

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 **Twitter:** @BalletCircle and on **Facebook**

UK Charity Registration No: 1123258

January 2018

Dear Members

In this edition:

LBC Annual General Meeting and Party

Saturday 13 January, 5.15 pm

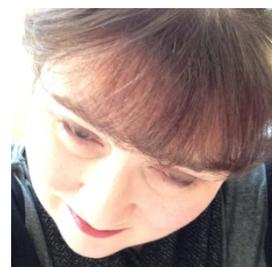
Marguerite Porter MBE, in conversation with Gerald Dowler

Monday 29 January, 7.30 pm

Save the date

Visit to the Royal Ballet School, with the Ballet Association

Wednesday 2 May, times to be advised



We hope you had a very happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you soon but to continue to be sent invitations to our exciting events, please ensure you have renewed your membership. You will find the **Membership renewal form on the back page**. Regulations are changing which will affect all organisations and how they contact their members. **If you do not tick the box next to the relevant point we will be unable to send you a Newsletter after April.**

The form also contains a request regarding **Gift Aid**. This is an important additional source of income for us. If you donate £12.50 to us, and you are a UK taxpayer and have completed the membership renewal form including the Gift Aid section we are able to claim £3.12 from HMRC turning it into a donation of £15.62. Over the last four years through Gift Aid we have been able to raise an additional £2,628.66, which equates to five bursaries or scholarships.

The festive season brought both bad news and good. We were very saddened to learn of the death of our honorary member Annette Page, former principal ballerina with the Royal Ballet. The LBC sends its condolences to her husband Ronald Hynd and their family and friends. However, we also send our hearty congratulations to Dame Darcey Bussell, Lilian Hochhauser CBE, David Pickering MBE, and Nicki Spencer BEM, on their recognition in the New Years Honours.

Kind regards

Allison Potts
Newsletter Editor

The London Ballet Circle

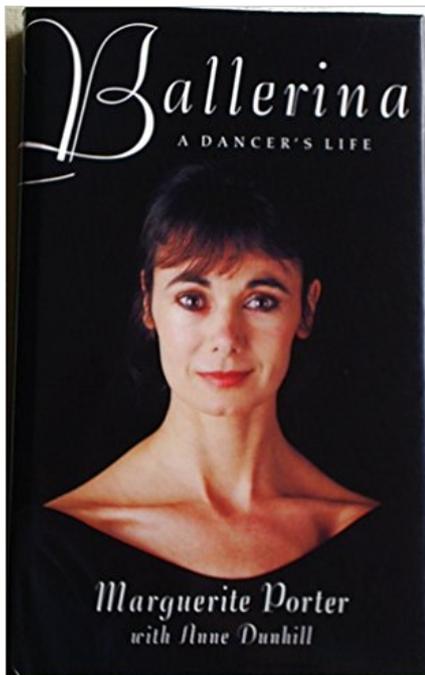
LBC Annual General Meeting and Party
Saturday 13 January, 5.00 pm for 5.15 pm
Dragon Hall, 17 Stukeley Street, London, WC2B 5LT
Payment in advance for the Party, members £15, guests £20
Please remember to bring your membership card

Our AGM, to which all paid up members of The London Ballet Circle are invited, takes place at 5.15 pm (doors open at 5.00 pm) and is followed by our annual party at approximately 6.00 pm. A copy of the Agenda appears towards the end of this Newsletter. Attendance at the AGM is, of course, free, and open to members only, but if you wish to attend the Party please send a cheque for £15, made payable to The

London Ballet Circle, enclosing **a stamped addressed envelope** for acknowledgement if required, to the **Honorary Secretary, Jean Wilde, 4 Guinea Court, Basingstoke, RG24 8XJ**. Guests may be invited to the party from 6 pm and payment of £20 should be made for each guest (details as for members).

