



Support Ballet Central 2025

Introducing Ballet Central 2025

Ballet Central is delighted to return to the stage with a historic mixed bill of exceptional repertoire by outstanding choreographers. Kate Coyne, our Artistic Director supported by the Abderrahim Crickmay Charitable Settlement, and Ben Warbis, Ballet Central Lead, will lead the 38 Ballet Central company dancers on a tour that will visit 9 theatres throughout southern Britain. This year's tour will visit popular venues, including The Newbury Spring Festival, The Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford and The EM Forster Theatre in Tonbridge. The tour will also be visiting South East Dance in Brighton and Salisbury Playhouse for the first time. We are also looking forward to performing at the Royal Opera House's Linbury Theatre on 17 June. Our final performances will be held at the Britten Theatre, Royal College of Music on 16 and 17 July.

We are delighted to announce our first community preview performance to be held at the Unicorn Theatre. This special performance has been designed for both the Southwark community and our organisational partners. Organisations such as AkomaAsa Arts, Artistry Youth Dance and Southwark College will have an opportunity to see this preview performance at a discounted ticket rate. This is the first performance of its kind, and we hope that it creates a wonderful new tradition for our Southwark community members.

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 and have new work created on them. 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.

[Discover this year's tour venues here.](#)



Foyer de Danse

Run time: 16 minutes

Cast size: 9 dancers

Ballet Central is delighted to announce the first piece in the 2025 summer programme as Frederick Ashton's miniature masterpiece, *Foyer de Danse* (1932). Animating Edgar Degas' iconic paintings and pastels of Paris Opera Ballet dancers in class and rehearsal, this will be the first staging of the ballet in over 90 years, following its recreation by Ursula Hageli for The Frederick Ashton Foundation. Tabor Music Director, Philip Feeney, has brought to life the original score. Feeney will perform a piano accompaniment of *La Luna* on tour with the company.

Sir Frederick Ashton

Founder Choreographer of The Royal Ballet Frederick Ashton (1904-88) was one of the most influential dance figures of the 20th century. In his work with the company he developed the distinctive 'English style,' and left a vast corpus of works that are regularly performed by The Royal Ballet and companies around the world, among them are *La Fille mal gardée*, *Marguerite and Armand* as well as *The Two Pigeons*, performed by Ballet Central in 2023.

Ursula Hageli

Ursula Hageli was born in Zurich, where she began her training at Zurich Opera House, followed by The Royal Ballet School where she won a scholarship. During a performing career of over 30 years her repertory included most of the leading classical roles and she had many roles created for her. Her professional career began in 1970 with Stuttgart Ballet, touring coast to coast across USA, Russia and Japan. After Ursula's performance career she continued to teach. She became Ballet Mistress of The Royal Ballet in 2005. Ursula Hageli has been diligently working on reconstructing and staging Ashton's lost ballet *Foyer de Danse*. After over 10 years of research Ballet Central will have the opportunity to perform this piece for the first time in over 90 years.



2025 Choreography Commissions



Thick & Tight

Thick & Tight is an award-winning dance theatre company based in the UK, co-directed by Daniel Hay-Gordon and El Perry. Daniel and El create a mix of dance, mime, theatre, satire and drag, taking influence from a wide range of historical, political, literary and artistic subjects.

Their piece for this year's Ballet Central tour - *Keeping Up with the Apocalypse* - is a meditation on greed, vanity and the absurdity of a species bringing about its own undoing. Thick & Tight's provocative work is a stylish contemporary piece set in a desolate post-apocalyptic landscape.

Run time: 10 minutes

Cast size: 19 dancers

Music: *Nixon In China* by John Adams



Kristen McNally

English dancer and choreographer Kristen McNally is a Principal Character Artist of The Royal Ballet. Kristen trained at The Royal Ballet Upper School before graduating into the company and having a long and successful career as a First Artist, Soloist and then Principal Character Artist. Kristen has choreographed works for The Royal Ballet, television and other companies.

Joy Feast is a vibrant and colourful neoclassical work that depicts the nuances of everyday conversations and interactions. The movement is precise, punctuated, and characterful, with a new musical composition by Central's Tabor Music Director, Philip Feeney.

Run time: 12 minutes

Cast size: 19 dancers



Dickson Mbi

Dickson Mbi is a world-renowned dancer in the Hip Hop dance community, best known for his popping skills which are integral to the work that he creates today. Dickson is an award-winning choreographer, and has been commissioned by theatres, festivals and arts organisations. As a leader in his community, Dickson focuses on fostering future generations of dancers.

This new creation by Dickson Mbi explores ideas connected with ritual and shared human experiences. The dauntless choreography has been derived from the imagery of creatures, its strong rhythm and patterns working in harmony with the powerful musical score.

Run time: 14 minutes

Cast size: 15 dancers

Ballet Central Sponsorship Packages

Mixed Bill Sponsorship -£1,250 and up

Donors making a contribution of more than £1,250 will be Mixed Bill Ballet Central 2025 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 dress rehearsal and acknowledgement on the title page of the Ballet Central programme*.

Foyer de Danse Sponsorship - £1,000

Choose to support the reconstruction and staging of Foyer de Danse and receive two complimentary tickets to our flagship London performance at the Britten Theatre in July, an invitation to a private dress rehearsal and acknowledgement on the programme page for Foyer de Danse*.

Commissioned Choreography Sponsorship - £500

Support Kristen McNally, Dickson Mbi or Thick & Tight's 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 acknowledgment on the associated choreographer's programme page*.

Company Sponsorship - suggested donation £250

Donate £250, or the amount of your choosing, to support the 2025 Ballet Central Company. Donors giving the suggested donation will be thanked in the Ballet Central souvenir programme* and will receive two complimentary tickets (regional theatre venues only).

*Applicable to sponsorships received before 5pm on Wednesday 26 March.





How to Support Ballet Central

1. Online Form

Please follow this link, [Ballet Central 2025 - Central School of Ballet](#) to submit your sponsorship online. You will have the choice to support at any level.

2. Paper Form

The third option is to fill in the [Ballet Central Appeal paper form](#) and return, via email (development@csbschool.co.uk) or by 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 2025. Your commitment and enthusiasm are hugely appreciated and will enable Central's class of 2025 to graduate as highly versatile dancers.

“I love Central for the opportunities it has afforded me. Firstly, the opportunity to perform 4 fantastic pieces at 10 different UK venues. This has allowed me to mirror what I hope to be doing as a professional touring dancer.” - Ross Black, Ballet Central 2024 (Royal Caribbean Cruise)

“Ballet Central gave me the opportunity to develop my performance skills in all dance styles whilst touring around the UK at different venues. The experience of Ballet Central also gave me an insight of the rehearsal process and helped me learn choreography quickly which has made the transition from training at Central to joining Ballet do Douro II seamless.” - Leanne Wong, Ballet Central 2024 (Ballet do Douro II)

“I have loved working with new choreographers as part of Ballet Central, experiencing the creative process for new works was interesting and exciting to witness the journey of the pieces. It has been brilliant working as a team, setting up for the shows and performing to a range of audiences around and outside of London.” - Grace Field, Ballet Central 2024

