

Central
School
of Ballet



2026

SUPPORT BALLET CENTRAL

Central School of Ballet
Ballet Central Tour 2026

Artistic Director | Kate Coyne
Ballet Central Lead | Ben Warbis

INTRODUCING BALLET CENTRAL 2026

Following a widely celebrated 2025 tour, Ballet Central returns in 2026 with a brand-new company of dancers and an all new programme of classical ballet and contemporary dance. Kate Coyne, our Artistic Director supported by the Abderrahim Crickmay Charitable Settlement, and Ben Warbis, Ballet Central Lead, will lead the 35 Ballet Central company dancers on a tour that will visit 11 theatres throughout England.

The 2026 programme presents one of Kenneth MacMillan's earlier works, celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, *Solitaire*. Revived for Ballet Central by Lynn Wallis, *Solitaire* presents a quirky, dreamlike world told through a montage of nine dances, knitted together by Malcolm Arnold's enigmatic score. *Times Square Ballet*, an excerpt from Ashley Page's musical *On the Town*, is sure to delight audiences with its rhythm, glamour and romance. This hectic night of fun reflects the hustle and bustle of the famous Broadway theatre district during the 1940s. Two exciting new commissions will take to the stage in this year's tour, from distinctive choreographers Monique Jonas with a newly commissioned score from our Tabor Music Director Philip Feeney and Cameron McMillan who has been inspired by Maurice Ravel's *Boléro*. These new works showcase the versatility and flair of Ballet Central's yearly repertoire.

By sponsoring Ballet Central, you can demonstrate your commitment to the future stars of dance as well as showing your support for the performing arts industry. You can help our students to have the unique opportunity to work directly with celebrated choreographers, gain unrivalled insight into the creative process of setting a piece of choreography on a company of dancers. Together, we will enable these talented dancers to build the skills and experience they need to launch exceptional careers, showcasing their talent and theatricality to the delight of diverse audiences across the UK.



SOLITAIRE

Choreography by Sir Kenneth MacMillan

Staged by Lynn Wallis

Music by Sir Malcolm Arnold

Celebrating its 70th year, Ballet Central is proud to present *Solitaire*. First premiered in 1956 by Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet, *Solitaire* is an abstract ballet that combines the contrasting scenes of loneliness and friendship, woven together by Malcolm Arnold's intricate score *Eight English Dancers* (Opp. 27 and 33). The work, subtitled *A kind of game for one*, follows a solitary female, *The Girl*, as she dances from scene to scene. A playground of relationships is presented on stage, and we see her search for companionship played out in a dreamscape. The line between reality and her imagination becomes ever blurred as she finds herself in solitude time and time again. *Solitaire* is a one-act divertissement, a whimsical montage that features the beloved quirkiness of MacMillan's expressive style. Known for delving into emotion and challenging the classical themes of ballet, *Solitaire* is an early example of MacMillan's non-narrative work.

Ballet Central is honoured, with the kind support of Lynn Wallis, to present *Solitaire* in this year's tour. We are thankful to Lady MacMillan and the MacMillan Estate, for the opportunity to perform *Solitaire*.

Run time: 27 minutes

Cast size: 16 dancers



Anya Linden as *The Girl* and the members of The Royal Ballet in *Solitaire*. Photographed by Roger Wood © 1958 Royal Opera House



LYNN WALLIS OBE

Trained at The Royal Ballet School, Lynn Wallis graduated into The Royal Ballet Touring Company in 1965. She returned to the School as Ballet Mistress in 1969 and was later appointed Deputy to the Ballet Principal, Barbara Fewster. In 1984, she was invited by Erik Bruhn to join the National Ballet of Canada as Artistic Co-Ordinator, subsequently becoming Co-Artistic Director with Valerie Wilder. In 1990 she was appointed Deputy Artistic Director of English National Ballet, and in 1994 Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Dance, a position she held until her retirement in 2016.

She was shortlisted (2001) for the European Women of Achievement Awards and nominated (2004) for an Isadora Duncan Dance Award for her work on staging Ashton's *Monotones I and II* for San Francisco Ballet. She was awarded an OBE for services to dance in 2015. She is a Fellow of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Academy of Dance. She is a Trustee of the Benesh Institute Endowment Fund, and was appointed a Trustee of The Frederick Ashton Foundation in 2018.

TIMES SQUARE BALLET

Choreography by Ashley Page

An excerpt from *On the Town*

Music by Leonard Bernstein

Times Square Ballet is an excerpt from the musical *On The Town*. It reflects the hustle and bustle of the famous Broadway theatre district during the 1940s, featuring a cross-section of New York society. The 'fleet is in' and the characters gather in Times Square for their hectic night of fun, searching for romance against the backdrop of New York City.

Run time: 6 minutes

Cast size: 20 dancers



ASHLEY PAGE OBE

Trained at The Royal Ballet School and entering The Royal Ballet in 1975, Ashley became a Principal dancer in 1984. He worked closely with Frederick Ashton and Kenneth MacMillan, forging a particularly fruitful creative relationship with the latter and dancing in a wide range of roles across the repertoire. He began choreographing in 1984 and subsequently created many works for The Royal Ballet and other companies, developing a reputation for bold collaborations with designers and composers.

