

# The London Ballet Circle

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July 2017

Dear Members

In this edition:

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**Hosted by Dame Monica Mason**

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Monday 11 September, 7.30 pm

**Robert Parker, Artistic Director, Elmhurst Ballet School**

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**Ivan Putrov, Ballet Dancer and Producer**

Monday 13 November, 7.30 pm

**Dame Beryl**

We have sent our hearty congratulations to Dame Beryl on being made a Companion of Honour in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

We also wanted to inform you as soon as possible that Dame Beryl has just had the confirmation that she is to go into hospital shortly for an operation. With her usual directness and practicality Dame Beryl wants to avoid speculation so has asked that we inform members that she has been diagnosed with bowel cancer. Her consultant has stipulated she is not to accept any engagements until fully recuperated from surgery. This means that Dame Beryl will be unable to be with us on 17 July and she is very disappointed about this but hopes that you will all understand. However, she is very keen that the book launch go ahead and so the publisher has suggested that dance critic Mike Dixon speak with Dame Monica about Dame Beryl's life and career. Mike was one of the main researchers who helped Dame Beryl with the compilation of material for her book. We are delighted to advise that Mike has very kindly agreed to step in, as has our Associate Vice President Michael Broderick.

I know that you will all wish to send very best wishes to Dame Beryl, which our Chairman has conveyed in a card.

Kind regards

Allison Potts

Newsletter Editor





**Visit to Angel Costumes**  
**Wednesday 12 July, 2.00 pm (expected duration approx. 2 hours)**  
**1 Garrick Road, London, NW9 6AA**  
**Payment in advance essential: £20 per person**

You are invited to go *Behind the Seams* at the world's largest costume house - Angels Costumes. A one-of-a-kind experience, the *Behind the Seams* tour showcases Angel's extensive costume collection, which spans 8 miles worth of rails, and over 1 million items.

On the tour you will be guided around all of Angels Costumes departments including Tailoring, Ladies Making, Alterations, Uniform, Badge Room and Warehouse. You will hear first-hand accounts of working on the biggest productions such as *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Lady in the Van*, *Downton Abbey*, *Wicked* and *Game of Thrones* and see clothes made or recreated for Benedict Cumberbatch, Judi Dench, Fred Astaire, Johnny Depp, Cate Blanchett and many more.

On Sunday 14 February Angels Costumes was honoured to receive the BAFTA for Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema. Now in its 175th year, Angels Costumes is the world's longest-established and largest professional costume house.

Fifteen places are available. Tickets are priced at £20 per person. Please send your cheque, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP (020 8361 2872, email: [audrey8allen@gmail.com](mailto:audrey8allen@gmail.com)). 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.

There is a lot of walking involved in this tour so you are advised to wear comfy shoes. The venue is wheelchair friendly but not suitable for under 14s. The venue is very close to the end of the M1, North Circular and A5 junction. Parking is available on site. The closest station is Hendon (overland) 5 minutes walk and Hendon Central (Northern Line) 15-20 minutes walk. A map of showing the location is available at <http://www.angels.uk.com/contact>

#### **Book Launch**

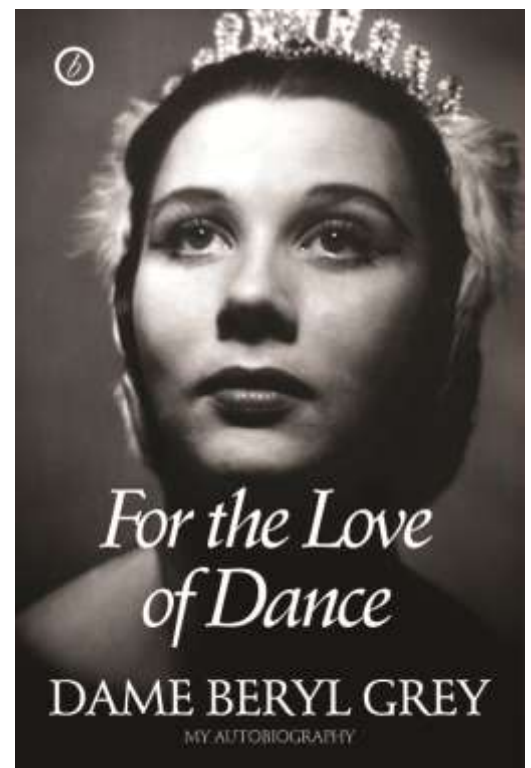
**Dame Beryl Grey's autobiography: *For the love of dance***  
**Mike Dixon in conversation with Dame Monica Mason**  
**Monday 17 July, 7.00 pm note early start time**  
**Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

The London Ballet Circle is delighted to host the launch of Dame Beryl Grey's autobiography *For the love of dance*.