Dragon Hall is in Stukeley Street, off the main thoroughfares, but is a very short distance from Holborn station. On leaving the station cross High Holborn at the traffic lights (Holborn Kingsway to your left, Southampton Row to your right), keep going on the left-hand side and go down Smart's Place, or the next turning, Drury Lane, until you get to Stukeley Street.

We now have sufficient gifts for the Raffle prizes, thank you.



Marguerite Porter MBE, in conversation with Gerald Dowler
Monday 29 January, 7.30 pm
Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London,
SW1A 2HJ
Payment at the door, members £5, guests £8

Marguerite is an English former principal ballet dancer, turned actress and choreographer.

Born in Doncaster, Marguerite trained in Yorkshire and at the Royal Ballet School in London, where she was taught by Dame Ninette De Valois.

She joined The Royal Ballet, where she became Senior Principal Ballerina in 1978. In a 20-year association, she danced all the major roles, including Princess Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake* alongside Rudolf Nureyev, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Ophelia in *Hamlet*, and the title role in productions of *Manon*, *Giselle*, *Daphnis and Chloe* among others. After leaving the Royal Ballet, she became a guest artiste for

a further three years, during which time she published her autobiography *Ballerina, A Dancer's Life*. She has made numerous appearances with English National Ballet.

Marguerite made her Broadway debut as the Queen in Matthew Bourne's production of *Swan Lake*. She also made a video based on ballet called *Balletcise*. Her television and films roles have included *The Magic of the Dance* with Margot Fonteyn, and the British Institute film *Comrade Lady*, directed by Nobby Clark and choreographed by David Bintley. She has since become an accomplished choreographer, including productions of *The Garden of Eros* for London City Ballet and *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

From 2005 to 2017 Marguerite was the Director of the prestigious Yorkshire Ballet Summer School that has a longstanding relationship with the London Ballet Circle.

She was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2015 New Year Honours for services to ballet. In 2015 she was granted an Honorary Doctorate by York University.

Save the date

A visit to the Royal Ballet School has been arranged for 2 May together with members of the Ballet Association. More details in a future Newsletter.

Other news



THE
FREDERICK ASHTON
FOUNDATION

Ashton Rediscovered 2018 with Dame Monica Mason

Sunday 11 February with 2.30 – 5.30 pm (doors open 2.00 pm)

The Royal Ballet Upper School, 46 Floral Street, London WC2E 9DA

Tickets: £60 per person. Max order 4 tickets For further information, please email ashtonrediscovered@yahoo.com or leave message on 020 7212 9627 (voicemail).

This is the latest master class given by the original casts of rarely performed works by Frederick Ashton, introduced by Jane Pritchard and featuring dancers of The Royal Ballet. The master class will include an Introduction, Q&A and drinks reception. The session will be filmed for educational and research purposes. This master class features Dame Monica Mason on the Spanish Dance from *Swan Lake* Act III (1963).

All proceeds to benefit the Frederick Ashton Foundation (reg. charity no. 1143433)



Degas, Dance, Drawing

Musee d'Orsay

Paris

France

To 25 February 2018

<http://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/events/exhibitions/>

Our Chair, Susan Dalgetty Ezra, says there is a tremendous exhibition at the Musee d'Orsay, entitled *Degas, Dance, Dessin* (Degas, Dance, Drawing), Hommage a Degas avec Paul Valéry. She says it has some wonderful sculptures, drawings and paintings of dance as well as horses and nudes and is a true celebration of the body and Degas' gift for capturing them. It runs until 25 February for anyone who happens to be

in Paris before then.

The Museum's website says that on the centenary of his death, it pays tribute to Edgar Degas (1834-1917) with an exhibition based around the little known work by the writer, poet and thinker, Paul Valéry (1871-1945).

The friendship between Degas and Valéry lasted more than twenty years and resulted in an essay published by Editions Vollard in 1937, *Degas Danse Dessin*. Both intimate and universal, it conveys a poetic, fragmentary image of the painter's personality and his art, and a kind of meditation on the creative process.

