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Patron HRH The Princess of Wales

Celebrating a Century of British Ballet

Friday 29 May 2026 – Saturday 30 May 2026

A two-day event at the V&A with presentations celebrating the creations of Frederick Ashton and the dance scene in Britain over the past century.

Those attending the conference are also invited to join one of the sessions at V&A East Storehouse on Thursday 28 May to view objects relating to the Centenary of British Ballet. Places will be strictly limited and will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis until each session reaches capacity.

Contact: theatreandperformance@vam.ac.uk

Friday 29 May 2026

The Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre, V&A South Kensington

11.00: Welcome, followed by *A Tragedy of Fashion* and the birth of 'British Ballet' in the 1920s (Jane Pritchard)

11.45: Ashton's style as a choreographer (Geraldine Morris)

12.00: Alston's Ashton (Sir Richard Alston)

12.45: Break

14.00: Buddy Bradley and Frederick Ashton (Maureen Footer)

14.45: Recovering Foyer de Dance (Ursula Hageli)

15.30: Break

16.00: Alston's Ashton (Sir Richard Alston)

16.20: Dancing Ashton's ballets and keeping his works alive (Sandra Madgwick, Daiel Pratt)

17.00: Day ends

Saturday 30 May 2026

The Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre, V&A South Kensington

10.30: Welcome, followed by 100 years of the British dance scene (Jane Pritchard)

11.15: Ninette de Valois (Anna Meadmore)

12.00: Break

12.30: British Ballet during the 1939-45 War (Karen Eliot)

13.15: Ballet Rambert meets Bloomsbury: Social Critique in Andrée Howard's *Lady into Fox* and *The Sailor's Return* (Sue Jones)

14.00: Break

15.00: Ballet in Britain beyond the capital from 1950 to 1969. (Susan Boucher)

15.45: 100 years of Design for Dance (Jane Pritchard)

16.15: Ballet and theatre in Britain – a century of dialogue (Helena Hammond)

17.00: Day ends