



**BIRMINGHAM  
ROYAL BALLET**  
*Director David Bintley CBE*

Birmingham Royal Ballet's

## Guide to attending a ballet performance for the first time

Welcome to our guide to the ballet. If you're not quite sure what it takes to be an audience member at a dance performance, read on and we've tried to answer some of the questions people often ask.

### What do I have to do?

Turn up, sit back, and enjoy yourself. Try to arrive about half an hour before the performance starts. Give yourself time to relax, familiarise yourself with the surroundings and find your seats. There are bars where you can pre-order an interval drink and nibbles and also restaurants in the theatre and nearby for a light supper before or after the show if you prefer. If you don't arrive until after the performance starts you will be asked to wait for a suitable pause before you can go in to watch – this may not be until the end of the first ballet.

### Do I have to wear anything special?

Come as you are! There is no dress code, although some people choose to dress up to make their night out a special occasion.

### Will I understand what's going on?

To help you understand you can download storyguides from Birmingham Royal Ballet's website ([www.brb.org.uk](http://www.brb.org.uk)) or you can ask us to post you a copy. Storyguides are available for most longer ballets. They explain the story or ideas behind the ballets. When you are at the theatre you can buy a programme full of beautiful photographs and articles about the ballet. For story ballets, the programme contains a synopsis, or summary of the plot, to help you understand what is going on.

### When should I clap?

There are no rules about showing your appreciation of a ballet performance – the dancers and musicians get a huge buzz from hearing the audience applaud and even cheer! However, it is customary

to applaud as the conductor takes his or her stand in the pit, both at the start of the performance and when the show recommences after the interval(s). You are also free to applaud during the performance whenever a solo dance has finished or to show your appreciation for the performance as and when you feel it is deserved and naturally at the end for the performers as they take their bows.

### What is a mixed programme?

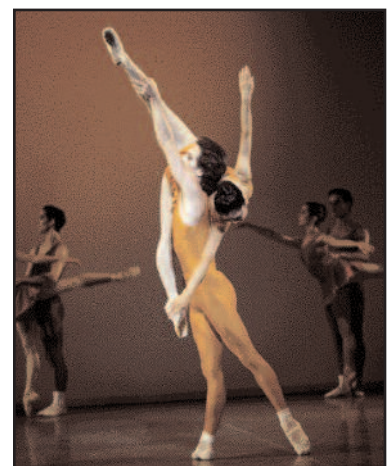
A mixed programme, such as the one you are seeing this evening, caters for all tastes with three or four short works that may be unrelated but often there is an idea or theme that ties them together in some way, perhaps having music by the same composer. There is a short interval after each piece.



*Bill Cooper*



*Leslie E. Spatt*



*Bill Cooper*