In the exhibition, documents on display and archival documents show these men and their social interaction. Degas' numerous drawings and Valéry's famous notebooks reveal the importance of these works, which were, for both, the crucible of their art.

The main themes explored in the exhibition *Degas Danse Dessin* are expressed by linking extracts from Valéry's essay to the graphic works, paintings and sculptures of Degas.

This resonance between text and images offers an insight, by turns, into the artist's drawing and his fondness for the worlds of dance and horseracing, which Valéry links to his own search for line and movement.

On Choreography and Making Dance Theatre

A new book by Mark Bruce

Mark Bruce has choreographed, directed and danced internationally for over 25 years, working with Rosas, Bern Ballet, Ballet Black, Introdans, Igloo, Probe, and DJazzex among others. He formed the Mark Bruce Company in 1991. In 2014 the company won Best Independent Company in the Critics' Circle National Dance Awards. *On Choreography and Making Dance Theatre* is an instructional and inspirational book that is essential reading for all choreographers, dancers, movement directors and theatre makers.

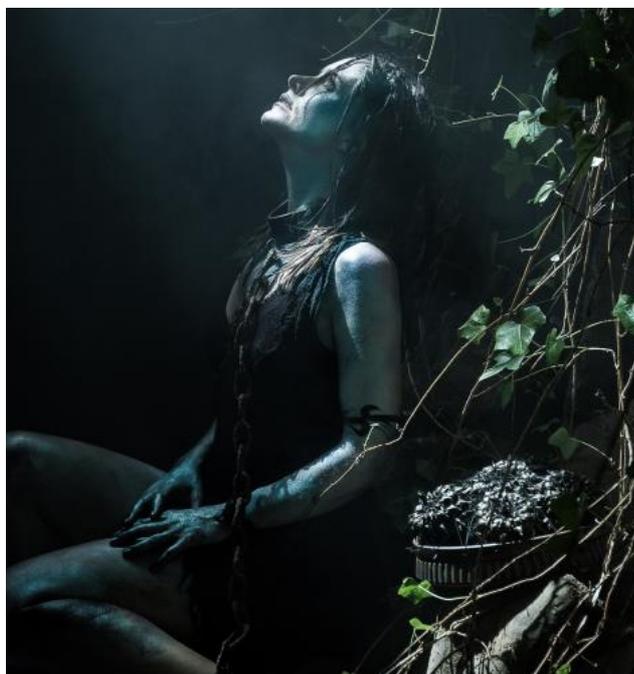
There are many skills one needs to produce a piece of dance. Bruce describes the basic foundation or ingredients of his version of Dance Theatre as: Movement, Drama, Sound and Vision. A choreographer has to study all of them to the best of their ability and learn how to combine them.

Award-winning choreographer Mark Bruce's aim as an artist is to tap the subconscious, our hearts; transcend our everyday lives and hopefully stumble upon some truth along the way. *On Choreography and Making Dance Theatre* will be an invaluable artist's guide to making innovative new dance work.

The Mark Bruce Company will dance its *Macbeth* and run a dance workshop at Wilton's Music Hall, London, 23 Feb – 17 March 2018.

Published in February, price 14.99, 188 pages ISBN 9781783197774 eISBN 9781783197781

Our friends at Oberon have kindly given LBC members a discount: The code to enter at the <https://www.oberonbooks.com> checkout is ONCHOREOGRAPHY and this will give members 25% off the book until 18/05/18.



ON CHOREOGRAPHY AND DANCE THEATRE

MARK BRUCE



OBERON MODERN PLAYS



Danceworks International Ballet Academy

New Term

The Winter/Spring Term has begun, offering after school and weekend ballet classes to students aged 5 years to pre-professional level. To arrange a free trial class, please contact balletschool@danceworks.net



Youth Ballet Company

The Youth Ballet Company was launched in 2017 offering young dancers professional performance opportunities. The Company has performed at a number of events and festivals as well as presenting full-length theatrical productions. After the last sold-out performance of *The Nutcracker* at The Greenwood Theatre, the Youth Ballet Company will soon start rehearsals for *Peter Pan* along with a new original ballet *Take Five*. There will be a studio performance at Danceworks on Saturday 24 March, with a full theatrical production following on Sunday 24 June at The Greenwood Theatre. Tickets will be on sale shortly.



