Matthews).

These two programmes, with *The Three Little Pigs* also based on 'Revolting Rhymes', are being performed at other venues in the greater London/Home Counties area, namely Harlow, Welwyn Garden City, Borehamwood. Full details in the dance press or the Company's website www.welshballet.co.uk

Apart from our special connection with Welsh Ballet through our ongoing bursary for a student to attend the Riverfront Summer School each year, the company, described as "a young vital group of dancers who look to redefine the barriers of classical ballet ... which deserves wider support", is well worth catching in its own right. It is remarkable what is achieved in a truly imaginative way by such a small group of dancers and the live music is delightful and complements the choreography superbly.

Valentino Zucchetti on choreography at the London Jewish Cultural Centre, Ivy House, 94-96 North End Road, London, NW11 7SX, Sunday 4 November 2012, 3.30pm

Events at Ivy House tend to get booked up early so you may like advance notice of this event. Valentino Zucchetti will bring 2 fellow dancers from The Royal Ballet and work with them on a piece especially created for Ivy House, explaining the process of choreography.

Admission £15, quote booking code ME173, on 020 8457 5000, admin@ljcc.org.uk or www.ljcc.org.uk

Leo Kersley

The death of Leo Kersley at age of 92 has saddened all of us who knew him in The London Ballet Circle. He was one of the original group of supporters who rallied around our late founder Stanley Hawkins and he became our first Honorary Member - Hon Membership is reserved for members of the profession. He was a pupil of Marie Rambert and Idzikovski and danced with Rambert Company and Anglo Polish Ballet before joining Sadler's Wells Ballet. Later in life he opened a school in Harlow which prospered under his enthusiastic leadership. Such professional achievements have been covered in obituaries within the ballet press but I write these words to pay tribute to his influence within The London Ballet Circle.

Leo simply loved ballet and observed everyone and everything within it. His knowledge and recall of people and events was extraordinary and this was of great benefit to us especially to this author during the many years in various capacities within LBC. He was responsible for many introductions and in his published writings praised and drew attention to the activities of LBC. He wrote along, with his wife Janet, '**A Dictionary of Ballet Terms**', an excellent reference book for lay people interested in the art. His many talks and scholarly lectures to members of The Circle are remembered with gratitude and his presence at our AGMs ensured that all historical records were correctly notated!

Leo was a guiding force behind the installation of the Blue Plaque to Dame Ninette at her house in Barnes. This was unveiled by Monica Mason. The house in The Terrace, as Leo well knew, was not Madam's last residence (she had moved to an apartment at ground floor level nearby) but her residence for many years.

The death of Janet affected him greatly but Leo continued to attend many of our events each year. Latterly his health troubled him and he became rather frail but nonetheless his interest in matters balletic was undimmed.

We send our condolences to his son John and daughter Alexandra and assure them that his memory within The London Ballet Circle will always be honoured with affection.

Michael Broderick
Associate Vice President

Stanley Hawkins Bursary and Riverfront Summer Dance

Taylor Clow from Elmhurst was the first recipient of The Stanley Hawkins Bursary and a delightful young man he is. The bursary gave Taylor the opportunity to attend the advanced ballet course at Ballet Cymru's Riverfront Summer Dance 2012. The course ended with a performance at The Riverfront Theatre in Newport and I was pleased to be in the audience to see Taylor dance. He has grace and presence on stage and his love of dancing comes across the footlights. The programme included selections from *Coppelia* and contemporary work choreographed by the students themselves. Taylor embraced both styles of dance and showed his versatility.

The Stanley Hawkins Bursary was greatly appreciated by Taylor. He told me that he had learned a tremendous amount during his week with Ballet Cymru and was very grateful to London Ballet Circle for giving him an opportunity that would otherwise been denied him. Now that the course has ended, he is excited for his final year at Elmhurst and then to begin his dance career.

Darius James, Artistic Director of Ballet Cymru, made special mention of LBC and the origins of the bursary. The audience burst into cheers when they learned Stanley Hawkins was Welsh! Taylor was then introduced as the first recipient and was warmly applauded.

Following is the acknowledgement of LBC which appeared in the programme:

“Ballet Cymru is proud to have support from The London Ballet Circle for Riverfront Summer Dance’s Advanced Ballet Course. Stanley Hawkins was one of the Founding members of The London Ballet Circle in 1946 (and was Welsh) and to commemorate his contribution to ballet and his Welsh heritage, the Stanley Hawkins Bursary enables a talented dance student to attend the week’s course. Our Stanley Hawkins Bursary recipient for 2012 is Taylor Clow from Elmhurst School for Dance.”

Susan Dalgetty Ezra

The Royal Ballet School Annual Prizegiving 2012

The London Ballet Circle Dame Ninette de Valois Bursary was awarded to **Donald Thom** who has a contract with The Royal Ballet and The London Ballet Circle Michael Broderick Prize to **Skyler Martin** who is going to Dutch National Ballet. We look forward to hearing how these young dancers progress in their professional careers and will, of course, be able to see Donald at the ROH.

Jacob Wye

In our last newsletter we announced that Jacob Wye, a graduate of Central School of Ballet and the recipient of our Dame Alicia Markova Bursary to the Yorkshire Ballet Summer School in 2011, was going to Scottish Ballet. Since then he has been given a contract with Ballet Black, the company which was his original first choice. This means, of course, that we will have opportunities to see him perform when Ballet Black is at the Linbury.

As keen supporters of, and regular visitors to, the Central School of Ballet, we thought our members would be interested in the following article:

Central School of Ballet performances at Olympic venues

Central School of Ballet dancers have received outstanding reviews for their breathtaking performances at the Olympics. Audiences were enthralled by the 16 new graduates and one second year student from London’s Central School of Ballet, one of Europe’s premier schools for dance training and education, who performed in front of tens of thousands of people at various venues during the two weeks of Olympic events in London.

