



Anna du Boisson
Artistic Director

Welcome to our first edition of Talking Pointe, the newsletter of The Du Boisson Dance Foundation. We have had a very exciting year and want to share the special moments of the last year with all our supporters and students of the West London School of Dance and the Young Dancers Academy, both past and present. We have so much to celebrate, a very successful Nutcracker season, fabulous offers for our leavers from the top ballet schools, a collaboration with the English National Ballet and, following our Gala Dinner at Covent Garden in March, we have received great press attention, generous support and interest in our talented dancers and performers.

26 of WLS Dance and YDA students are off for a five weeks summer dance school in Cuba along with our experienced chaperones. We also have a culinary and French language trip to Carcassonne for those not going to Cuba.

Our editors, Elizabeth Wigoder and Raymond Koning will keep you updated twice a year and welcome any article and info from students, parents, teachers and supporters. Thank you all for your time and generosity. I look forward to seeing you in the Autumn term either in rehearsals or at the performances of Nutcracker from 5 - 7 December. Meanwhile I wish everybody an enjoyable and relaxing Summer!

DARCEY BUSSELL CBE

This year has brought us the wonderful addition of Darcey Bussell CBE as our Honorary Patron.

Darcey adds sparkle and glamour alongside her talent and experience and our children just love her. She arrived in a flurry of fur into our Village Hall Opening Party last year with co-star Craig Revel Horwood from Strictly Come Dancing and sent a wave of excitement around the whole studio. She makes everybody feel special and takes time to speak to each and every child. At the Gala this year, she worked tirelessly on behalf of The Du Boisson Dance Foundation to speak to as many guests and students as possible. We want to thank her for all she does for us, and, at this year's Gala, for her enormous generosity in auctioning off herself to give two Master classes, personally raising £36,000 towards our Scholarship Fund. We look forward to many more celebrations together.



OFSTED

In June 2013 the Young Dancers Academy achieved 'OUTSTANDING in all areas'. A school gets 'Outstanding' when it provides an exceptional quality of education and significantly exceeds minimum requirements.

Outstanding was given for: Pupil's achievements, Pupils' behaviour and personal development, Quality of teaching, Quality of curriculum, Pupils' welfare, health and safety and Leadership and management. We are very proud of these qualifications and very thankful to all the teachers and students who helped us to achieve this.



Big Dance Pledge 2014

On Friday 16 May, 25 of our dance students participated with the English National

Ballet's Big Dance Pledge group at Westfield in Shepherd's Bush.

Community dance groups from across West London performed alongside the ENBYouthCo. The Big Dance Pledge is the opportunity to learn, create and perform dance along with the rest of the world. This special 5th edition was created by Scottish Ballet with fun and celebration at its heart as part of the Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme of the XX Commonwealth Games.

"To see us dance is to hear our hearts sing" The WLS Dance motto has never been more apt as when used to describe the Big Dance Pledge 2014. The exhilarating feeling of performing to hundreds of people in Westfield London was bettered only by the fact that I was performing with my friends. The Big Dance Pledge was an amazing experience for myself, and I am sure the other members of the school.

Ethan Joseph, (15)

WLS Dance Mid/Senior Boys Ballet





Enormous gratitude to Caroline Levy and her incredible committee of dedicated parents for organizing the glamorous and hugely successful fundraising Gala Dinner in the Paul Hamlyn Hall at The Royal Opera House. Wine was overflowing, flowers blossoming, costumes sparkling, gowns glittering, a delectable dinner and the excited chatter of 85 of our students as they performed to an exceptionally high standard on stage in front of over 350 guests.

FUNDRAISING GALA DINNER

16 MARCH 2014

Check out the article written by Graham Watts in the May Issue of The Dancing Times. He said, "The lives of several young dancers will be enhanced forever as a consequence of one glittering evening" and "The evening was fronted by the Foundation's Honorary Patron Darcey Bussell and attended by several prominent dancers keen to give their support to this worthy cause". Thanks to the wonderful auction lots on offer ranging from ballet Master classes to a tennis lesson with Greg Rusedski and amazing holiday destinations, exciting raffle prizes and the generosity of so many, we have been able this year to offer more scholarships than ever before to the pupils of WLS Dance and YDA. We want to thank the parents for their support through the many tiring rehearsals and trekking across town to get everybody there on time with kit in tow! Photos can be obtained from Neolimm Photography online.

Particular thanks go to guest performers Harry Francis, Edwards Stevens, Thomas Snee, Jason Inniss, and James Streeter for his magnificent contemporary choreography.



DONATE NOW: The Du Boisson Dance Foundation's mission is to help those in need of financial support to pay for ballet lessons, fees, physio, kit etc. Changing lives - step by step. All support greatly appreciated. There are many different ways to donate:

The Du Boisson Dance Foundation on Just Giving online

Bank Transfer: Barclays Bank Sort Code: 20-74-63 Account No: 30824941

Cheque payable to The Du Boisson Dance Foundation

Send to: The Du Boisson Studios, 25 Bulwer Street, London W12 8AR

email: development@duboissondance.org

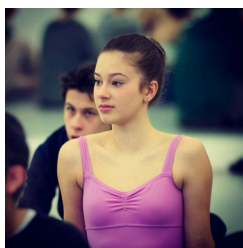
Do Watch Out For.....