In 2002 he became Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet, re-energising and redeveloping them into an internationally renowned modern ballet company over a 10-year period, winning numerous awards and attracting critical acclaim and new audiences. Ashley was awarded his OBE in the Birthday Honours List in 2006.

Since 2012 he has been freelancing as a choreographer and opera director, working with many ballet, contemporary dance and opera companies in the UK and internationally.

2026 CHOREOGRAPHY COMMISSIONS



MONIQUE JONAS
(JONA DANCE)

Monique began dancing with The Royal Ballet and Opera's Chance to Dance programme, she completed her training at the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, and received her Masters Degree from London Contemporary Dance School. Monique has recently played the role of Juliet in Matthew Bourne's *Romeo and Juliet*, which toured internationally in 2024. Monique founded her own dance company, Jona Dance, in 2019.

Monique will be creating a newly commissioned piece for Ballet Central 2026. The work will explore the idea of 'reflection', and how this can manifest both in space and in time. Monique's piece will be accompanied by a new musical composition by Central's Tabor Music Director, Philip Feeney.

Run time: 15 minutes

Cast size: 12-16 dancers



CAMERON McMILLAN

New Zealand born and raised, Cameron is a London based choreographer and dance artist, trained at the Australian Ballet School. As a performer, he has danced leading roles with Royal New Zealand Ballet, English National Ballet, Rambert and Sydney Dance Company. He choreographs across ballet and contemporary dance and in opera, film, fashion and commercial fields. He holds an MA in Choreography from Central School of Ballet.

Cameron was inspired by the insistent looping 15-minute crescendo of Maurice Ravel's enduring masterpiece, *Boléro*. This new work propels the famous 1928 ballet score into a contemporary context by capturing the dynamic energy of youth and celebrating individuality within the power of collective movement.

Run time: 12 minutes

Cast size: 12-16 dancers

BALLET CENTRAL

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES



Acknowledgement of sponsorship in the Ballet Central programme must be received before 5pm on Monday 23 March.

Mixed Bill Sponsorship - £1,500 and up

Donors contributing £1,500 or more will be Mixed Bill Ballet Central 2026 Sponsors. They will receive two complimentary tickets for any regional performance, and an additional four complimentary tickets to our flagship London performance at the Britten Theatre in July. Sponsors at this level are invited to a private rehearsal and will receive an acknowledgement on the title page of the Ballet Central programme.

Solitaire Sponsorship - £1,000

Donors contributing £1,000 or more will be *Solitaire* Sponsors. They will receive two complimentary tickets for any regional performance, and an additional two complimentary tickets to our flagship London performance at the Britten Theatre in July. Sponsors at this level are invited to a private rehearsal and will receive an acknowledgement on the programme page of *Solitaire*.

Times Square Ballet Sponsorship - £750

Donors contributing £750 will be *Times Square Ballet* Sponsors. They will receive two complimentary tickets to our flagship London performance at the Britten Theatre in July, as well as an invitation to a private rehearsal and an acknowledgement on the programme page of *Times Square Ballet*.

Commissioned Choreography Sponsorship - £500

Support newly commissioned choreography by Monique Jonas (Jona Dance) or Cameron McMillan newly commissioned choreography with a £500 donation. Donors will receive two complimentary tickets to our flagship London performance, at the Britten Theatre in July and an acknowledgment on the associated choreographer's programme page.

Company Sponsorship - £250

Donate £250, or the amount of your choosing, to support the 2026 Ballet Central Company. Donors giving the suggested donation will be thanked in the Ballet Central souvenir programme and will receive one complimentary ticket to a Ballet Central performance.

HOW TO SUPPORT BALLET CENTRAL:



1. Online Form

Please follow this link, [Ballet Central 2026 - Central School of Ballet](#) to submit your sponsorship online. You will be able to choose to support at any level.

2. Paper Form

The second option is to fill in the [Ballet Central 2026 Sponsorship Form](#) and return, via email or by post.

Email: development@csbschool.co.uk

Post:
The Countess of Wessex Studios
21 – 22 Hatfields
Paris Garden
London
SE1 8DJ

Details of how you can make your donation by BACs or by cheque can be found on the form.

THANK YOU

Thank you for considering supporting Ballet Central 2026. Your commitment and enthusiasm are hugely appreciated and will enable Central's class of 2026 to graduate as highly versatile dancers.

“Ballet Central has been chaotic, incredible, fun and a real culmination of my training at Central. Having the chance to perform a lead role in Ashton's *Foyer de danse* has been the most challenging and rewarding experience.”

- Tara Darlami, Ballet Central 2025

“My time performing with Ballet Central has been magical and extremely enriching. Performing at so many beautiful historic theatres in the UK has been an amazing opportunity.”

- Hugh Lewis, Ballet Central 2025

“While touring across the UK with Ballet Central, I've had the opportunity to work with a range of choreographers and perform in a variety of venues. This experience has significantly enhanced my performance skills, as well as my communication, adaptability, and ability to work effectively as part of a team.”

- Phoebe Chubb, Ballet Central 2025

Find out more about Ballet Central, including tour dates and venues at www.balletcentral.co.uk