The dancers, 7 boys and 10 girls all aged between 18 and 20 years, performed new pieces created especially for the Olympics alongside selected items of the repertoire from the recent nationwide Ballet Central tour.

CSB were approached by the Olympic Creative Team earlier this year and, following their performance of a new ballet at the Linbury Studio theatre at the Royal Opera House called *Circle of 5*, details of the school's participation at the London Games were confirmed. *Circle of 5* is a fusion of classical ballet and contemporary dance that echoes the ideals and themes of the Olympics and expertly demonstrates the pure physicality of dancers at this level. The ballet was created for Ballet Central by Mikaela Polley (Rehearsal Director for the Rambert Dance Company) and was granted the Inspire Mark by the London 2012 Inspire Programme. The London 2012 Inspire Programme recognises innovative and exceptional projects that are directly inspired by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

CSB dancers performed specific pieces for various venues, part of the entertainment before, during and after events planned by the London Games to keep audiences engaged. The Coldplay track *Clocks* was the basis of a piece choreographed by CSB's Sara Matthews and Leanne King for the Fencing Competition staged at **ExCel**. Another site specific dance used the Pulp's *Common People* as its soundtrack and was choreographed for CSB dancers by Andrew McNicol. The dancers moved dynamically between the fencing pistes encouraging audiences at ExCel to focus around the arena. All pieces were beautifully costumed by the LOCOG creative team with references to British fashion and culture from the past 50 years.

For the Rhythmic Gymnastics (which is a combination of gymnastics and dance) at Wembley Arena CSB created a solo piece to the Bowie track *Boys Keep Swinging*. Performed by 2nd year student Thomas Edwards, and recent graduate Jacob Wye the balletic and athletic style of the dance was created as a counterpoint to the group and female emphasis of the Rhythmic Gymnastics.

CSB's performances were received with such enthusiasm that the International Gymnastic Federation asked for the 'Clocks' piece to be performed again, this time at the North Greenwich Arena for the opening of the Trampolining, staged on the run up to the vault apparatus.

Two contemporary dances were also performed; a new piece called Code created by Sharon Watson also for Ballet Central (Sharon is Artistic Director of Phoenix Dance Theatre) and finally a piece called *And then their hopes soared*, created by CSB's Director Sara Matthews. Both were staged, along with *Circle of 5*, in front of an enthusiastic audience in the Olympic Park during the Games.

Sara Matthews, Director of CSB and leading choreographer said: "We were delighted to be invited by LOCOG to be part of the London Games. It has been a truly unique opportunity for our new graduates to perform at the Olympics with such enthusiastic worldwide audiences. And a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate the sheer hard work and athleticism that unites dance at this level with the world's leading sportsmen and women."

The dancers have just completed a three year degree course at CSB based in Clerkenwell London, a BA (Hons) in Professional Dance and Performance (validated by the University of Kent). CSB is the only dance school in the UK to offer this unique qualification.

Entrance to CSB is through auditions which are held every spring, a process that involves performing for the school's teaching staff, all of whom are ex professional dancers themselves. The course's main focus is on Classical Ballet supported by Contemporary Dance as an additional subject, and also includes tuition in Choreography, Spanish Dance, Pilates, Jazz Dance, Drama, Dalcroze Eurhythmics, Singing and Contextual Studies.

During the final year of the course all students join the school's touring company Ballet Central. Ballet Central's annual nationwide tour brings new and much loved dance pieces by leading choreographers performed by some of the dance profession's best new talent to regional theatres including the Lowry in Salford Quays and the Linbury Studio Theatre at the Royal Opera House.

Graduates from CSB go on to join the world's premier dance companies. Recent CSB students have been employed by Birmingham Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures Company, Scottish Ballet, National Ballet of Estonia, Ballet Black, Northern Ballet, K Ballet, Rambert, Phoenix Dance Theatre, Slovakia Ballet, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo and many more.

Joanne McIntosh

Development and Communications

Membership Renewals 2012-2013

Our membership year ends on **31 October** and subscriptions are due for renewal on **1 November**. For this year the subscription remains unchanged at **£8** or **£2.50** for anybody under 25.

Please complete the enclosed form and return it with your cheque, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to our Honorary Membership Secretary, Serena Martin, 144 Clarence Gate Gardens, Glentworth Street, London, NW1 6AN.

We are no longer issuing membership cards so there is no need to enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Survey 2012

To help the Committee to focus its efforts on running The London Ballet Circle to the optimum approval of its members, thus ensuring that we, as a charity, can help as many student dancers as possible, you are requested to complete the enclosed survey and return it, when you send your membership renewal form, to our Honorary Membership Secretary, Serena Martin, at the above address.

Thank you.

Assistance requested

We have received the following request from a **G L Roberts**:

“I am researching family history and have a ballerina related to my uncle. She danced before the war and was said to have received a ‘Blue Grass’ award. Any connection with Kentucky or Elizabeth Arden? I have not been able to find as yet the whereabouts of the ballet school she ran after the war. During this time she was living with her parents in Greenford, Middlesex, and presumably the school was not far away. Her name was **Margaret Helen Boyle**. Was a licence needed to run the school and are there records of such? Any help you could give would be much appreciated”.

Please contact G L Roberts, Flat 10 Forest House, 1 Russell Cotes Road, Bournemouth, BH1 3UA, Email: Uncleg@talktalk.net if you are able to give any information.

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

Paul Rodgers – Website Manager

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