Dame Beryl's book reveals fascinating insights into the people, characters and institutions that made up world dance in the 20th century. Taken from her immaculately kept diaries which span over 50 years of her life, this book speaks unmistakably in Dame Beryl's own voice. Her sincere and authentic feelings are shared with readers with all the vividness of the day they were written, and without the gloss of many years of hindsight.

As explained in the covering letter, unfortunately, Dame Beryl is no longer able to join us but dance critic Mike Dixon, who helped Dame Beryl organize material for her book has kindly stepped in.

This work includes 32 pages of personal and professional photographs. Published 30 June 2017 £25.00 Hardback 400 pages [www.oberonbooks.com](http://www.oberonbooks.com) If you prefer to purchase the book via the publishers website, include the code **LBC5** and this will give you a £5 discount. This discount is available until the end of July. Copies will be available for purchase on the night.





**Xander Parish, Soloist, Mariinsky Ballet, in conversation with Deborah Weiss & Esme Chandler**  
**Wednesday 2 August, 7.30 pm**  
**Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

Xander was born in East Yorkshire and began dancing at the Skelton Hooper School of Dance in Hull at the age of 8. He joined the Royal Ballet Lower School, White Lodge, in 1998 and continued his training at the Royal Ballet Upper School from 2002-2005. While at the Upper School, Xander won the Ursula Moreton Choreographic Award (2003), The Young British Dancer of the Year Award (2nd prize 2004) and a Silver Medal at the Genee International Ballet Competition (Athens, 2004).

Xander joined The Royal Ballet Company in August 2005 along with his sister Demelza. They were the first brother and sister to be members of The Royal Ballet together. Xander created roles in Wheeldon's *DGV: danse a grand vitesse*, Tuckett's *The Seven Deadly Sins* and Fenton's *Monument*. He also choreographed for The Royal Ballet's Draftworks program.

In 2009 Xander was invited to join The Mariinsky Ballet by its ballet director Yuri Fateyev and joined the company in January 2010 aged 23 as its first and only British dancer. His repertoire includes: Prince Siegfried, *Swan Lake*; Count Albrecht, *Giselle*; Prince Desiré, *The Sleeping Beauty*; Romeo, *Romeo & Juliet*; and The Nutcracker Prince, *The Nutcracker* ch. Vainonen. His repertoire as a guest artist also includes Gauthier's *Ballet 101*, *Le Spectre de la Rose*, and Oberon in Ashton's *The Dream*.

Xander has toured with the Mariinsky Ballet to Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Oman, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, the UK, and the USA, and has been a guest artist with English National Ballet, The Kremlin Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and The Ballet Company of the Opera National Bucharest and has also performed with 'Roberto Bolle and Friends'.

Xander was the recipient of the Taglioni Award in the category 'Best Young Male Dancer' (Berlin, 2014), the recipient of the Léonide Massine Prize in the category 'Emerging Talent on the International Scene' (Positano, Italy, 2014) and won the UK Critics' Circle National Dance Awards 'Outstanding Male Performance (Classical)' category for *Apollo* in 2014.

In January 2017 the University of Hull bestowed on Xander an Honorary Degree 'Doctor of the University, honoris causa'.

The Mariinsky Theatre Trust UK generously supports Xander and LBC invites has invited Trust members to attend this event.

**Freed of London factory visit**  
**Wednesday 6 September, 10.30 – 12 noon**  
**62-64 Well Street, London, E9 7PX**  
**Donations are requested - a minimum of £12.50 is suggested**

Freed of London is the world's leading designer and manufacturer of professional dance shoes. Freed of London shoes are hand crafted in London and LBC members now have the opportunity to see the process for themselves and watch the craftsmen at work.



