

# The London Ballet Circle

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

**Patron:** Sir Peter Wright CBE

**President:** Dame Monica Mason DBE

**Vice Presidents:** Dame Beryl Grey CH, DBE, Dame Merle Park DBE, Wayne Eagling,  
David Nixon OBE, Darius James, David Bintley CBE, Kevin O'Hare and  
Cassa Pancho MBE

**Associate Vice President:** Michael Broderick

**Chair:** Susan Dalgetty Ezra

**Website:** [www.tlbc.org.uk](http://www.tlbc.org.uk) **Twitter:** @BalletCircle and on **Facebook**

**UK Charity Registration No:** 1123258

March 2018

Dear Members

In this edition:

**David Hallberg in conversation with Susan Johnson**

Monday 5 March, 7.30 pm

**Dame Beryl Grey CH, DBE in conversation with Mike Dixon**

Monday 19 March, please note earlier time of 7.00 pm

**Viviana Durante in conversation with Dame Monica Mason**

Monday 9 April, 7.30 pm

**Visit to the Royal Ballet School**

Wednesday 2 May, 9.00 - 3.00 pm

**Dame Monica Mason, in conversation with Jane Pritchard**

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**Visit to Central School of Ballet**

Wednesday 23 May, 2.00 pm

**Dame Ninette de Valois and Dame Alicia Markova in conversation**

A film by David Gayle

Monday 18 June, 7.30 pm

## Thinking of volunteering?

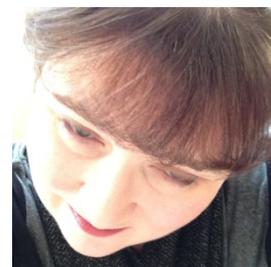
As you can see, LBC has a really exciting programme this spring. Would you like to join the team that plans the schedule? We are looking for a volunteer to join the LBC Committee with a view to taking over the role of Honorary Secretary when Jean Wilde retires in a couple of months' time.

LBC's organisers meet approximately every 6 weeks, on a Monday evening at 5-7 pm, in the heart of the City of London, near Bank and Liverpool Street stations. The role includes taking the minutes of those meetings, and the AGM, and distributing them so we are looking for someone who has computer skills and direct access to Word and email.

If you would like to volunteer, or simply want to find out more about the role, please contact the Chair, Susan Dalgetty Ezra on [susandalgetty1@gmail.com](mailto:susandalgetty1@gmail.com) or 07415 410 913.

Kind regards

Allison Potts  
Newsletter Editor





**David Hallberg in conversation with Susan Johnson**  
**Monday 5 March, 7.30 pm**  
**The Dining Room, 1st Floor Civil Service Club**  
**13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

We are delighted to welcome American dancer and international star David Hallberg who is making his debut with The Royal Ballet this season as Albrecht in *Giselle* and de Grieux in *Manon* opposite Natalia Osipova.

David is known for his exceptional dramatic artistry, pure classical line and dancing prowess. Awarded the Benois de la Danse in 2010 for his performance of Albrecht, he has been described in the New York Times as a 'noble prince par excellence'.

Having trained in Phoenix Arizona and Paris Opera Ballet School, he joined the ABT Studio Company in 2000 and the main company in 2001. Promoted to Principal with American Ballet Theatre in 2005, he is also Resident Guest Artist with Australian Ballet. As a former principal with the Bolshoi, which he joined in 2011, David is no stranger to the Covent Garden stage having danced with the company when on tour in 2013. Last year he returned to the stage after more than two years absence through injury and has recently written and had published *A Body of Work: Dancing to the Edge and Back* detailing his life to date. As well as dancing classical roles, David has danced roles by Ashton, Balanchine, Forsythe, Jooss, Kylian, Morris, Sharp and Tudor, and has created numerous roles for Alexei Ratmansky. David has been a guest artist with many companies around the world; performed in numerous galas and was a member of the ensemble 'Kings of The Dance' in 2008, 2009 and 2011.



**Dame Beryl Grey CH, DBE in conversation with Mike Dixon**  
**Monday 19 March at the earlier time of 7.00 pm**  
**The Dining Room, 1st Floor Civil Service Club**  
**13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

In her 91<sup>st</sup> year Dame Beryl is still very much involved in ballet. She is President of English National Ballet, Life President of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, President of the British Ballet Organisation, Vice-President of the Royal Academy of Dance and

Patron of the Dance Professionals Fund as well as being a Vice President of The London Ballet Circle.

