



ASSEMBLÉE INTERNATIONALE 2009

The Royal Ballet School

London

The Royal Ballet School was founded in 1926, when Dame Ninette de Valois opened her Academy of Choreographic Art. Inspired to create a repertory ballet company and school, she collaborated with Lilian Baylis of the Old Vic Theatre. When Baylis acquired the Sadler's Wells Theatre, de Valois moved the School there and in 1931, it became The Vic-Wells Ballet School feeding dancers into The Vic-Wells Ballet Company. In 1939 the school and company were renamed The Sadler's Wells Ballet School and The Sadler's Wells Ballet. In 1946 the company moved to a permanent home at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and a second company was formed.

In 1947 the School moved into Barons Court and general education was combined with ballet training. In 1955 the Lower School moved to White Lodge, Richmond Park and became residential. The Royal Charter was granted in October, 1956 and the School and companies were renamed The Royal Ballet School, The Royal Ballet and the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet (later Birmingham Royal Ballet following the move there in 1990).

The School has since continued as the leading classical ballet school in the United Kingdom earning government support and an international institution which attracts the very best ballet students worldwide.

In January 2003 the Upper School moved to new premises alongside London's Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. The state of the art studios are linked to The Royal Ballet by the award winning Bridge of Aspiration thus fulfilling Dame de Valois' dream to have Company and School side by side.

www.royal-ballet-school.org.uk

Gailene Stock-Norman AM

Director, The Royal Ballet School

Trained initially in Australia and then at The Royal Ballet Upper School as a result of a scholarship awarded by the Royal Academy of Dance. Gailene danced as a Principal Artist with The Australian Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, performing many of the leading roles in the major classics and also many dramatic works.



Following a sixteen year professional dancing career, she accepted the position of Director of the National Theatre Ballet School, Victoria, Australia for eight years and The Australian Ballet School for nine years, before taking on the role of Director of The Royal Ballet School in 1999.

In 1997 Gailene was awarded the Order of Australia for services to ballet. Internationally acclaimed, her knowledge and experience is regularly sought in the dance community worldwide. She has participated as a jury member in many international competitions including the role of President of the Prix de Lausanne, Switzerland, and the Youth America Grand Prix, New York.

William Bracewell

Student Choreographer, The Royal Ballet School

William Bracewell was born in Swansea, Wales, in 1991 and began dancing at the age of nine with the Pamela Miller Ballet School in his home town. He was accepted into The Royal Ballet Lower School aged eleven and in 2007 progressed to the Upper School where he is now in his third year. He has given performances in St Petersburg and Tokyo and at a special gala by The Royal Ballet School for HRH The Prince of Wales. William was the winner of the Young British Dancer of the Year Award 2008.

The work William has created for the Assemblée Internationale is entitled *Brush Strokes*.