

Access Ballet Collective

Autumn Newsletter 2026

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Access Ballet Collective! After an exciting launch in November 2025 and our first meeting in January 2026, we are thrilled to be sharing this resource. The aim of the newsletter is to highlight work being done by parties in the ABC, signpost readers to resources and continue building connections.



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Ballet Cymru: Take Part

Photo by Siân Trenberth

Ballet Cymru has accessible opportunities for you to engage with the company at all levels. 'Ballet Cymru 3' is our weekly youth inclusive ballet session where we practice ballet technique and create choreographies for performances. We have the same for adults! Our weekly adult ballet classes are open to all levels and include an optional performance group.



Check out our Pre-Professional Programme if you are pursuing a performance career to gain experience working alongside the company. And finally, catch us on tour! All our Sleeping Beauty performances are audio-described, and we would love to see you there.

Ballet Cymru 3: Wednesdays, weekly from September , 5:30 – 6:30pm

Ballet Cymru Studios, 1 Wern Industrial Estate, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9FQ

Adult Ballet: Wednesdays, weekly from September, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Ballet Cymru Studios, 1 Wern Industrial Estate, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9FQ

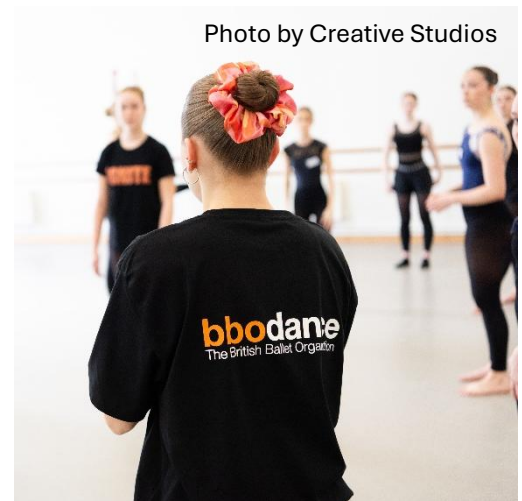
bbodance: Exploring Connections

At bbodance, we strive to create accessible dance opportunities for all. We are thrilled to be part of the ABC and look forward to continuing connecting with organisations with a shared vision. Being part of the ABC will be invaluable in signposting our members to new resources and expanding how we can support dancers and teachers at grassroots level. The opportunities we are primarily exploring are around access and increasing awareness of what is possible within the world of syllabus and exams.

Since joining the ABC, we are exploring collaboration opportunities with Rambert School and National Youth Ballet, as well as continuing work with bbodance Patron, Joseph Powell-Main.

Keep your eyes peeled for exciting updates coming soon!

Photo by Creative Studios



Birmingham Royal Ballet: Accessible Performances

Birmingham Royal Ballet has a number of accessible performances coming up across the Autumn and Winter season for our performances of *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*, including Audio Described Performances with Touch Tours and a Relaxed Performance

Swan Lake, Birmingham Hippodrome (Touch Tour & Audio Described Performance)

Saturday 26 September 2026, 2pm
(Touch Tour at 11.15am)

Swan Lake, Sadlers Wells Theatre (Touch Tour & Audio Described Performance)

Saturday 31 October 2026, 2pm (Touch Tour at 11.15am)



The Nutcracker, Birmingham Hippodrome (Touch Tour & Audio Described Performance)

Saturday 28 November 2026, starting at 2.30pm (Touch Tour at 12.15pm)

The Nutcracker, Birmingham Hippodrome (Relaxed & Audio Described Performance)

Tuesday 1 December 2026, 12.45pm (No touch tour, audio description only)

You can find out more about BRB's access offer and keep up to date with the latest accessible performances on our [website](#).

English National Ballet - Illuminations: Inclusive Practice Training CPD Day

On Friday 31st July, we launched the next strand of Illuminations, English National Ballet's inclusive programme for disabled and neurodivergent children and young people. We brought together our Associate Dance Artists/Musicians and Artists and Musicians who were new to the programme for a day of training and knowledge exchange, including:

- Insights from our partner College Park School on inclusive practice in SEND settings



- Learning from Widgit on becoming a symbol-friendly organisation
- A session on inclusive dance pedagogy led by Natasha Britton BCAa (Parable Dance)
- A Creative Lab with Natasha Britton BCAa and ENB Associate Artist Cheryl McChesney

A brilliant start to the next chapter of Illuminations.