Born in 1927, she joined the Sadler's Wells Ballet in 1941, making her debut as Odette/Odile on her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday; performing her first *Giselle* at 17 and *Princess Aurora* at 19. She remained with the company until 1957 by which time it had become the Royal Ballet. After this she free-lanced and became the first ballerina from the West to perform in Soviet Russia at the Bolshoi (1958) and in Communist China (1964). Back in the UK she became Artistic Director of Festival Ballet (1968 - 1979) increasing the company's repertoire including commissioning Rudolf Nureyev to create *Romeo & Juliet* in 1977.

Last year she published her autobiography, *For the Love of Dance*, which captured the information from journals she has kept throughout her life. We look forward to hearing more tales from this source. Dame Beryl has indicated that she will be prepared to sign copies of her book for members if they bring them with them on the night.

**Viviana Durante in conversation with Dame Monica Mason**  
**Monday 9 April, 7.30 pm**  
**The Dining Room, 1st Floor Civil Service Club**  
**13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**



Italian dancer Viviana Durante is a former Principal of The Royal Ballet. She trained at The Royal Ballet School and graduated into the company in 1984 and was promoted to Principal in 1989 aged 21. She left the company in 1996 and continued to appear regularly as a Guest Artist until 2000. Both with The Royal Ballet and with companies around the world she won renown for her intensely dramatic performances.

Viviana was born in Rome. She began her training aged six at the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma and moved to London to join The Royal Ballet School aged 10. Amongst her many roles for the company she won particular acclaim for her performances in ballets by Kenneth MacMillan, her roles including Manon, Anastasia, Mary Vetsera (*Mayerling*) and in *The Judas Tree*, a role she created. She also enjoyed a famed dance partnership with Irek Mukhamedov. In 1999 she joined American Ballet Theatre as a principal, and subsequently joined La Scala Ballet, Milan, as a principal guest artist, while continuing to dance regularly with leading companies around the world, particularly K Ballet, Tokyo.

Viviana has performed at the National Theatre and as an actress has appeared at the Edinburgh Festival and on film in *Ogni 27 Agosto*. She has choreographed and directed for her own company at Dance Base, Edinburgh, the National Theatre Studio and the Barbican Centre. She is a patron of the Hammond School and New English Ballet Theatre, and has appeared as a juror for many competitions including the Prix de Lausanne, Beijing International Ballet Competition, and The Royal Ballet School's Ursula Moreton Choreographic Competition and Kenneth MacMillan Choreographic Award.

**Visit to the Royal Ballet Upper School**  
**Wednesday 2 May, 9.00 - 3.00 pm**  
**46 Floral Street, London, WC2E 9DA**  
**Payment in advance, LBC members £15, guests £20**



Once again, we have arranged a visit to the Upper School in Floral Street to watch three classes. This is a joint visit with the Ballet Association and initially will only be open to members of the BA or LBC.

If you would like to attend, please send your name, address and contact details (preferably an email address) to David Bain, Chairman, The Ballet Association, 23 Capstan Square, Stewart Street, London E14 3EU. The cost of the visit will be £15.00. Please indicate whether you belong to the BA or LBC or both, so that we can allocate places fairly. Please enclose a cheque made payable to The Ballet Association. If you have no email address, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. All monies collected will be donated to The Royal Ballet School to provide additional funds for students. **Please apply before 27 March.** If you would like to bring a guest, at a cost of £20, please indicate this in your letter, but do not include them in your cheque. The Ballet Association will contact you after 27 March to confirm whether or not any guest places are available.

The Ballet Association will not be issuing tickets. Places will be confirmed by email (or post). Your name will be placed on a list, which will be held at the door. If a 9.00 am start is too early for you, it will be possible to join us at morning break around 10.30 am. Please indicate in your letter if you will be a late arrival. There will be a 45-minute lunch break before the afternoon session. The School politely requests that you leave the premises during this break, as they do not have the space to allow you to eat lunch on site. However, if you have any mobility issues, please indicate

this in your letter and provision will be made for you to stay on site during the break and seating will be reserved for you in the theatre.

You are reminded that the School does not allow visitors to take photographs of the students. More guidance notes on school visits appear at the end of this Newsletter.



