

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*

President: Sir Peter Wright CBE

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

Associate Vice President: Michael Broderick

Chairman: Allison Potts

UK Charity Registration No. 1123258

May 2010

FUTURE EVENTS

Thursday 10 June 2010 - Visit to Tring Park School for the Performing Arts

Tuesday 22 June 2010 - Visit to The Royal Ballet Upper School

Monday 5 July 2010 - Alastair Macauley

Monday 12 July 2010 - Alexander Grant

Visit to Tring Park School for the Performing Arts - Thursday 10 June 2010

Payment in advance - £12.50

Places are still available for this visit and there is further information about timing. We are invited to arrive for 9.30 am (which is half way through the first class of the day), 10.40 am (the second class) or for 1.40 pm. The day ends at 4.55 pm. Trains from Euston to ensure arrival in good time (a minibus will collect us from Tring station) are 8.24, which arrives at Tring at 9.04, 9.34 (Tring 10.19), 12.34 (Tring 13.17). The morning session ends at 12.15 and places for lunch are easily accessible.

Would those members who have already booked a place on this visit please let Audrey Allen know which train they intend getting so that the School can make arrangements to send the minibus to the station. If anybody else would like to take part please send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The London Ballet Circle, to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP (telephone 020 8361 2872, Email audrey.allen035@btinternet.com) Members on Email will have receipt of their cheques and confirmation of places acknowledged by Email, otherwise please send a stamped addressed envelope for this.

Visit to The Royal Ballet Upper School - Tuesday 22 June 2010 - 1.15 pm

46 Floral Street, LONDON, WC2

Payment in advance - Members £12.50. Guests £15

We are very happy to have secured another opportunity for our members to visit the Royal Ballet Upper School in Floral Street, following the very successful visit we enjoyed last year.

Once again this is an exclusive event for LBC and we are therefore able to allow our members to bring a guest if they wish to do so (no more than one person). Places as always will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and if you would like to take advantage of this visit please send your cheque for the appropriate amount to Audrey Allen, 8 Goldsmith Road, London, N11 3JP (telephone 020 8361 2872, Email audrey.allen035@btinternet.com) Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you would like an acknowledgement of your cheque and confirmation of your place/s. We are required to give a list of those attending to the School so if you are inviting a friend please give her/his name when you apply. For this and all visits members on Email will have their cheques and requests confirmed by Email.

Payment for this special occasion is in aid of The Royal Ballet School's 'Hardship Fund' which, needless to say, has increasing demands made upon it in these difficult times.

Alastair Macauley - Monday 5 July 2010 - 7.30 pm
Church of Scotland Hall, Crown Court, LONDON, WC1
Payment at the door - Members £3, Guests £6

We are delighted that the celebrated dance and theatre critic, Alastair Macauley, is to be our guest this evening. He has worked for many leading newspapers and journals, being chief theatre critic of *'The Financial Times'* from 1988, is currently Chief Dance Critic for the *'New York Times'* and has written for *'The Times Literary Supplement'* and *'Dancing Times'*, among others. Many of us will have read his dance criticisms, books and articles, and have also enjoyed his contributions to Insight evenings at the ROH. He was Co-chairman of the prestigious Fonteyn Phenomenon Conference held at the Royal Academy of Dancing in 1999 and gave the opening lecture on 'Fonteyn's Place in History'. Some of his other activities include teaching dance history at the Laban Centre, the University of Surrey, London Studio Centre and the Royal Academy of Dancing, as well as participating in major conferences and lecturing on dance and theatre in the United Kingdom, Europe and the America. He published a book, *'Matthew Bourne and his Adventures in Motion Pictures'* in 1999 and has also written about Merce Cunningham and other leading figures in the dance world. His impressive CV is attraction enough but those who have heard him speak will vouch for the fact that he is both a knowledgeable and extremely amusing speaker. We can safely promise a very enjoyable evening.

Alexander Grant CBE - Monday 12 July 2010 - 7.30 pm
Church of Scotland Hall, Crown Court, LONDON, WC1
Payment at the door - Members £3, Guests £6

It is with very great pleasure that we welcome our distinguished honorary member, Alexander Grant, as our guest on this occasion. Alexander was born in Wellington, New Zealand, started dancing classes at the age of 7 with Kathleen O'Brien and Jean Horne, and was offered a scholarship by the RAD to study in England. Unfortunately the Second World War intervened and he was unable to come to the UK until 1946 when he became a founder member of the Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet but was speedily transferred to the senior company (now The Royal Ballet) at Covent Garden and was appointed Soloist in 1949. He came to immediate attention as the Barber in Massine's **Mam'zelle Angot**, then quickly became notable for his character roles. Many critics regard him as one of the leading character dancers of the 20th century, and he excelled in Ashton (the Jester is **Cinderella**, Eros in **Sylvia**, Bottom in **The Dream**, Alain in **La Fille mal gardee**) and for most of us nobody has yet surpassed the pathos as well as humour he brought to the role of Alain. He was also a celebrated Petrushka.

Alexander was a Principal with The Royal Ballet from 1950 to 1976 and during the 1970s ran the company's educational group Ballet for All. In 1976 he was appointed Artistic Director of the National Ballet of Canada, has worked with London Festival Ballet (now ENB), danced and staged revivals for companies throughout the world, including Joffrey Ballet and Scottish Ballet. Among the many honours he has received are the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award presented by the Royal Academy of Dancing, the CBE, Living Icon of New Zealand and, earlier this year, the de Valois Award for Outstanding Achievement given by the Critics Circle at the National Dance Awards.

