



## Fifth Anniversary of White Lodge Museum

February 2014 marked five years since White Lodge Museum first opened to the public. We have welcomed over 11,000 visitors to Georgian White Lodge, engaging them with the history of British ballet and introducing them to the work of The Royal Ballet School.



L: *The King of the Great Clock Tower* performance at the Ninette de Valois Conference. Photo: Patrick Baldwin  
R: White Lodge elevation from *Vitruvius Britannicus*

The museum was created as part of an extensive redevelopment of the White Lodge site, which began in 2004. Government funding for the project was granted with the proviso that the School provide greater public access to the historically significant building. White Lodge Museum became the means by which visitors could enter White Lodge and learn about its historic and current occupants, whilst activities of the working School continued as normal.



L: Poster of Rudolf Nureyev featuring photography by Anthony Crickmay R: Costume worn by David Bintley in the title role of Ninette de Valois' ballet *The Rake's Progress*

Key exhibitions from the past five years include *The Rake's Progress*, which explored Ninette de Valois' ballet, inspired by the famous paintings by Hogarth. Most recently *Rudolf Nureyev: in search of perfection* proved to be one of our most popular exhibits, featuring costumes from Nureyev's personal collection, generously loaned by a private collector.



L: *Ninette de Valois: Adventurous Traditionalist* conference publication, Dance Books (2012)  
R: A recent school visit to White Lodge Museum

Over the years we have developed a public programme to widen our audience. Events relating to The Queen's Diamond Jubilee of 2012, and the Richmond Gardens Festival in 2013 saw an increase in visitors particularly interested in White Lodge's royal and architectural heritage. Our international conference *Ninette de Valois: Adventurous Traditionalist* (2011), and symposium *The Many Faces of Robert Helpmann* (2013) enabled dance historians and practitioners to examine the legacies of two great founders of British ballet.



L: *Die Puppenfee* design featuring Anna Pavlova, by Joseph Rous Paget-Fredericks R: Carlos Acosta visits White Lodge Museum, January 2011 Photo: Patrick Baldwin

Our main focus at present is to increase access to The Royal Ballet School Collections online. Researchers will soon be able to search a selection of our collections through the web-based Archives Hub. Resources helping to interpret the history of ballet, and of White Lodge, are being developed for the School website. In these ways we hope to establish White Lodge Museum as an international resource.

*Celebrate with us... see inside for details of a very special forthcoming exhibition to mark our fifth anniversary.*



## Volunteers visit Marble Hill House

We are hugely appreciative of our hard-working, loyal team of volunteers. They give their time in many ways: sorting and organising archival material in The Royal Ballet School Collections, welcoming over 2,000 visitors to the Museum every year, and assisting us with our programme of public events.

*'The guides were so friendly, so informative and made our visit even better than I hoped.'*

Visitor to White Lodge

As part of the fifth anniversary celebrations for White Lodge Museum we were keen to thank our volunteers for their support over the years. We arranged a guided tour of Marble Hill House in Twickenham. The building has strong associations with White Lodge, as both villas were built by the architect Roger Morris. Moreover, there is a more personal link - explained below by our volunteer Vernie Stilwell. Our fantastic tour guide revealed the stories of Marble Hill House, which helped us to better understand the context of White Lodge's history.



The White Lodge Museum Volunteer Team outside Marble Hill House following the guided tour

We were greeted at Marble Hill House by one of the guides, who showed us around this lovely Palladian Villa set in beautiful grounds on the banks of the river Thames. The house was built by Henrietta Howard mistress of the Prince of Wales, later George II (the first royal inhabitant of White Lodge). The interior has been beautifully restored and includes a wonderful collection of Georgian paintings. Our guide gave us an insight into fashionable Georgian life in the 18th century, and details about the lovely paintings, especially in the beautiful salon on the first floor.

After our visit to the house we were taken to the café nearby for tea and delicious cakes. Such an enjoyable afternoon. What better way to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the opening of White Lodge Museum at The Royal Ballet School. Now where shall we celebrate the tenth anniversary?!

**Vernie Stilwell, White Lodge Museum volunteer**

## Antiques Roadshow at White Lodge



Hilary Kay interviews White Lodge Museum Curator Anna Meadmore for BBC Antiques Roadshow. © BBC

Early on Thursday 5 September 2013, as a heat wave dawned, hundreds of people began to descend on Richmond Park. The crew for the BBC's Antiques Roadshow were setting up for a public valuation day within the grounds of White Lodge. The Museum team were highly involved in this exciting event. Curator, Anna Meadmore was interviewed on camera by Hilary Kay, discussing Margot Fonteyn's monogrammed make-up case which is held in The Royal Ballet School Collections. This evocative object is filled with the prima ballerina's personal items including false eyelashes, rouge and hair pins, giving a unique insight into the dancer's life in the 1960s.

