



## The Many Faces of Robert Helpmann Symposium October 2013



Panel discussion L - R: Professor Richard Cave, choreographer Andrew McNicol and Dr Víctor Durà-Vilà

On 27 October White Lodge Museum hosted a full day symposium *The Many Faces of Robert Helpmann*. Foundations of the event lay in a reconstruction of Helpmann's 1944 ballet *Miracle in the Gorbals*. David Drew, former Principal with The Royal Ballet, began a project with White Lodge Museum in 2011 to reconstruct the 'lost' ballet. Several members of the original cast were involved including Gillian Lynne, Pauline Clayden, Julia Farron, Jean Bedells and Henry Danton. Following a very successful workshop at White Lodge with a cast of 40 dancers, the decision was taken to hold a symposium to explore the significance of Helpmann in British ballet, theatre and film.

Film footage of the *Miracle in the Gorbals* workshop formed the basis of a paper by Michael Byrne as part of his PhD at the University of Cambridge. He is investigating the regenerative processes of reviving ballets with scores by the composer Arthur Bliss. In addition to *Miracle in the Gorbals* Bliss wrote the music for Helpmann's ballet *Adam Zero* (1946). Dr Víctor Durà-Vilà, Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London, considered why Helpmann and Bliss made such an effective creative partnership.

Along with diverse papers, panels and film screenings there was performance by Royal Ballet School students in new choreography by Andrew McNicol based on *Adam Zero*. The 'many faces of Robert Helpmann' were manifested by make-up artist Joyce Beagarie in a live demonstration.

Dance Books will publish expanded papers from the symposium with accompanying DVD in 2015.



Dame Monica Mason with a painting of Leslie Hurry's set design for Helpmann's *Hamlet*, which she has kindly donated to White Lodge Museum



A Royal Ballet School student performs in Andrew McNicol's new choreography based on *Adam Zero*.



Make up artist Joyce Beagarie gives a live demonstration of Helpmann's make up for Carabosse in *The Sleeping Beauty*  
Photos: Brian Slater

## Rudolf Nureyev: in search of perfection



Rudolf Nureyev with Antoinette Sibley, Anthony Dowell and The Royal Ballet School students from his cast for *The Nutcracker*. Photo: The Press Association, 1968

A new exhibition at White Lodge Museum, *Rudolf Nureyev: in search of perfection*, marks the 20th anniversary of the death of Nureyev (1938-93). Three costumes from Nureyev's personal collection are on display following a generous loan by a private collector. These include Nureyev's Romeo costume from his 1977 production of *Romeo and Juliet*, and a white feathered *Swan Lake* tutu worn by Margot Fonteyn and later given to Nureyev. Fonteyn and Nureyev famously performed *Swan Lake* together all over the world between 1962-72.

Photographs and notes from The Royal Ballet School's Vera Volkova Collection can be seen, illustrating the importance of this famous Russian ballet teacher (who taught at The Royal Ballet School and Company between 1943-50) to Nureyev. School records show Nureyev with the young Royal Ballet School students he cast in his Royal Ballet production of *The Nutcracker* (1968). The exhibition is open until 3 April 2014.

## Artists 'in Arcadia'



Capturing the view. Photo: Emma Durnford

The final event of our programme for the Richmond Gardens Festival 2013 was a summer sketching day. In partnership with *artsrichmond* thirty local artists spent a day at White Lodge, capturing the Arcadian views of Pen Ponds and the Queen's Ride, plus the West Front of the building. The artists worked with a range of media to create some very impressive works, which formed an exhibition *Arcadia Revisited*, mounted in the Long Gallery of White Lodge.

## Nijinsky: book launch at White Lodge

As part of the Richmond Literature Festival, Lucy Moore's new biography of Vaslav Nijinsky was launched at White Lodge. The audience enjoyed tours of the grounds and Museum, before Moore spoke about her research and read extracts from the book.



## Visits to White Lodge Museum are FREE

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

### Opening times

During term time the museum is open:

Tuesday 13:30 - 15:30

Wednesday 13:30 - 15:30

Thursday 13:30 - 15:30

For groups of 10 people or more, alternative visiting hours can be arranged.

### 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)

Phone: +44 (0)20 8392 8440, option 7