Other dates for your diary

On **Wednesday, 1 December** we will be holding a very special evening to celebrate what would have been the 100th birthday of our former President and Patron (1981-2004), **Dame Alicia Markova**. The venue will be the popular Dragon Hall. Full details of what promises to be a highlight event for LBC will be given later.

You may also like to note that we have booked Dragon Hall for our **AGM and Party for Saturday 15 January 2011**.

David Wainman

We are very sorry to inform you that our long standing member, David Wainman, died at home on 7 May. We send our love and sincere sympathy to his wife, Patricia, on her sad loss and assure her that David will be missed by very many of us.

David and Patricia (who was a hardworking member of our committee for many years) were keen supporters of LBC and were usually seen at all our meetings. They were familiar figures at the Royal Opera House at both ballet and opera performances, as well as at other venues for drama, music, film and art. David had an enthusiasm for all the arts, as well as for travel, and a passion for life generally. He took up painting after his retirement and was a keen artist. He was a kind, witty person always very interesting to talk to because of his wide interests. David and Patricia lived life to the full, were obviously a devoted couple and the best of friends, but they were never inward looking and always had time for other people.

We hope that the many happy memories Patricia must have of their life together will console her at this distressing time.

London Ballet Circle Donation

Sophie Rance, a student in her final year at Elmhurst School for Dance, has been given a scholarship by LBC to attend the Wells Weekend Summer 2010. Sophie is a very talented student and as this is a particularly crucial year for her, with expenses for auditions coming up, would not have been able to attend without our assistance.

Venues

Some of you may have already heard that from September Monday evenings will not be available to us (during term time) at the Church of Scotland. The City Lit has booked it for an extra class that cannot be accommodated in its own premises and, of course, it makes economic sense for the church to accept a block booking. Because it is such a good central location other evenings are usually booked by various organisations so we may not now be able to use this regular venue except on very rare occasions. Tim Rooke, our Venues Secretary, and all of us are making enquiries and looking around for other suitable places for our meetings and if any member knows of anywhere that could fit the bill would they get in touch with Tim (committee contact details at the end of the newsletter)

Also of interest

Janet Mayberry, one of our members, has recommended Milton Keynes Theatre as a venue for seeing companies such as NBT and ENB. She saw an enjoyable performance of Northern Ballet's **Peter Pan** there and has drawn our attention to the fact that English National Ballet is putting on the Rudolf Nureyev **Romeo and Juliet** from 2-6 November. She comments that "it is a lovely theatre and members could go up on the train from Euston for a matinee. Lots of buses go to the theatre from the station, not far but maybe a bit of a walk if you are in a hurry" Visit the website: www.ambassadortickets.com/miltonkeynes or telephone: 0844 8717652 to book tickets.

Janet also mentioned that a new theatre, Waterside Theatre, is opening in Aylesbury in October with NBT's **Swan Lake** performing from 12-16 October. Box Office: 0844 817 7607. Aylesbury would be easily accessible by train from Marylebone.

White Lodge Museum

Following the description of her visit to the White Lodge Museum given by Jenny Baker in the last newsletter, members may have received a leaflet on the museum that came with last month's 'Dancing Times'. This gives a brief history of White Lodge itself and details of the museum.

Visits to the White Lodge Museum and Ballet Resource Centre are free and because White Lodge is a working school all visits must be booked in advance. Telephone: 020 8392 8440 or Email: museum@royalballschool.co.uk for details. During term the museum is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1.30-3.30 pm. The museum is fully accessible for wheelchair users, there are toilet and cloakroom facilities, but no provision for refreshments.

A free park and ride service is provided from the Sheen Gate entrance of Richmond Park to take visitors to and from the museum by appointment. Parking is available in the Sheen Gate area. The nearest railway stations are Richmond and Mortlake; Richmond is also on the London underground District Line. However the walk from either station to Sheen Gate takes 30-40 minutes.

Email reminder

If you currently receive your newsletters by post but have an Email address you might like to consider receiving them by Email in future. All our speakers are approached several weeks in advance but, as they all have so many commitments and lead such busy lives, there are times when they cannot agree a date until the very last minute. Email access means that it is easier for us to inform you of any such eleventh hour arrangements, or other items of interest, and also ensures that you receive your newsletters as soon as they have been processed. Please inform Audrey Allen (Audrey.allen035@btinternet.com) if you would like to have your name on the Email list.

Website

Our website (www.londonballetcircle.co.uk) continues to arouse interest and a steady growth in "hits". It is certainly worth a visit and you may wish to tell your friends about it.

2010 Committee of The London Ballet Circle

Allison Potts - Chairman (0787 011 6302)
Audrey Allen - Newsletter (020 8361 2872)
Diane Dewar - Honorary Secretary (020 7736 6269)
Susan Ezra - Publicity (020 7224 5594)
Dr Sandra Kendall - Committee Member
Robin Key - Committee Member
Bob Kimber - Honorary Treasurer (01895 679219)
Serena Martin - Membership Secretary (020 7402 6799)
Tim Rooke - Venues Secretary (020 8352 0492)

*The London Ballet Circle was formed, with Dame Ninette de Valois as Founding President, to promote interest in dance and kindred arts.
The Circle is registered in the UK as a Charity, Registration No. 1123258
Website: www.londonballetcircle.co.uk*