

# 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

May 2018

## Action by 10 May please

Dear Member

### General Data Protection Regulations

Due to the new data protection laws that come into force on 25 May 2018 you may soon be missing out on receiving our full range of communications. This is when sweeping changes to data protection come in to force and we need your explicit permission to send you information.

**To ensure we can continue to provide you with our Newsletter and other inspiration and opportunities relating to dance please complete the information and tick the boxes below (you may complete and tick more than one) and return it by post to the address below as soon as possible.**

We will only use your personal data for the information above and will not disclose your data to a third party without your explicit permission.

You can change your mind at any time about whether to receive information from us by writing to the Membership Secretary or emailing [info@londonballetcircle.co.uk](mailto:info@londonballetcircle.co.uk)

✂ ✂ ... ..✂

**Your Name** .. ..

I am happy to hear from the London Ballet Circle about things I might like to do with dance by the methods I have ticked and completed with my details below:

**By Post**  
My postal address is .. ..

**By Email**  
My email address is .. ..

**By Telephone**  
My number is .. ..

**Please return this to Jo Blake, Membership Secretary, The London Ballet Circle, The Laurels, Hyde Heath, Bucks HP6 5RZ**

You can change your mind at any time about whether to receive information from us by writing to the Membership Secretary or emailing [info@londonballetcircle.co.uk](mailto:info@londonballetcircle.co.uk)

Intentionally blank as all members need to complete the form on page 1 and post it to the Honorary Secretary

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May 2018

Dear Members

In this edition:

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

Monday 21 May, 7.30 pm

**Visit to Central School of Ballet**

Wednesday 23 May, 2.00 pm

**Visit to the English National Ballet School**

Friday 15 June, 2.00 - 4.00 pm

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

A film by David Gayle

Monday 18 June, 7.30 pm

**Chase Johnsey, in conversation with Gerald Dowler**

Monday 9 July, 7.30 pm

**Save the date**

**London Ballet Circle Annual General Meeting and Party**

Saturday 19 January 2019, doors open 5.00 pm

The Swiss Church, Endell Street

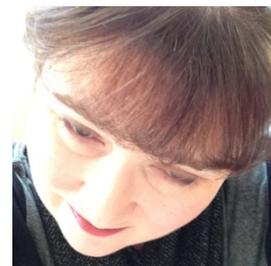
Our programme plans are now so well planned in advance that I only have a tiny space left here to record our grateful thanks to outgoing Honorary Secretary Jean Wilde. Jean has now passed on the baton (and the Minute book!) to Linda Gainsbury, who some of you will already know from the Ballet Association. Please join me in welcoming Linda.

Finally, please don't forget to post to Membership Secretary, Jo Blake, the form that appears on the front page of this Newsletter. It is really important Jo gets your form because unless she receives a completed form from you we won't be able to contact you about upcoming events.

Kind regards

Allison Potts

Newsletter Editor





**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. Mason 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).

**If you are booking for more than one event in advance, one cheque made payable to LBC will suffice.**

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.



**Visit to the English National Ballet School**  
**Friday 15 June, 2.00\* - 4.00 pm**  
**Carlyle Building, Hortensia Road, London, SW10 0QS**  
**Please give your name in advance.**  
**Donations are requested but not obligatory - a minimum of £12.50 is suggested. Members and guests welcome**

Photo credit Jesús Vallinas

We are delighted to have received another invitation to visit the English National Ballet School to watch an open rehearsal. This is a very popular visit so we are delighted to be able to

accommodate 40 people on this occasion. Unfortunately, the building does not have disabled access (there are stairs) and there is no onsite parking. \*Due to the lack of reception space, you are asked not to arrive greatly in advance of the 2 pm start time.

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.

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

**Monday 18 June, 7.30 pm**

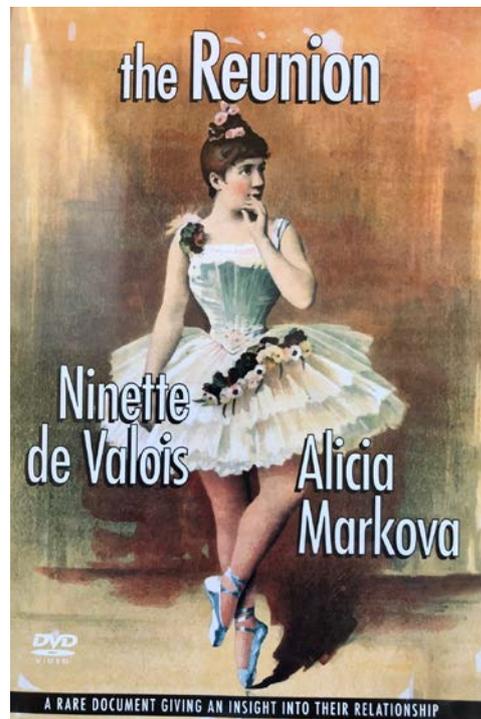
**The Dining Room, 1st Floor Civil Service Club**

