



Jubilee Programme

To mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, White Lodge Museum presented a programme of public events to celebrate the rich heritage of White Lodge, a Grade 1 listed royal hunting lodge commissioned by George I in 1727, and home of The Royal Ballet School since 1955.



Portrait of King George II now hanging in the Salon
From original by Charles Jervas ©National Portrait Gallery

Royal Portraits

The programme was launched with the unveiling of a new semi-permanent exhibition in the Sarah Dorfman Salon. Reproductions of paintings of the first occupants of White Lodge, King George II and Queen Caroline of Ansbach, can now be seen alongside portraits of the Duke and Duchess of York, later to become King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

We were delighted to be joined at the exhibition opening by The Marchioness of Douro OBE, Chairman of The Royal Ballet School, Principal Dancer with The Royal Ballet, Lauren Cuthbertson and White Lodge Founding Benefactor and Governor of The Royal Ballet School, Sarah Dorfman.

White Lodge garden talks

Two evening events further enlivened the Salon, and provided opportunities to experience the new portraits. We were very pleased to welcome Professor Catherine Ward Thompson of Edinburgh University and Christopher Sumner of the London Parks and Gardens Trust to present an evening of illustrated talks on the White Lodge gardens. Catherine explored the basis for Humphrey Repton's early 19th century garden designs for White Lodge. Following an interval, at which much of the audience gallantly ventured into the gardens despite poor weather, Chris discussed the wider royal landscape of Richmond Park and surrounding estates between the 17th—19th centuries.

18th Century music

Janiculum performed a sell-out concert of 18th century vocal and instrumental music entitled 'Let Everyone Sing and Dance.' The quintet—soprano, tenor, violin, cello and harpsichord—use original 18th century instruments, or modern copies, in order to 'bring history alive through music.' They created a programme specially for White Lodge, to include scores written for the great 18th century dancers Marie Sallé, Marie Camargo, Auguste Vestris and Giovanna Baccelli. The wonderful acoustics and rapturous audience evoked an atmosphere of entertainment which the room would have originally held during the 1700s.



Janiculum perform in the intimate Salon at White Lodge

Jubilee Open Day

Our Jubilee Public Programme culminated in a family-friendly open Saturday in June. Hundreds of visitors came with picnics to enjoy the gardens and activities at White Lodge. There were tours of the historic fine rooms throughout the day, which focussed on the impressive royal history of the building. Visitors gained access to the Boudoir which was the Queen Mother's favourite room. She and her husband came to White Lodge in 1923 as the Duke and Duchess of York, where they remained for the first four years of their marriage. Tours also passed through the room where Edward VIII was born on Midsummer's Eve in 1894.

At White Lodge Museum visitors could learn how daughter of King George II, Princess Amelia Sophia, took occupancy of White Lodge in 1751 and banned public access to Richmond Park for seven years. A certified copy of HM The Queen's birth certificate was on display, which keen visitors noted gives White Lodge as her parents' address.

Historical dance workshops proved extremely popular across the ages as grandchildren and their grandparents learned 18th and 19th century steps side-by-side.

We were pleased to link up with nearby Marble Hill House in Twickenham, which shares the architect Roger Morris with White Lodge, and presents a parallel royal history. We ran a shuttle bus between the two buildings for the day, and produced a joint leaflet. We look forward to further projects with Marble Hill House.

Victorian Tea Party

The Holly Lodge Centre supports the engagement of people with special educational needs with the natural environment of Richmond Park. As a neighbour of White Lodge, we teamed up with Holly Lodge to put on a Victorian garden party 'hosted' by 19th century White Lodge occupants, the Duke and Duchess of Teck. Students from Castlebar, Linden Bridge and West Hill Schools joined years 8 and 9 from White Lodge for an old-fashioned afternoon of fun. We were delighted to be joined by Patron of The Holly Lodge Centre HRH Princess Alexandra.



Students from Linden Bridge School and The Royal Ballet School presenting HRH Princess Alexandra with a posy
Photo: Liz Coleman



The 'Duke and Duchess of Teck' greet a guest in the Salon
Photo: Liz Coleman

The students, all dressed up in Victorian regalia, presented their calling cards to the Footman and were then received by the 'Duke and Duchess of Teck' in the Salon. Out in the gardens, Victorian games such as hoops, tin can alleys and quoits were greatly enjoyed. Following a sing-along of Victorian parlour songs, each school presented a short sketch based on a historical story of White Lodge. These included a fantastic re-enactment of the plight of John Lewis, a local brewer who fought for public access to the Park. Finally a traditional Victorian tea was served and the students tucked into jelly, cakes and cloudy lemonade.



