

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

PRESS RELEASE

5 December 2024

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET ANNOUNCES CEO CAROLINE MILLER OBE TO STEP DOWN DUE TO ILL HEALTH

IMAGE OF CAROLINE AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

It is with sadness that Birmingham Royal Ballet today announces that CEO Caroline Miller will be stepping down from her role due to ill health.

Caroline Miller OBE said; *'Working for Birmingham Royal Ballet and having the privilege of leading the company with Carlos and Sir David Normington, has been one of the greatest honours of my life. I really wish I didn't have to step away at this point when so much has been achieved but also so many more opportunities lie ahead, but security of leadership and someone who can work well with Carlos and the whole team, is the most important thing for the company right now.'*

Carlos Acosta said: *'I was aware of the great things that Caroline had already achieved in the dance world, and so I was looking forward to working with her when I joined BRB as Director in January 2020. Caroline more than lived up to her reputation and I could not have hoped for a finer CEO. Caroline is a staunch advocate for the Arts and a true champion of dance. Always upbeat and positive, during our time together at BRB, we have reaffirmed BRB's position as one of the world's great ballet companies. Since 2020, we have staged six world premieres including the hugely successful Black Sabbath-The Ballet, we launched BRB2, our junior company, we have introduced BRB to many new audiences worldwide and, just last summer, we stood proud on the Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury. I will miss her energy, can-do attitude and magic touch, not forgetting her infectious sense of humour. I wish her only good things for the next chapter of her life.'*

Sir David Normington GCB, Chair of Birmingham Royal Ballet said: *'This is the news we have feared and so much did not want to hear. Over the last six and a half years Caroline has brought to BRB energy, passion, creativity and an unrivalled knowledge of the dance industry. Her partnership with Carlos Acosta has ushered in a golden period in BRB's story. She had so much more to give and we will miss her terribly. On behalf of everyone at BRB, I send her our grateful thanks and deepest affection.'*

During Caroline's tenure at BRB, the company recruited Carlos Acosta as Director and was the first company to commission new ballets during covid (*Lazuli Sky* and *Don Quixote*). During the pandemic BRB was also the first company to go on tour and perform live in a ticketed theatre (The REP and Sadler's Wells) and was the only company in the world to live

stream a full production of *The Nutcracker*. Another highlight of Caroline's tenure was the commissioning, and world premiere, of *Black Sabbath - The Ballet*, as well as the £1million refurbishment of Sir Peter Wright's sumptuous production of *The Nutcracker*.

Caroline Miller OBE joined Birmingham Royal Ballet as Interim Chief Executive Officer for 12 months and was appointed permanent Chief Executive Officer in December 2018. Caroline previously served as Executive Director of Orlando Ballet in the USA. Before that, she spent 10 years as the Director of One Dance UK, which was the national body representing the professional dance sector. During her tenure she worked closely with dance science experts to establish the first National Institute of Dance Medicine & Science, for which she was recognised in the 2014 *Evening Standard* list of the 1,000 most influential Londoners. In January 2016 Caroline was awarded the De Valois Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance at the Critics' Circle National Dance Awards. In January 2017 she was awarded an OBE for Services to the Arts in the Queen's New Year's Honours. Full bio in notes.

Caroline Miller OBE will officially leave Birmingham Royal Ballet on 4 April 2025. The BRB board has announced today that Paul James, currently deputy CEO, will be appointed as acting CEO with immediate effect and that a full recruitment process for a new permanent CEO will begin early in the New Year.

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Notes to Editors

Caroline Miller OBE Biography

Caroline Miller OBE joined Birmingham Royal Ballet as interim Chief Executive Officer in March 2018 before being appointed to the role permanently after the recruitment of Carlos Acosta CBE as Director of BRB. Before then she was Executive Director of Orlando Ballet in America. Previously she was Director of Dance UK for ten years. Dance UK was the national body representing the professional dance sector. During her tenure she worked closely with Dr Nick Allen at Birmingham Royal Ballet's Jerwood Centre for Prevention and Treatment of Dancers' Injuries to establish the first National Institute of Dance Medicine and Science.

Caroline was recognised for her contribution to creating the National Institute of Dance Medicine and Science in the 2014 *Evening Standard* list of 1000 most influential Londoners. Her most significant project at Dance UK was to build a sustainable business model to provide support services for the dance industry. This resulted in 2016 with Dance UK successfully merging with three other dance charities to form a larger industry body called One Dance UK.

Caroline read English and History at Leicester University and started her career as a box office assistant in 1994, before working as a theatre marketing manager and as a publicist for major arts venues in London, including the Institute of Contemporary Arts, the Southbank Centre and Sadler's Wells. She was Head of Publicity for the international illustrated book publishers, Phaidon Press. In 2006 she won a fellowship from the European Union for female emerging cultural leaders and completed an MA in Cultural Leadership at City University, London. From 2011 – 2013 she was a Fellow of the De Vos Institute of Arts Management at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, USA where she was trained by renowned arts administrator Michael Kaiser and his team.

Caroline's has taken on a number of voluntary arts board roles including Vice Chair of Studio Wayne McGregor, a trustee of Akademi South Asian Dance UK, Tilted Productions, essexdance, and the Live Arts Development Agency.

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Birmingham Royal Ballet

Based at Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Royal Ballet is the United Kingdom's leading touring ballet company performing a range of traditional, classical and heritage ballets as well as ground-breaking new works with the aim of encouraging choreographers of the future. The Company's Director since January 2020 is the internationally renowned Carlos Acosta. Birmingham Royal Ballet standardly performs at Birmingham Hippodrome for approximately ten weeks of the year and the remainder of the year tours throughout the United Kingdom and overseas. On average, the Company performs 100 shows a year nationally and internationally.