

WHITE LODGE MUSEUM & BALLET RESOURCE CENTRE



THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

Dance Partnership & Access



Autumn Term 2011

Newsletter

Issue 5

Open House London

White Lodge welcomed hundreds of visitors over the weekend of Open House London. Across the city buildings of architectural significance opened their doors for free entry to the public. White Lodge, a Grade 1 listed building in the Neo-Classical English Palladian style, proved a popular choice for visitors. A guided tour through selected fine rooms and the gardens culminated in entry to White Lodge Museum. The event attracted those interested in the building's origins as a royal hunting lodge, alongside people keen to learn about its current function as the home of The Royal Ballet Lower School.



'A fantastic place to visit. In addition to architecture and history the information on The Royal Ballet School and Museum was excellent.'

'White Lodge has for many years been an icon in beloved Richmond Park. It has been wonderful to learn about its past and present.'

Visitors to White Lodge during Open House London



Learning about ballet shoes: the group from The Challenge Network were very interested to learn about the training and daily life at The Royal Ballet School, during a guided tour of White Lodge Museum

The Challenge Network

We were very pleased to work with the charity The Challenge Network for the first time, on their summer programme for young people. The Challenge brings diverse groups of school-leavers together to undertake physical, social and intellectual challenges, as a team, culminating in the delivery of a project for the benefit of their community. A group came to White Lodge Museum for their Professional Visit, whereby they learnt about the work we do, then gave us a presentation for which we provided constructive feedback. We really enjoyed the visit and were very impressed with the group's presentation. They were a real unit, despite only meeting each other three weeks previously. We hope to continue our association with The Challenge Network, and host more events for participants and graduates of The Challenge.

New acquisition: *Die Puppenfee* design



This beautiful watercolour by Joseph Rous Paget-Fredericks (1903-1963) depicts Anna Pavlova in *Die Puppenfee* (*The Fairy Doll*). The ballet was revived by the Anna Pavlova Ballet Company in 1914, and Fredericks became the Art Director for the company's subsequent world tours from the early 1930s. Fredericks was taught by Leon Bakst and John Singer Sargent and went on to become a successful designer, illustrator and lecturer. This design was recently purchased for The Royal Ballet School Collections and is a valuable addition to our Pavlova collection.

Ninette de Valois events: post conference

Following the success of our conference *Ninette de Valois: Adventurous Traditionalist* last April we are delighted that further events to mark the tenth anniversary of de Valois' death have taken place this year.

On 3 November a one-day symposium on de Valois' founding of the Turkish Ballet took place in Istanbul. The programme included seminars, a photographic exhibition, and performances by Istanbul State Ballet. A similar event took place on 23 November in Ankara, including the screening of an extract of Levent Kurumlu's film *Dancing Across the Bosphorus*, which was created for the April conference, in close collaboration with the White Lodge Museum team.

The Royal Opera House dedicated an *Insight* evening to de Valois on 4 November. Curator of White Lodge Museum Anna Meadmore spoke at the event, which included performances by The Royal Ballet School and Company. Company Soloist Deirdre Chapman reprised her role as The Queen in the W. B. Yeats/ de Valois dance-drama *The King of the Great Clock Tower*, which was reconstructed by Richard Cave for the April conference.

Russian connections

Last month we had the pleasure of independently welcoming to White Lodge Museum the Curator of Western European Art at the Hermitage Museum, Alexey Le Porc, and the Archivist of the Bolshoi, Sergey Konaev (pictured right). We were very pleased to make contacts at such prestigious collections, and look forward to working with them in future.



Loan to Orleans House Gallery

We were pleased to loan material from The Royal Ballet School Collections to Orleans House Gallery in Richmond, for their current exhibition *Flux, Flow, Flight: Art in Motion*. Physical movement within the visual and performing arts is explored through artworks in a range of media. We contributed Benesh Movement Notation (BMN), textbooks from the 1960s. BMN is a comprehensive written system with which to record human movement. It has commonly been used to record ballets and has proven an invaluable means by which to revive productions. Unlike filmed records, BMN does not contain artistic interpretations, but is an accurate record of the original choreography.

The exhibition runs until 22 January 2012. www.richmond.gov.uk/orleans_house_gallery

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

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