A good old-fashioned game of quoits. Photo: Liz Coleman

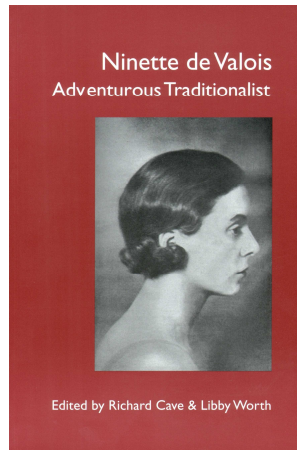


The photo booth was a favourite attraction

New publication

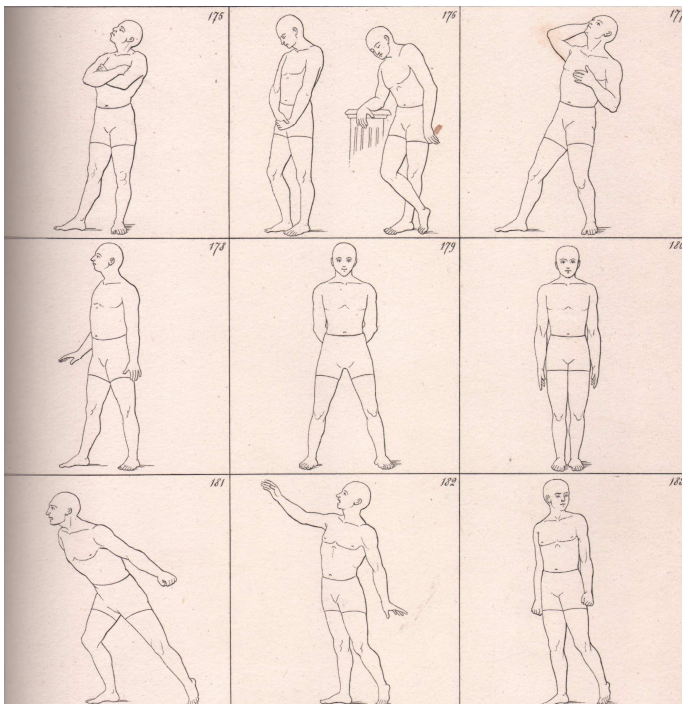
Ninette de Valois: Adventurous Traditionalist

On 2 July, over 120 people from the dance world attended the launch of a new book on the Founder of The Royal Ballet School and Companies, Ninette de Valois. Entitled *Ninette de Valois: Adventurous Traditionalist*, the book continues the dialogue from last year's sell-out conference of the same name, which was administrated by White Lodge Museum. The book, edited by Richard Cave and Libby Worth, contains essays, photographs and a DVD of over four hours of material. It is available from the Dance Books website: <http://www.dancebooks.co.uk/>



Collections news: rare books accessioned

The team have been sorting hundreds of books donated over the past year. Many will go into the school library, some into the archival library, and a few special rarities will be formally accessioned into The Royal Ballet School Collections. These include a tiny, illustrated book titled *The Art of Nijinsky* by Geoffrey Whitworth from 1913. Also a leather-bound volume of *Mimique: Pysionomie et Gestes* (1895) by A. Giraudet and G. Le Doux. It is a detailed compendium on mime, which belonged to Joan Lawson, dancer and teacher at the School in the 1960s. Pencil annotations throughout the book may well be Lawson's. The book is illustrated with a series of painstakingly detailed images, including expressions for each facial feature, and the use of the hands to convey emotion. This detail is from a page focusing on the stances of the legs.



Detail from *Mimique: Pysionomie et Gestes* (1895)
A. Giraudet and G. Le Doux,
Paris: Librairies-Imprimeries Reunies

Museum as Muse

The poet John Mole visited White Lodge as part of the English Department's writers programme. Mole writes poetry for both children and adults and has won several prizes for his work. He was Writer in Residence at Magdalene Collage, Cambridge and is currently Poet in Residence to the City of London. Mole ran poetry workshops with the students, then visited White Lodge Museum. We were delighted to learn that the Museum inspired his poem 'To A Student in the Ballet Museum,' recently published within his volume *The Point of Loss*. The first stanza follows:

To A Student in the Ballet Museum White Lodge, Richmond Park

*The hieroglyphs of choreology
are grace notated, step by step
the record of a narrative on staves
strung out across the years
to be loosened into art. These are moves
in search of their full dimension
Where a curlicue or circumflex
Becomes the body's language
Leaping from the page, where beauty
Lies in wait for you, your passion,
Discipline and hunger for the dance.*

Ballet at the Big Dance in Norfolk

Biennial festival Big Dance took place in July, with a huge number of dance events taking place across the country. We were pleased to loan artefacts from The Royal Ballet School Collections to Norfolk Dance for display at free public venue The Forum in Norwich. The exhibition comprised two display cases of material on Ninette de Valois and Frederick Ashton, including costumes, programmes, books and photographs. Approximately 40 000 people will have visited The Forum over the Big Dance fortnight.

New Wednesday openings

White Lodge Museum is now open every Wednesday during term-time, in addition to Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Don't forget to check our website for special holiday and weekend openings.

Visits to White Lodge Museum & Ballet Resource Centre are FREE

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

To book please visit:

www.royalballschool.co.uk/wl_museum
Email: museum@royalballschool.co.uk
Phone: +44 (0)20 8392 8440, option 7