As the Company grows, it will require guest artists at a pre-professional/professional level of ballet to perform roles in our productions. If you are interested in auditioning to be part of the Company, Danceworks will be holding

auditions in early February, please contact them to arrange an audition.

Summer School

Applications for the Summer Intensive are now open. The 2018 teaching line-up is currently being confirmed, but previous guest teachers have included Sergei Polunin, Michaela DePrince, Ivan Putrov, Melissa Hamilton, Erico Montes, Antonia Franceschi, Nathalie Harrison and Dominic Antonucci, with a final performance at Lilian Baylis Theatre, Sadler's Wells. To apply, please visit: <http://www.danceworks-academy.net/summer-school-2018>

And finally ...

Pat Pickett and Violetta Hannington



Many of our long-standing members would wish to know of the following losses. Both Pat Pickett (left) and Violetta Hannington (right with Gary Avis) had had very successful and happy careers in association with the ballet world, and had long, fulfilled retirements, so although it is sad news their lives should be remembered and celebrated. (Photo right reproduced with kind permission of Gary Avis.)



From Julia Davis

I thought you'd like to know that my aunt, Pat Pickett, passed away in December. Pat spent her entire working life with the Royal Ballet, Royal Opera and Royal Opera House in Wardrobe and Costumes. I know many of your members will remember her well and I'd be grateful if you could pass on this message to anyone you think may want to be informed.

It has been difficult contacting people over the Christmas / festive period. I would love to hear any memories people have of Pat. These can be included in a book I'm compiling of photos and comments.

I do wish you and your colleagues the very best for 2018. My mother, June Davis, (June Lesley) danced with the Royal Ballet in the 1950s and I've been fortunate, through my mother and Pat, to have ballet and the Opera House be a part of my life as well. I plan to attend more ballet this year, in their memory.

*With best wishes
Julia Davis*

07951 155869

Annette Page

Our Chair thought that members would wish to see the note below she received from LBC Honorary Member Ronald Hynd concerning the loss of his wife Annette Page. (Photo right Annette Page as The Firebird and Ronald Hynd as Ivan Tsarevitch in The Royal Ballet revival of The Firebird, 1959 photograph by Roy Round © Roy Round from the Royal Opera House's tribute to Annette which can be found at

<http://www.roh.org.uk/news/remembering-annette-page-1932-2017>)

**From Ronald Hynd**

Dear Susan

Thank you so much for your very kind message. My daughter Louise and I are shattered but are thankful that Annette died only three weeks after the diagnosis of Motor Neuron Disease and that she was not in pain, just heartbroken to leave us. But we had 60 years of a wonderful marriage and great careers - how lucky was that?

I hope some of the LBC members will remember the talk we gave a few years ago in which she demonstrated her sense of humour, a key to the success of our life together.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year. Ours will be less so but content to know that beloved Annette is at peace.

Sincerely

Ronald

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
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 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.

Membership renewal – see final page

Our membership year ended on **31 October** and subscriptions are now due for renewal from **1 November**. The subscription is **£12 (still £2.50 for anybody under 25)**. The subscription for new members joining after 1 July runs until 31 October of the following year.

Membership cards will be issued as at times it may be necessary to show them, such as at the AGM and other special events, so please send a stamped addressed envelope with your cheque and renewal form to Serena Martin, Hon. Membership Secretary, 144 Clarence Gate Gardens, Glentworth Street. London, NW1 6AN. Cards will not be issued without a stamped addressed envelope but unmailed cards will be available for collection at the AGM.