ALEXIA ANDERSON KOUTZIS, ex-WLS Dance pupil



We are delighted to announce that our very own Alexia has been offered a full time contract with the Bucharest National Ballet.

Over the last few years, Alexia has danced in Don Quixote in Cuba, in Swan Lake and A Midsummer Nights Dream in Germany and the Nutcracker with the Vienna Festival Ballet. In Bucharest, she will be working under the very talented Johan Kobborg who was a Principal dancer at The Royal Ballet for 14 years and a prolific choreographer. He took up the post of Director in Bucharest in February this year and is quoted as saying it is his aim 'to obtain happiness on a daily basis'. He will definitely feel that happiness when he sees Alexia dance. I was fortunate to be in class with her yesterday as she perfected her pirouettes on pointe; it was pleasure to watch her talent and artistry. On her new contract, Alexia said, "I am eager to embark on this new adventure. I really look forward to the challenge and I am keen to dance in exciting new ballets. This is a great opportunity for my development as an artist." If you are planning a trip to Bucharest, make sure to catch Alexia in a performance. She is too good to miss!



Ginevra D'Aquino
Year 9 YDA

Where did you live and study before you came to London?

Before I came to London I lived in Rome (Italy). I danced in a school called Studio Danza Paganini. It was not an academy but just a dance school where I went in the afternoon after my normal school in the morning

How did you know about YDA?

I heard for the first time about YDA last summer at the English National Ballet school summer course because I met a girl who is studying in YDA. She told me about the school and I was really fascinated, so I decided to do an audition and hope for the best.

When did you do the audition and how was this experience?

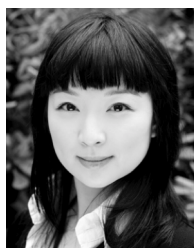
My audition was with Anna du Boisson on 18th September 2013; it was a fantastic experience since it was my first ever audition. When I heard that I got a place at YDA, I burst into tears of happiness and I also hugged my parents because they were crying too. At that point the world around me stopped and made me realize that I had to make a decision whether I wanted to stay with my parents in Italy or stay in London and become a professional dancer. My parents left the next day to go back to Italy without me.

Was it easy for you to adapt yourself to your new life in London?

It wasn't an easy start because I came here without speaking a word of English but luckily I had friends and teachers near me that helped me with my English and also when I was homesick.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years from now?

I hope to see myself realizing my dream to dance on a big famous stage and see my parents be proud of me.



Momo Satake
Dance Teacher
at WLS Dance

Hello, my name is Momo. I teach ballet and tap at WLS Dance. I came to England from Japan in 1992. I began ballet aged 9 at school in Ascot where ballet and modern dance were scheduled within the academic timetable. The first ever ballet I performed in was the Nutcracker which is why I look forward to the WLS Dance's production every year.

I went on to train at Millennium Performing Arts where I was chosen to perform in a tap show called New York On Tap at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, where I had the honour of working and dancing with The Clark Brothers, Will Gaines, Marshall Davis Jr. and renowned UK tappers. What I learnt from these extraordinary artists influences my tap teaching today. In 2005, I was an original cast member of Anthony Minghella's Madam Butterfly at the English National Opera, London Coliseum, and have since performed in all revivals. In my spare time I continue my work in acting.

Teaching came soon after and I found myself to enjoy it very much. I started assisting at WLS Dance in 2008 - one can never have a bad day at work when working with children! Realizing my vocation in teaching, I qualified at the British Ballet Organisation. I believe in nurturing a child's creativity. As Sir Ken Robinson reminisced, "Picasso once said: All children are born artist". I couldn't agree more.

I aspire to be like the teachers that taught me at school. Anna's school is very unique and I believe in her school's ethos. Being a performing school, the skills the children learn are endless.

I find just following the syllabus can be very restricting and so I love the school shows - the excitement, the buzz, but also it's the time when the whole faculty gets together under one roof. It's wonderful to be part of team WLS Dance.

Did you know that....

a three hour ballet performance is roughly equivalent to two 90 minutes soccer games back to back or running 18 miles.

the word 'ballet' comes from the word 'dance' in Latin, saltare.

we have raised over £330,000 at the Fundraising Gala.

the 7 movements of dance are: bending, gliding, turning, stretching, jumping, rising and darting.

the first full-scale ballet was staged in Paris on 15 October, 1581.

pointe shoes were introduced in 1832.

Poem

Expressing your passion of dance with desire by

Jumping and jumping, higher and higher

Lifting your body up into the air

Dancing as if it's only you there

Extending your limbs and spinning away

Constantly correcting yourself everyday

And moving to the music like it's your last chance

This is what it means to dance

Conner Jordan Collins, (15)
YDA year 10

The Shepherds Bush Village Hall for hire.