**Dame Monica Mason, in conversation with Jane Pritchard**  
**Monday 21 May, 7.30 pm**  
**The Dining Room, 1st Floor Civil Service Club**  
**13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ**  
**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

Dame Monica, President of the London Ballet Circle, is former Director of The Royal Ballet, a position she held 2002–12. She trained at The Royal Ballet School and entered the Company aged 16, becoming the Company's youngest member. She was appointed Répétiteur to Kenneth MacMillan in 1980; Principal Répétiteur to The Royal Ballet in 1984; Assistant Director in 1991 and Director in December 2002. To celebrate the 75th anniversary of The Royal Ballet in 2006 she and Christopher Newton revived the Company's iconic 1946 staging of *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Born in Johannesburg in 1941 Dame Monica came to England aged 14 to train at the Nesta Brooking School of Ballet and The Royal Ballet School, and joined the Company in 1958. In 1962 she was selected by MacMillan from the corps de ballet to create the demanding role of the Chosen Maiden (*The Rite of Spring*). She went on to create several major roles for MacMillan, including Lescaut's Mistress (*Manon*), Calliope Rag (*Elite Syncopations*), Summer (*The Four Seasons*) and the Midwife (*Rituals*). She became a principal in 1968, dancing repertory that included classical and dramatic roles. She was also a highly praised interpreter of the lead female role in MacMillan's *Song of the Earth*.

In 2002 Mason was awarded an OBE and in 2008 was created a Dame Commander for her services to dance. In 2014 she became Chairman of The Royal Ballet Benevolent Fund.

Central  
School  
of Ballet

**Visit to Central School of Ballet**  
**Wednesday 23 May, 2.00 pm\* to 4.00 pm**  
**10 Herbal Hill, Clerkenwell Road, London, EC1R 5EG**  
**Please give your name in advance. Donations are requested but not obligatory - a minimum of £12.50 is suggested.**  
**Members and guests welcome**

We are delighted to have been offered another opportunity to visit the Central School of Ballet to watch the graduate year, formed into the company Ballet Central, rehearse some of the repertoire for their end of year show to be performed at venues throughout the UK.

\*Because of limited waiting space we are requested not to arrive before 1.45 pm. The afternoon will end around 4.00 pm with tea in the Library.

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

You are reminded that the School does not allow visitors to take photographs of the students. More guidance notes on school visits appear at the end of this Newsletter.

Central School of Ballet's renowned graduate performing company Ballet Central will begin its extended annual nationwide tour at RADA on Friday 2 March. Under the guidance of its artistic director Christopher Marney, Ballet Central's diverse range of dance and theatre will now appear in numerous towns and cities across a five-month period. For details of all the tour dates click <https://www.balletcentral.co.uk/ontourpage2.php>

This season's programme includes works by Sir Matthew Bourne, the *Fairies Prologue* from his gothic reworking of *Sleeping Beauty* and, for the first time, Ballet Central will present an excerpt from *FAR* by multi award-winning choreographer and director Wayne McGregor. After the success of last year's *Romeo & Juliet*, choreographer Jenna Lee returns to Ballet Central with her brand new creation *Black Swan*, a dark twist on the iconic classic. To celebrate the life and work of Kenneth MacMillan, Ballet Central introduces an excerpt from his rarely seen 1983 ballet *Valley of Shadows* inspired by Georgio Bassani's haunting novel *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*. And finally, to close this year's performance, Christopher Marney will revive scenes from Christopher Gable's *Cinderella* on the 25th anniversary of its creation. Set to an acclaimed score by Ballet Central's resident composer Philip Feeney, this is a timeless version of a much-loved fairy tale.

**Dame Ninette de Valois and Dame Alicia Markova in conversation – a film by David Gayle**

**Monday 18 June, 7.30 pm**

**The Dining Room, 1st Floor Civil Service Club**

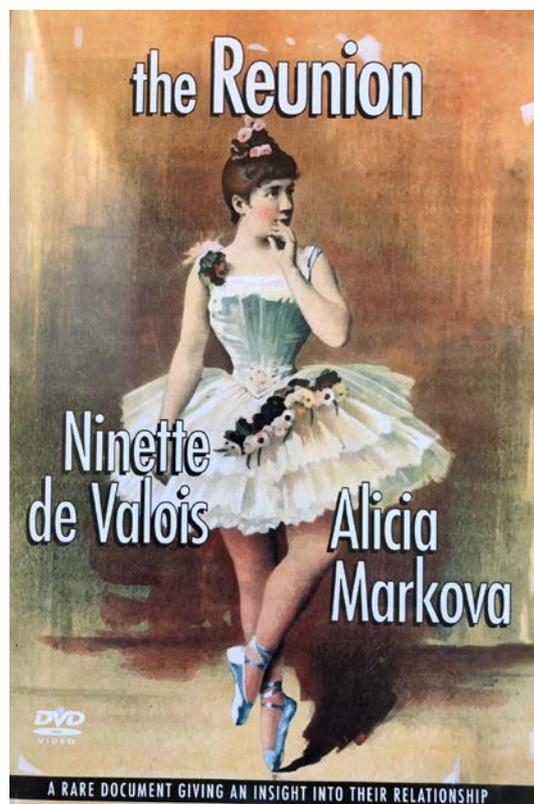
**13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ**

**Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8**

Clement Crisp, Dance Critic of the Financial Times, wrote the following sleeve note:

*The Yorkshire Ballet Seminars that David Gayle organized and masterminded for three decades were unique and wonderful events, bringing some of the greatest dancers in the world to teach and inspire youthful students and to touch these young people with the magic of their presence and guide them with their immense knowledge. World famous artists were happy to accept Gayle's invitations. Dame Ninette de Valois, founder and long-time director of the Royal Ballet and Dame Alicia Markova, one of the greatest ballerinas of the twentieth century were both teaching and coaching at these Seminars. These two prodigious ladies of dance had known each other since 1925, when the child Markova joined Diaghilev's Ballet Russes – of which Dame Ninette was a member – as the company left London on a foggy morning to travel back to its base in Monte Carlo.*

*In the summer of 1985, they talk of this, of working with Diaghilev and of those crucial years when British ballet – in which they were both vital figures – with great humour and also with profound insights. Their conversation is both uniquely valuable and delightfully relaxed; two great women remembering and sharing their memories. Here is history as witnessed by two people who made it.*





## Men in motion programmes autographed by Ivan Putrov

LBC friend Ivan Putrov has very kindly donated programmes from his Men in Motion show that he has autographed. If you would like a copy, you will be able to collect one from the door at future LBC talks at the Civil Service Club.

## Historic Royal Ballet Programmes

We have received the following email from LBC member Sheila Goldberg:

*My friend and LBC member Kathleen Karacs is moving house, and would like someone to come to her flat and take her collection of programmes. She thinks she has 50+. Is this something you could put into the Newsletter or an email? I am doing this with her permission, since her computer has died. Kathleen's phone - 020 8450 1903. She lives in North London.*

## More awards for Ballet Cymru

Many congratulations to our Vice President Darius James, Artistic Director of Ballet Cymru. At the Wales Theatre Awards, Anna Pujol won Best Female Dancer for *Light Princess*, choreographed by Darius and Amy Doughty. Ballet Cymru also won Best Dance Production for *Shadow Aspect*, choreographed by Tim Podesta and featuring ex-Royal Ballet Principal Mara Galeazzi.



Ballet Cymru prides itself on being different and *Cinderella* will be no exception, with a brand new music score and circus elements combined with the finest classical dance. You can see a trailer at <http://welshballet.co.uk/productions/cinderella/> and for tour dates and venues to go <http://welshballet.co.uk/whats-on/tour-dates/>

New members might be wondering why the London Ballet Circle has such an interest in Ballet Cymru / Welsh Ballet. It stems from the founder of the London Ballet Circle, Stanley Hawkins, being a proud Welshman. When Stanley passed away the London Ballet Circle wanted to create a student bursary in his memory so we chose to partner with award-winning Ballet Cymru. To find out more about this exciting and innovative company, go to <http://welshballet.co.uk>



## Ballet Black shows at the Barbican, 15-17 March

Led by Artistic Director Cassa Pancho, a vice president of the LBC, Ballet Black celebrates dancers of black and Asian descent, showcasing technique, precision and grace in specially commissioned pieces.

As part of the Barbican's latest bill, Cathy Marston, renowned for her expressive and beautifully crafted work, choreographs a new narrative ballet for all of Ballet Black's artists, based on Can Themba's South African fable *The Suit*. Completing the evening is Arthur Pita's *A Dream Within a Midsummer Night's Dream*, a heady piece of dance-theatre for which the Portuguese choreographer earned an Olivier nomination following its premiere. The production mixes the classical and contemporary to distil the essence of Shakespeare's comedy, unfolding to an eclectic soundtrack that includes Eartha Kitt, Barbra Streisand and Yma Sumac.