**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.*



**Chase Johnsey, in conversation with Gerald Dowler**

**Monday 9 July, 7.30 pm**

**Civil Service Club**

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

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

*Photo left courtesy of Susan Dalgetty Ezra Photo below right by Carlos Renedo*

To fans of Les Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo Chase Johnsey's alter egos included Yakatarina Verbosovich and Roland Deaulin but in January 2018 Chase resigned from the company he loved and had danced with for 14 years amid controversy. The London Ballet Circle gives you the chance to meet the man beneath the tutu to find out about life as a Trock and hear about his next exciting new career move, joining the English National Ballet as extra First Artist for the upcoming run of *Sleeping Beauty*. We look forward to hearing about this new challenge.

American dancer Chase is a man of many talents having won national titles in folk dancing to performing both male and female roles to acclaim with the Trocks and winning the Best Male Dancer category at the 2016 National Dance Awards for his performance in the title role of *Paquita*.

Picked on in school and working with a less than optimum body type for a male ballet dancer Chase has navigated a unique path and his story is one to inspire every dancer.

## Introducing Linda Gainsbury, new LBC Honorary Secretary

After sterling service as Honorary Secretary Jean Wilde stepped down on 1 May and was succeeded by Linda Gainsbury.

Linda has been watching ballet since childhood and, after more years than she likes to admit, still feels the same sense of thrill and wonder at the artistry before her. Now retired and having come to the end of her terms of office on two College Boards, she hopes that she can contribute in some small way to others enjoyment of the art she loves so much. Linda is also on the committee of The Ballet Association and is one of the members who transcribes their conversation evenings.

Although she is interested in the work of many dance companies, Linda has a particular penchant for The Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, the Bolshoi and the Mariinsky. She feels especially fortunate,

indeed very privileged, to be able to attend studio rehearsals at ENB and to be able to see how much hard and detailed work needs to be invested in order to bring each piece to the stage. Linda also uses ballet as the focus for foreign travel and, as well as supporting her four favourites and some of their individual dancers performing abroad, she has enjoyed productions by many other companies across Europe. She is also an avid reader of wide-ranging press reviews and online opinion as this helps to enhance her own understanding and appreciation: she still has a lot to learn.

Together with her husband Michael, Linda is establishing a Trust so as to ensure that their small-scale financial assistance to individual students, support for dance ventures, and sponsorship of the Critics' Circle Emerging Artist Award can continue.

## View from New York by Susan Dalgetty Ezra

The ballet scene in New York City is always exciting with American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet as its top companies. When presented with the opportunity to spend a week in New York watching ballet classes, I jumped at it. Kim White, founder and director of the Danceworks Ballet Academy in London, took six of her senior students to experience different teachers and the American way of teaching. Included in the group was one of LBC's younger members, Raphaela Jewell.



The students attended classes at Steps on Broadway, a well-known and excellent centre for dance. I had the pleasure of watching two and three ballet classes a day including those taught by Willie (Wilhelm) Burrman. Willie was a principal dancer with several companies including Stuttgart, Frankfurt and New York City Ballet. He has coached David Hallberg and Alessandra Ferri among others. What I found so interesting, and different from the UK, was the make up of the attendees. The young dancers from Danceworks were taking class alongside other youngsters who were visiting New York, dedicated amateurs and world famous professionals. I watched Raphaela at the barre along with Amar Ramasar, Marcelo Gomes, Wendy Whelan, Isabel Guerin, Misty Copeland, Maria Kowroski and, to my delight, Lauren Cuthbertson. Everyone mixed happily with one another and there was not a diva amongst the group! Lauren chatted with the Danceworks students and posed for photos with them. Marcelo Gomes remembered speaking to LBC in 2015. Amar was interested in hearing about the Ballet Academy and, when I told him that LBC raises funds for talented students who need financial assistance, he said “I was that kid!” When it came to making corrections, the professionals were treated exactly the same as everyone else. This was true of all the teachers I watched and I couldn’t help wondering if this would happen in London. Certainly none of the Danceworks students nor their Director, Kim, could imagine it.