Large studio

Bulwer Street, London W12 8AP

Ground Floor - available to rent for meetings, parties, exercise classes, dance and community use and with disabled access. Conference carpeting available.

The main hall measures 16x11.25m with separate kitchen facilities.

Mirrors, Ballet Barres and CD system

Located between Shepherds Bush Green and Westfield, with easy access to public transport.

For further information on hiring the Village Hall, please contact:

villagehallw12@gmail.com or 07954 141607 (for Village Hall bookings only).



Cuba Trip

From 7 July till 7 August, 26 of our students will go to Cuba again to join the Summer Dance Course at PRO DANZA in Havana.

The *Centro de Promoción de la Danza (PRO DANZA)* of Cuba was founded at the end of 1988. The centre is directed by the *Grand maître, Laura Alonso*, the daughter of world famous ballerina Alicia Alonso and famous teacher and coach Fernando Alonso. Laura herself is known as a teacher, coach, and expert at staging the renowned classics and is an offshoot of the specialized teaching department of the *Ballet Nacional de Cuba*. The mission of *PRO DANZA* is to promote the Cuban school of ballet technique. One of the centre's most important programs is *Cuballet*, a comprehensive and intensive five-week course, during which the *PRO DANZA* system is applied. Its main objective is to teach Cuban and **foreign** dancers the methodology and technique of the *Cuban School of Ballet* through the teaching system developed by *PRO DANZA*.

At the conclusion of the course, there is a performance during which students are given the opportunity to show what they have learned in class. This way, the students are given a taste of theatre and of performing at a professional level, this year culminating in a spectacular performance of *Swan Lake*.



Two years ago when I went to Cuba, I didn't know what to expect. Now I really look forward to returning to Prodanza. The main highlight of the trip for me was being able to perform with the company dancers who took us under their wings and helped us rehearse for the show. Being able to perform in a theatre where many famous ballet stars have performed is a great opportunity, as well as learning prestigious ballets. To be able to dance with my friends and share these times together, made it extra special. I learnt a lot of new repertoire which I had dreamt of doing and I also learnt Pas-de-Deux, Spanish, Cuban dancing, physical efficiency and much more. After five weeks the improvement was rapid and being able to explore a different country with a different culture, is definitely an experience I will never forget.

Katia Abramovich (14)
YDA year 9

HOT GOSSIP?!

Hot Flush, formerly the famous dance group Hot Gossip, held a spectacular evening of entertainment at Bush Hall in March. They raised much needed funds for The Breast Cancer Haven and for The West London School of Dance. They wanted to thank Anna for being such an inspirational teacher as Anna had taught them all at some time in their dance careers. We were overwhelmed to receive a cheque made to The Du Boisson Dance Foundation for a massive £500. Thank you ladies so very much. Keep dancing and singing and let us know of your next gig.

This Year's Leavers

Isabel O'Neill – Rambert School of Ballet & Contemporary Dance
Sophia Hadjipateras & Moesha Lamptey – Elmhurst School in association with the Birmingham Royal Ballet
Charlotte Whelan – Laines Theatre Art. Awarded Betty Laine scholarship.
Eloise Shepherd-Taylor & Imogen Bowes – Central School of Ballet
Nadia Thomas – Health & Social Care
Hamish Longley – White Lodge, The Royal Ballet School (joining 8 other past pupils from YDA)

Currently Performing...among many others

Oliver Loades (Year 7 YDA)
Kyle Little (WLS Dance)
Chrissy Brooke
Katie Singh
Alexia Anderson Koutzis
Yasmine Naghdi
Jason Inness
Sebastian Goffin

Matilda
The Dream – Royal Ballet
Wicked on tour
West Side Story
Bucharest National Ballet
The Royal Ballet
English National Ballet
Bayerisches Staats Ballet

Teacher Talk...

Samuel, born in January to Megan du Boisson and Robert Shaw
Gene, born in April to Ackerley & Tyson Cooper.

Both Megan and Ackerley are returning to teach in January. We congratulate them both on their new arrivals.

Goodbye and good luck to Michelle who is leaving us. We will all miss her and wish her every happiness in her next adventure. And a big welcome to three new ballet teachers, who will be joining WLS Dance in September.

SUMMER COURSE 2014 - SWAN LAKE

For students aged between 8 and 16 years
21st - 25th JULY from 10.00am - 3.00pm
All enquiries to: youngdancersch@aol.com
£250 for 5 days
We are looking forward to seeing you
Josephine Holling & Kerry Williams

DATES FOR THE DIARY

June Summer Show at Bloomsbury Theatre (WLS D)	14 June
Choreography Competition (YDA)	27 June
School trip to France (YDA)	16–20 June
Prize giving day (YDA)	4 July
Cuba trip (WLS D & YDA)	7 July–7 August
Nutcracker (WLS D & YDA)	5–7 December