**Bronislava Nijinska: an adventurous woman in 20<sup>th</sup> century dance**  
**Wednesday 7 March, 1 pm**  
**Hochhauser Auditorium, Victoria and Albert Museum, London**  
**International Women's Day free lecture, unreserved seating**

Jane Pritchard, the V&A's curator of dance, will be discussing the career of the dancer, choreographer and teacher Bronislava Nijinska focusing on her work seen in Britain and celebrating the V&A's recent acquisition of a major collection of costumes designed by Alexandra Exter for Nijinska's 1925 company, Théâtre Choréographique Nijinska.

Bronislava Nijinska was born in Minsk to a family of dancers of Polish origin. She was the younger sister of the renowned dancer Vaslav Nijinsky whose muse she became as he created his controversial ballets for Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. Under his influence she investigated radical ways of movement and became in her own right one of the most significant choreographers of the twentieth century. Her most famous creations include *Les Noces* (1923) and *Les Biches* (1924) for the Ballets Russes, and *Bolero* and *La Valse* for Ida Rubinstein's Company (1928-29).

In addition to the collection of costumes for Théâtre Choréographique Nijinska including those for *Jazz* currently on display in *Rhythm & Reaction The Age of Jazz in Britain* at Two Temple Place, London, the collection includes costumes designed by Natalia Goncharova, Marie Laurencin and the remarkable costume (shown above left) designed by Léon Bakst for Nijinsky c.1906 and repurposed during the Russian Revolution for Nijinska's avant garde recitals in Kiev which is currently on display in the Theatre & Performance Galleries at the V&A.

**Guidance for London Ballet Circle members regarding school visits**

The ballet schools we visit and their students benefit from the support and generosity of our Members. The schools welcome the interest shown by our Members and are very willing to provide a number of opportunities for our Members to watch students in performance or in class and to meet them informally during the visit within the boundaries set by Safeguarding and Child Protection legislation and requirements.

For these positive reasons we have felt it important to devise guidelines for Members regarding visits to schools and Members communication with students and would ask that the following are adhered to at all times:

1. Please only engage in conversation with students in the public meeting areas. Between classes students will be rushing from one class to another and so we ask that Members refrain from stopping students in corridors or on the stairs.
2. No photography or filming should take place during the visit. We also ask that you refrain from comment during and after the visit on social media sites such as Twitter or Facebook.
3. To protect members from any accusations of inappropriate behaviour as well as to safeguard students we suggest that:
  - a. There be no direct personal communication with students by any means (including text, social media, phone, letter or email), instead this should be made through the schools' development office or equivalent. Members should not give their personal contact details to students.

- b. Members do not send gifts to students, however if the Member wishes to send a student a card following a performance this should again be sent to the schools' development office or equivalent and not to the student directly.
- c. Members should not arrange to entertain students outside the school.
- 4. If at any time a Member has any concern about the welfare of a student, they should advise the school immediately.

We thank you for your co-operation.

### 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 £1,590 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.

### And finally... Dame Monica saves the day!

If you attended the 2018 Annual General Meeting you will know how grateful we are to our President, Dame Monica Mason, for coming to our rescue when we arrived at Dragon Hall to find it in darkness and locked up tight. Finding the committee and members huddled in the cold on the pavement, Dame Monica marched off to the Royal Opera House and, before you could say Abracadabra, the AGM and party were transferred to Floral Street. The ROH staff were so kind and welcoming that one would have thought this was a long-planned event rather than a last-minute invasion. What a treat it was for us all to hold our annual gathering in such a special place. An evening that looked as though it would be a total disaster turned into a triumph. The 2018 AGM will go down in LBC history and those of us who were privileged to be there will never forget it.

#### The 2018 Committee of the London Ballet Circle is:

Susan Dalgetty Ezra, Chair, 020 7224 5594, [susandalgetty1@gmail.com](mailto:susandalgetty1@gmail.com)

Audrey Allen, Visits, 020 8361 2872

Jo Blake, Honorary Membership Secretary, 07867 855 355

Gary Clarke, Committee member, 07500 417 951 [garyalvinclarke@aol.com](mailto:garyalvinclarke@aol.com)

Naomi Cockshutt, Website & Social Media Manager [naomi.cockshutt@googlemail.com](mailto:naomi.cockshutt@googlemail.com)

Susan Johnson, Honorary Treasurer and Talk Host, 07725 149482

Dr Sandra Kendall, Committee Member

Serena Martin, Committee Member, 020 7402 6799

Allison Potts, Newsletter Editor & Talk Host, 07870 116302

Tim Rooke, Venues Secretary, 020 8352 0492

Jean Wilde, Honorary Secretary, 01256 841713