Two thirds of all Freed Classic pointe shoes are made to dancers' specific requirements and are worn by Prima Ballerinas worldwide including Tamara Rojo and Alessandra Ferri. Freed of London also supplies most major ballet companies in the world including The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Miami City Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Finnish National Ballet, Scottish Ballet, Rambert Dance Company and Pacific Northwest Ballet, to name just a few.

Freed of London regularly supply to West End and Broadway productions, feature regularly on national UK television on *Strictly Come Dancing*, *X Factor* and *Dancing on Ice*, and have also appeared in the Harry Potter and *Pirates of the Caribbean* films and most recently in *Snow White and the Huntsman*. The brand's celebrity clientele includes Naomi Campbell, Natalie Portman, and Sheridan Smith.

There are 10 places available. If you would like to take part in this visit please advise Audrey Allen and if you wish to make a donation please send a cheque, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP, 020 8361 2872, [audrey8allen@gmail.com](mailto:audrey8allen@gmail.com). Acknowledgements of your donation and confirmation of places will be made by email where applicable but if you require a written receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

The factory can be reached via London Overground to London Fields railway station.



**Maina Gielgud in conversation with Michael Broderick**  
**Monday 11 September, 7.30 pm**  
**Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

Trained by the great Russians including Tamara Karsavina and Lubov Egorova, and later Rosella Hightower, Maina Gielgud has had an incredibly diverse career creating works with Maurice Bejart's XXth Century Ballet, dancing as a principal with London Festival Ballet and Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, as an international guest artist, and being partnered by Rudolf Nureyev. She then directed The Australian Ballet (1983-1997) and the Royal Danish Ballet (1997-1999).

Freelancing since 1999, she stages her own classical productions, such as her highly acclaimed *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Giselle* for The Australian Ballet (staged also for Boston Ballet, Ballet du Rhin, and Houston Ballet), various works choreographed by Maurice Bejart, including *Serait-ce la Mort*, *Bhakti*, *Webern opus 5*, and *Songs of a Wayfarer*; by Kenneth MacMillan: *Manon*; Serge Lifar: *Suite en Blanc*; Rudolf Nureyev's productions of *Don Quixotte* and *Swan Lake*, and classical favourites such as *Les Sylphides*, *Spectre de la Rose*, *Paquita*.

Maina made a comeback in 2003 as a dancer and actress in Bejart's *L'Heure Exquise*.

In the last couple of years, her schedule included staging Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon*, a production of the Bournonville *La Sylphide* with new sets and costumes, for the Hungarian National Ballet, and staging Nureyev's *Don Quixotte* for La Scala Milan. She travelled to Australia to work with all three classically based companies, then restaging her production of *Giselle* in Melbourne and Sydney.

During the 2015/16 season, she created a new production of *Coppelia* for the Australian Conservatoire of Ballet performances, was a guest teacher with Tokyo Ballet in Japan, and staged *Manon* once again for the Hungarian National Ballet. She was on the Jury of the Helsinki Competition, Finland, then during the summer, gave Masterclasses at the National Ballet School, Toronto, in New York with Ellison Ballet, Ballet Academy East, and ABT Summer intensive.

This season is equally busy, guest teaching with the Royal Ballet, mime and stagecraft classes for the Royal Ballet School, staging Anton Dolin's *Variations for 4* for Ellison Ballet and La Scala school in Milan, working on Kenneth Greve's production of *Swan Lake* with the Finnish National Ballet, as well as returning to Budapest for *Manon*, and in her position of Artistic Advisor for the Hungarian National Ballet.



**Robert Parker, Artistic Director, Elmhurst Ballet School**  
**Monday 16 October, 7.30 pm**  
**Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard**  
**London, SW1A 2HJ**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

Robert joined Elmhurst as Artistic Director in autumn 2012, following his retirement as a Principal dancer with Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Born in Kingston upon Hull, Robert trained at the Royal Ballet School and joined the Birmingham Royal Ballet in 1994 under the directorship of Sir Peter Wright. He received early acclaim when he danced the Second Seminarian in *Carmina burana* at the Royal Opera House in 1996. He quickly rose through the ranks and was promoted to Principal in 1999. He has danced a wide and varied repertoire from the classics to contemporary works, closely collaborating and creating many lead roles with director and choreographer David Bintley and other international choreographers. He has made guest appearances with the Royal Ballet and received various accolades including a Critics' Circle Award in 2003 and an Olivier Award nomination in 2001.



