

# WHITE LODGE MUSEUM & BALLET RESOURCE CENTRE



THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

Dance Partnership & Access



Summer Term 2011

Newsletter

Issue 4



Ninette de Valois: Adventurous Traditionalist  
Conference April 2011

## A sell-out success

On 1-3 April The Royal Ballet School hosted a 3-day international conference on the Founder of The Royal Ballet School and Companies, Ninette de Valois. The conference took place across 3 venues: the Royal Opera House, The Royal Ballet Upper School, Covent Garden and The Royal Ballet Lower School at White Lodge. The programme combined papers, panel discussions, performances and demonstrations. One of the highlights was an 'archival' reconstruction of the 1934 W.B. Yeats/ de Valois dance-drama *The King of the Great Clock Tower*, which was written for 2 singers, 2 actors, 1 dancer and small musical ensemble. The film of the performance will be available to view in the Ballet Resource Centre at White Lodge Museum.

Conference planning and administration was lead by the White Lodge Museum team. We will shortly be updating the website with reviews, photographs and information about the post-conference publication, expected to be published in June 2012:

[www.royalballschool.co.uk/dvconference](http://www.royalballschool.co.uk/dvconference)



Performance of *The King of the Great Clock Tower*

Photos: Patrick Baldwin



Jane Pritchard, Conference Committee Chair and Curator of Dance at the V&A

*'It was one of the very best conferences I've ever been to and it has inspired me anew to continue on in my own research [on de Valois].'*

Prof. Beth Genné  
Keynote speaker



Enjoying the proceedings. Front row L-R: Jane Pritchard, Dr. Geraldine Morris, Sir Peter Wright, Henry Danton, Nicola Katrak, Lady Anya Sainsbury

*'It was a truly unique and wonderful event - so stimulating and thought provoking'*

Amanda Selby  
Delegate



Robert Penman and Victoria Watts discuss Ninette de Valois' role in the development of Benesh Movement Notation

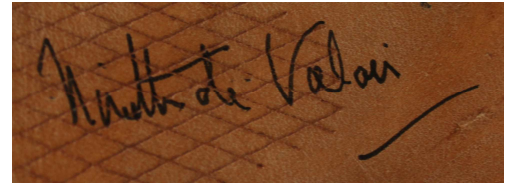


Photo: Anna Fineman

A student from St. Mark's Academy engrossed in one of White Lodge Museum's Discovery Drawers

## Recent acquisition

2011 is a celebratory year as we explore Ninette de Valois' life and legacy, 10 years after her death. It was therefore particularly fitting that Sally Cadbury generously donated a pair of pointe shoes, signed by de Valois, to The Royal Ballet School Collections in March. Each shoe is signed, but they are unworn. De Valois stopped dancing *en pointe* in the mid 1930s, and these are late 20th Century shoes she probably signed to fundraise for The Royal Ballet School and Companies.



Photos: Anna Fineman

## Tales of Royalty (and BRB!) at White Lodge

As royal wedding fever gripped much of the country this spring, we took the opportunity to celebrate the royal history of White Lodge with a special display. The sunny, final weekend of April saw visitors flock to White Lodge Museum to learn about how the Duke and Duchess of York (later George VI and the Queen Mother) spent the first four years of their marriage at White Lodge, and to view a certified copy of HRH Queen Elizabeth II's birth certificate, which gives White Lodge as her parents' address. A group of dancers from Birmingham Royal Ballet (below) took a well-deserved break to join in the festivities at White Lodge. Within the Museum, visitors were delighted to find themselves rubbing shoulders with the ballet stars.



Photo: Sue Roberts

## Thank you to our volunteers!

We would like to say a big thank you to our volunteers who work at White Lodge Museum, and The Royal Ballet School Collections. We could not achieve the breadth of our work without their support, and very much appreciate all their hard work.



Nona Haslam and Vernie Stilwell

Richmond Volunteer Centre kindly provided us with certificates and thyme plants with which to say 'thank you for your thyme!' to all our volunteers. So in gratitude for all their help in guiding Museum visits, filing press articles, scanning archival photographs, stewarding events and much more, thank you Felicity Clark, Alison Collins, Nona Haslam, Jane Heath, Candy Hurst-Brown, Carole Kiralyfi and Vernie Stilwell.

Photo: Anna Fineman

## Open House London

White Lodge will be participating in Open House London 2011, the city-wide celebration of London's architecture.

Drop by on Saturday 17 or Sunday 18 September, 10.00am—12.30pm to see selected fine rooms of the main villa and White Lodge Museum.

## Visits to White Lodge Museum and Ballet Resource Centre are FREE

White Lodge is a working school therefore all visits must be booked in advance.

To book please visit: [www.royalballetschool.co.uk/wl\\_museum](http://www.royalballetschool.co.uk/wl_museum)

Email: [museum@royalballetschool.co.uk](mailto:museum@royalballetschool.co.uk)

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