We very much hope that you will wish to continue your membership but if you have not renewed by **31 January 2018** we shall regretfully assume that you no longer wish to remain a member, but there will be reminders before that date.

The 2017 Committee of the London Ballet Circle was:

Susan Dalgetty Ezra, Chair, 020 7224 5594, susandalgetty1@gmail.com
Audrey Allen, Visits, 020 8361 2872
Jo Blake, Co-opted member, 07867 855 355
Gary Clarke, Committee member, 07500 417 951 [garyalvinclarke@aol.com](mailto:garylvinclarke@aol.com)
Esme Chandler, Talk Host, 020 8348 1571
Naomi Cockshutt, Website & Social Media Manager naomi.cockshutt@googlemail.com
Susan Johnson, Honorary Treasurer and Talk Host, 07725 149482
Dr Sandra Kendall, Committee Member
Serena Martin, Honorary Membership Secretary, 020 7402 6799
Allison Potts, Newsletter Editor & Talk Host, 07870 116302
Tim Rooke, Venues Secretary, 020 8352 0492
Jean Wilde, Honorary Secretary, 01256 841713

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 **Twitter:** @BalletCircle and on **Facebook**

UK Charity Registration No: 1123258

Members are invited to attend the 71st Annual General Meeting on Saturday 13 January 2018 at 5.00 pm for 5.15 pm, Dragon Hall, 17 Stukeley Street, London, WC2B 5LT

Attendance at the AGM is open to all current members and is, of course, free of charge. Jean Wilde, Honorary Secretary

Agenda

1) Minutes of the previous AGM

Minutes will be available for all members attending the AGM from 6.30 pm. Any members who wish to receive a copy of the Minutes in advance please send a stamped addressed 9 x 4 envelope to Jean Wilde at the address below.

2) Matters arising

3) Chairman's report

4) Financial report

5) Resolutions

6) Elections:

a) Charity Trustees

b) Committee members:

i) Honorary Treasurer – Nominee Susan Johnson

ii) Honorary Secretary – Nominee Jean Wilde

iii) Honorary Membership Secretary – Nominee Josephine Blake

iv) Honorary Visits Secretary – Nominee Audrey Allen

v) Committee member – Nominee Gary Clarke

vi) Committee member – Nominee Dr Sandra Kendall

vii) Committee member – Nominee Serena Martin

c) Honorary Auditor

7) Any other business

It is anticipated that Dame Beryl Grey and/or Dame Monica Mason, will give a short speech at this event.

LONDON BALLET CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2017-2018

Please also give a copy of this form to any friend who might like to join the London Ballet Circle

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

Email (*please indicate if this is a change*) _____

I WISH TO APPLY FOR/RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP OF THE LONDON BALLET CIRCLE

Please tick as appropriate

- I enclose a cheque made payable to The London Ballet Circle for £ (minimum £12 or £2.50 if under 25).
 - I have paid the sum of £ _____ (minimum £12 or £2.50 if under 25) through PayPal
- <http://tlbc.org.uk/membership.htm#join>.

I confirm that I would like the LBC to send me its Newsletter and to contact me at other times regarding activities that are open to LBC members. Please indicate if this should be by:

- Email - Please use email if possible. You'll find out about events much quicker.
- Post – this option is slower and more expensive for the Charity to administer.
- I enclose a stamped addressed envelope to receive my membership card.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please tick all that you wish to apply

Please treat as gift aid donations all qualifying subscriptions and donations to The London Ballet Circle that I have made:

- Today
- For the past 4 years
- In the future declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.
- I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each year (6 April – 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my donations in the appropriate tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p for each £1 that I give.

Please notify us if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.
- If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

**Please return the completed form together with a stamped addressed envelope to:
Serena Martin, Hon. Membership Secretary, London Ballet Circle 144 Clarence Gate Gardens
Glentworth Street
London NW1 6AN**

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