JPM Productions

After concluding a very busy 25/26 season, which included R&D projects and the creation of a one act version of the ballet Sylvia, Joe is looking forward to the 26/27 season, as he continues to develop new work with the amazing freelance dance artists that make up the roster of Leading soloists for upcoming projects, including working towards our first live show next year!

Joe is also continuing his studies as a Snowdon Master's Scholar on the MA in Choreography at Central School of Ballet and continues to freelance as a dancer, choreographer and advocate for access and inclusion.

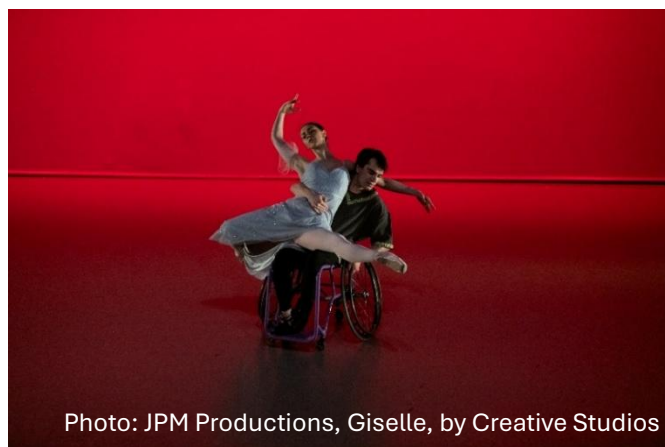


Photo: JPM Productions, Giselle, by Creative Studios

National Youth Ballet

National Youth Ballet has had a very busy summer. In July Grace Thompson and Jo Meredith delivered an in person CPD at the People Dancing Summer Intensive, we shared our NYB All In! experiences and Grace delivered an exciting session on movement translation. In August and September our NYB All In! dancers performed choreography created by Grace and Anna Smith at Crescent Theatre Birmingham and Sadler's Wells as part of Echoes of Tomorrow and also delivered a workshop and an online CPD.



Photo: Drew Tommons Photography

This autumn our NYB All In! young leaders will develop their skills working with Team Domenica in Brighton. We continue to deliver CPD to interested schools including Elmhurst Ballet School and our steering group work continues as we look towards another year of exciting activity.

NSCD Host Stopgap for Community Workshops

As part of its partnership with Stopgap Dance Company, Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD) is delivering a series of inclusive workshops and intensives for young disabled dancers. Designed to develop dance skills through improvisation, creative exploration and choreography, the sessions provide a welcoming environment where participants can build confidence, creativity and teamwork. The partnership also aims to strengthen progression routes into higher education by demonstrating that NSCD is a



safe, inclusive and supportive place to study. Over the next three years, these workshops will build lasting relationships with disabled dancers and encourage future participation in NSCD's higher education programmes. Dates will be announced at www.nscd.ac.uk.

Stopgap Future Leaders: Podcast & Recruitment

Stopgap's two Assistant Artistic Directors, Kajsa & Will, part of the Future Leaders programme, will be launching a mini-video podcast series, reflecting on their journey and interviewing other leaders in the industry. The video podcast Lenses on Leadership will be launched this autumn.

Stopgap is also recruiting for another Future Leader to be part of Stopgap. Future Leaders is a unique 12-month paid professional development program for mid-career art professionals who identify as Deaf, Disabled and neuro-divergent.

Recruitment will go live in September.



Stopgap: Rose Prize Announcement

Stopgap is proud to announce that their indoor production Lived Fiction has been nominated for the Sadler's Wells Rose Prize Award and is one of four finalists for the prize. The manifestation of Stopgap's thirty-year history is shared in the 'quietly revolutionary' work of Lived Fiction. The biennial prize is for new dance creations in any style, with emphasis on choreography, distinctive style and performance quality. As part of the nomination, Lived Fiction will be performed at Sadler's Wells East on the 29th & 30th of January 2027.



Coming Up and Get Involved

Planning for the next ABC meeting is underway. We will be: discussing our next steps as a collective; setting goals for 2027; sharing our good practice amongst the ABC members; and continuing to ask the important questions about accessibility and inclusion.

If you also want to be part of a safe, honest and caring network, where we can share our successes and challenges, then please contact one of the ABC members to find out more information.