Behind the scenes Assistant Curator Anna Fineman recruited and managed a 35 strong team of volunteer stewards, many of whom were regular White Lodge Museum volunteers. The hardy stewards withstood a 10 hour day in soaring temperatures, greeting members of the public, and managing the inevitable queues as punters patiently waited to consult the experts.

Two programmes were created from the footage, the first aired in January, following which we received a surge in visitors and donations of artefacts. We eagerly await the second episode, which we expect to be broadcast in June. This was a unique experience which we were proud to be a part of.



Keen crowds arrive with their objects for valuation  
Photo: Caroline Hume

## Darcey Bussell:

### from Student to Star of The Royal Ballet

Tuesday 6 May - Thursday 30 October 2014

A very special exhibition is being mounted this spring to mark the fifth anniversary of White Lodge Museum & Ballet Resource Centre. **Darcey Bussell: from Student to Star of The Royal Ballet** will chart the early career of the nation's favourite ballerina, from Darcey's days as a young student of The Royal Ballet School, illustrated by records from The Royal Ballet School Collections, to her triumphant career with The Royal Ballet.

The intimate exhibition will feature photographs and exquisite costumes from Darcey's personal collection, including her Princess Rose dress from Kenneth MacMillan's ballet *The Prince of the Pagodas* (1989), in which she was made a Principal of The Royal Ballet, aged just 20; as well as the tunic she wore for her last performance with the Company in 2007, performing in MacMillan's *Song of the Earth*. Artefacts on display will include a plaster-cast of Darcey's foot 'on pointe', made by the craftsmen of Madame Tussaud's when preparing the waxwork of the ballerina, and a preparatory sketch made by Allen Jones for his portrait of Darcey, commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery in 1994.



Darcey Bussell enjoys a tour of White Lodge Museum in 2009 with Jay Jolley, currently Acting Director, who lead the team which created the Museum. Photo: Patrick Baldwin

## Cataloguing the Collections

Our project to catalogue The Royal Ballet School Collections is continuing apace as we welcome temporary Collections Cataloguers Fabiana Barticioti and Geoffrey Spender to the team. They are sorting and categorising our archives and artefacts, whilst documenting the details in our collections database to international standards. In this way the collections are becoming more accessible to staff and researchers, and securely preserved for the future. The work is ongoing as our collections continue to grow. Our latest acquisition, donated last month, is an Aurora head-dress from *The Sleeping Beauty* designed by Oliver Messel and worn by Moira Shearer in 1946.

We are currently collaborating with the Archives Hub - a public online resource which provides a gateway to hundreds of archival institutions across the country. Records of our key collections will soon be uploaded to the Hub, allowing a new level of access to our archives, and broadening the profile of our audience.

## New Tours of White Lodge

We are very pleased to offer new opportunities for guided tours of the White Lodge site.

**Sunday 4 May 2014, 11am**

**Thursday 17 July 2014, 11am**

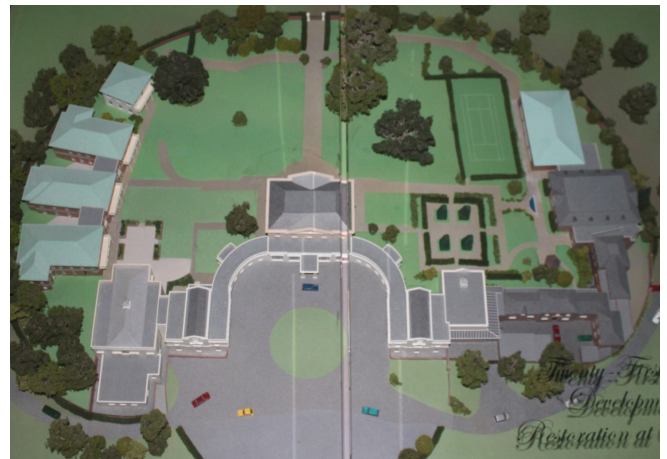
£10 adults; £8.50 concessions; £6.50 under 16s

**For full details and to book:**

**[www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitelodgemuseum](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitelodgemuseum)**

Tours of White Lodge provide an introduction to the Grade I listed hunting lodge, commissioned by George I in 1727, which has been home to The Royal Ballet School since 1955. Tour routes may vary depending on activities taking place on site, but would normally include access to the original fine rooms of the main villa; ballet studios; the dining hall; the boarding houses (including the room in which Edward VIII was born in 1894); the brick-lined tunnels dating from the 1760s; the Georgian kitchens, now the School Library; the Victorian Stable block, now the School's academic classroom area, and the gardens. All tours will culminate with a visit to White Lodge Museum.

**Please note: Tours of White Lodge do not include viewing the students in training; tours take place during school holidays, when students are off-site.**



Model of the White Lodge site, as displayed in White Lodge Museum (BHM Architects, 2004)

## 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