In 2008 he took a sabbatical and moved to the USA where he successfully acquired his Commercial Pilots' Licence. A year later he returned to his first love of dance, re-joining Birmingham Royal Ballet in 2009 where he continued to perform Principal roles. During this time, he also began teaching at Elmhurst on a regular basis, completed a Master's degree in Philosophy in Education and was selected to attend the 2012 Rural Retreat for aspiring artistic leaders. After retiring from Birmingham Royal Ballet he passed his RAD Professional Dancers' Teaching Diploma with distinction. That same year he was appointed President of the Ballet Association.

His repertory with Birmingham Royal Ballet included: Frederick Ashton's *La Fille mal gardée* (Colas), *The Two Pigeons* (Young Man), *Scènes de ballet* and *Voices of Spring*; George Balanchine's *Apollo* (title role), *Agon* (first pas de trois), *Four Temperaments* (Melancholic Variation), *Prodigal Son* (title role), *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue* (Hooper), *Western Symphony* (Fourth Movement) and *Duo Concertant*; David Bintley's *Edward II* (Edward, Gaveston), *Far from the Madding Crowd* (Oak), *Hobson's Choice* (Will Mossop, Fred Beenstock), *Carmina burana* (Second Seminarian), *Choros* (Pyrrhic), *The Seasons* ('Spring', 'Autumn'), *Tombeaux* (lead role), *Dance House*, and David Bintley and Galina Samsova's production of *Giselle* (Albrecht); Ninette de Valois: *Checkmate* (Red Knight), *Job* (Satan); Kenneth MacMillan: *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo), *Elite Syncopations* ('Friday Night') and *Song of the Earth* (Messenger of Death) and *Song of the Earth* (Messenger of Death); Hans van Manen's *Five Tangos* Jerome Robbins's *Fancy Free* (Sailor) and Twyla Tharp's *In the Upper Room*, *Nine Sinatra Songs* Sir Peter Wright's productions of *Coppélia* (Franz), *The Nutcracker* (Prince), *The Sleeping Beauty* (Prince Florimund, Bluebird), and Peter Wright and Galina Samsova's production of *Swan Lake* (Siegfried) *Spring Waters pas de deux*

His created roles include David Bintley's *Arthur* (title role, Mordred) *Cyrano* (title role), *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast), *The Nutcracker Sweeties* (Sailor), *The Orpheus Suite* (Orpheus), *The Shakespeare Suite* (Hamlet) and *The Protecting Veil*; Stanton Welch's *Powder*; Lila York's *Sanctum*; and Kim Brandstrup's *Pulcinella*.

His awards include: Olivier Award nomination, 2001; Critics' Circle Award nomination, 2001 and the Critics' Circle Award for Outstanding Male Artist, 2003.

**Ivan Putrov, Ballet Dancer and Producer**  
**Monday 13 November, 7.30 pm**  
**Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland**  
**Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

Ivan was born in Kyiv, Ukraine to a ballet family. Ivan trained at The Kyiv State Choreographic Institute and at The Royal Ballet School. Upon graduation Sir Anthony Dowell invited him to join the Company, where he became a Principal after three seasons. His repertory includes Principal roles in all the classics and ballets by MacMillan, Ashton, Balanchine, Fokine, Nijinsky, Tetley, Cranko, Bournonville, Robbins, Zamuel, Goleizovsky, McGregor, Forsythe, Kylián, Maliphant, Bourne, De Frutos, Petit and Duato.

His international appearances include leading roles with National Ballet Companies of Cuba, Hungary, Ukraine, Lithuania, England, Mexico, Georgia, Vienna Staatsoper, Asami Maki Ballet Theatre and with The Royal Ballet in many of the world's most renowned theatres.

Ivan's awards include the Premier Prix at the Prix de Lausanne; the Gold medal at the Serge Lifar International Ballet Competition; the Gold Medal at the Nijinsky Festival; the Critics' Circle National Dance Award; the Medal for Work and Achievement from the President of Ukraine and Ivan has been made an Honorary Artist of Ukraine.

He has worked with Mario Testino, Johnnie Shand-Kidd, Philip Haas, Nick Knight, Gary Hume, Sam Taylor-Wood and the Pet Shop Boys on photographic, film and other creative projects.