This was a very different trip to New York for me and a very exciting and satisfying one. I know the girls from London can’t wait to go back to Steps again and I think I just might have to join them!”

The photo on page 7 is of Raphaela, myself, Amar Ramasar (NYCB principal) and Danceworks Ballet Academy Director Kim White. It was taken in a studio at Steps.



### Ballet Cymru’s *Cinderella*

Ballet Cymru is delighted to bring back its popular and magical fairy tale *Cinderella* in May. Below are just some the dates for Ballet Cymru’s Summer Tour of *Cinderella* choreography is by LBC vice president Darius James [www.welshballet.co.uk](http://www.welshballet.co.uk)

11 & 12 May	Newport	Riverfront	01656 656757
27 May	King’s Lynn	Alive Corn Exchange	01553 764864
11 & 12 June	Bury St Edmunds	Theatre Royal	01284 769505
16 June	Basingstoke	The Haymarket	01256 844244
17 June	Bracknell	South Hill Park	01344 484 123
4 July	Stevenage	Gordon Craig Theatre	01438 363200
6 July	Lichfield	Garrick	01543 412121
7 July	Bangor	Pontio	01248 382828

### Balletworks

With its diverse repertoire and international cast, the Balletworks seeks to bring the most exciting developments to local theaters. The project also endeavours to connect and collaborate with choreographers, photographers and artists of all disciplines to provide an all-encompassing viewing experience. Having received funding from the Arts Council it sets out to make two new creations for the company. These works will be displayed on the Isle of Wight at Medina Theatre on 27 and 28 July, with dancers from Europe’s leading companies.



**DANCEWORKS**  
**BALLET ACADEMY**

Summer Intensive 2018

This year at the Danceworks Ballet Academy Summer Intensive the guest teacher line up is to be confirmed but previous teachers have included Sergei Polunin, Micheala DePrince, Ivan Putrov, and Melissa Hamilton.

During the two-week programme, students will study Technique, Pointe and Choreography to prepare for the final performance at Lilian Baylis Theatre, Sadler's Wells. New this year is a special "Contemporary for Ballet Dancers" class, for all levels, with new Academy teacher Céline Barreau. To apply, please visit: <http://www.danceworks-academy.net/summer-school-2018>

### **Patrons**

Michaela DePrince and Ivan Putrov have become Honorary Patrons of Danceworks Ballet Academy and Youth Ballet Company, supporting its goal to identify and develop young talent to work towards the highest level of classical ballet.

DanceWorks have a Scholarship Programme to ensure that children from all financial backgrounds have the opportunity to learn excellence in Classical Ballet. If you are interested in finding out about becoming involved in this and other aspects of DanceWorks, please get in touch via [balletschool@danceworks.net](mailto:balletschool@danceworks.net)

### **Peter Pan Performance**

Under the leadership and artistic direction of Academy Founding Director Kim White, Danceworks Youth Ballet Company's full theatrical production of *Peter Pan* along with a new original ballet *Take Five* will be performed on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June at The Greenwood Theatre. Tickets are now available to purchase online at: <http://www.danceworks-academy.net/peterpan>

### **Richard Chappell Dance presents *At the end we begin*, 2018 UK Tour**

#### **Spring 2018 Tour concludes:**

LEEDS: Stanley and Audrey Burton Theatre, 6 June

Booking Link: <https://bit.ly/2rfzDx6>

#### **Autumn 2018 Tour includes:**

OXFORD: Pegasus Theatre, 26 October

FROME: Merlin Theatre, 3 November

DUNDEE: The Space, 6 November

NEWCASTLE: Dance City, 8 November

FALMOUTH: AMATA Performance Centre, 17 November

(Tickets will be on sale for the Autumn 2018 Tour from the summer)

Following its creation on Studio Wayne McGregor's 2017 FreeSpace Programme and first UK Tour, Richard Chappell Dance presents *At the end we begin*. The company's dynamic, compelling and first full length work uses T.S. Eliot's classic series Four Quartets as a point of departure by representing each poem with four arresting and emotionally fuelled quartets of dance, named after each poem. With dramaturgy by Neus Gil Cortes (previously a dancer with Hofesh Shechter), lighting design by Kieron Johnson and a freshly composed score of cello, piano and electronics by Samuel Hall, *At the end we begin* is Richard Chappell Dance's most challenging and collaborative work to date.

## 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 £1,645 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'

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 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

Linda Gainsbury, Honorary Secretary, [lionking1@supanet.com](mailto:lionking1@supanet.com)