Ivan has performed at special events and charities in front of world leaders and royalties at various occasions and places including Buckingham Palace, 101st birthday of Queen Mother.

The Pet Shop Boys have written *The Most Incredible Thing* for Ivan. This ballet was first performed at Sadler's Wells in 2011 and has been filmed by the BBC.

In 2012 Ivan conceived and produced 'Men in Motion' at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London. The show looks in to a century of development of the male dancer in ballet theatre. Between 2012 and 2015 'Men in Motion' had three successful runs in London, and has been performed in Italy, Moscow, Poland and Kiev.



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## Special offer from the English National Ballet School

Dear London Ballet Circle Members

The students of English National Ballet School will be showcasing their skills at the School's annual **Summer Performances** at the **New Wimbledon Theatre** in July. The programme features a blend of classical and contemporary works with choreography to highlight the versatility and breadth of our dancers' training.

There will be three new exciting commissions by **Daniela Cardim**, **Morgann Runacre-Temple**, and **Neil Flemming Brown**. School teacher **Juan Eymar** has choreographed a classical piece for the three year groups and we will be revisiting former student, **Stina Quagebeur's**, *Après Une Lecture De Danse*. We are also excited to have **Pompea Santoro** staging repertoire by Mats Ek. **Olga Semenova** will present character dance and students will present their winning choreographies. The finale this year will be **Petipa's** 'Satanella Pas de Deux and divertissement' from *Carnival In Venice*.

We are delighted to offer you a [unique discount code](#) when booking via this link. We hope to see you at the New Wimbledon Theatre in July.

With very best wishes  
Galina Wilkinson

## What is an elite ballet dancer?

Dear London Ballet Circle Members

My name is Mary Bartlett and I am a postgraduate researcher from Goldsmiths, University of London. I am looking for some volunteers to work with me on a wonderful sociological project exploring elite ballet dancers. The research question is 'What is an elite ballet dancer?' and I want to interview teachers and dancers over the age of 18 years old to collect stories about what it takes to become an elite ballet dancer.

Although dance literature talks about the great dancers and the art of ballet it does not explicitly describe what it takes to socially and culturally become an elite ballet dancer. Thus I would like to take this opportunity to write a 15,000-word thesis on the topic of elite ballet dancers. I would also like to write an article to share the project with those that are not social researchers.

I have previously studied the field of ballet from the perspectives of parents and I would like to build upon this further with the narratives of the professionals. So far I have interviewed some ex-professional ballet dancers, now teachers and professors from America and South Africa but I am yet to speak to some British teachers/dancers to add more perspectives on what an elite ballet dancer is.

I will be following the strict ethical code of the British Sociological Association and all of the participants' identities will be kept anonymous and replaced with pseudonyms. The information in the study will also be kept confidentially. I am the only person that has access to the data, and the only person that knows the identities of the participants. The interviews are intended to last no longer than 45 minutes in total.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in taking part in this project, please could they get in touch with me on; [so101mj@gold.ac.uk](mailto:so101mj@gold.ac.uk) to arrange some interviews in July. I can send you a copy of the consent form for you to have a look at.

I look forward to hearing from you. I really hope that this topic interests the London Ballet Circle members, as I hope to be able to share the finished article with you at the end.

Kind regards  
Mary Bartlett



The Danceworks International Ballet Academy's third Summer School will take place from 17 - 28 July for students from 6 to pre-professional level. Among the guest teachers this year are Sergei Polunin, Melissa Hamilton, Ivan Putrov and Nathalie Harrison.

For more details go to <http://www.danceworks-academy.net/summer-school-2017>

**Save this date**

<b>Danceworks Youth Ballet Company</b> <b>The Nutcracker</b> <b>Studio performance</b>	Saturday 9 December at 2 pm Free of charge
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**Easyfundraising**

Easyfundraising.org.uk is a great way to raise money for charities, schools, sports clubs, community groups, and other good causes just by shopping online. You don't pay anything extra. So far it has raised over **£16 million** for causes throughout the UK.



The London Ballet Circle has raised over £1,310 via Easyfundraising. This money has enabled us to send another two student dancers to a summer school – so our thanks to the members who have signed up.

Why not help us raise even more? Amazon, Boots, Expedia, John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury and Tesco 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.

**The 2017 Committee of the London Ballet Circle is:**

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