

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

LEAP Ambassadors

A free professional and personal development programme for 16 to 25 year olds



LEAP Ambassadors 2021/22. © Paul Telfer.

“The programme exceeded my expectations, we got to work so closely with BRB staff and to meet the dancers. I gained a lot from this experience and I feel very lucky to be a part of it”

Lindsay Folan

We are welcoming applications from young people with passion for the arts to become a LEAP Ambassador and join our professional and personal development programme led by Birmingham Royal Ballet’s Learning, Engagement, Access & Participation (LEAP) department.

Ambassadors have the opportunity to:

- Attend a series of group training sessions across the various departments in the Company.
- Shadow members of staff, getting insight into the careers available
- Experience backstage, behind the scenes and exclusive activities

Ambassadors will be offered the chance to work creatively, develop their knowledge and understanding of the arts, build confidence and meet new people.

Birmingham Royal Ballet, Thorp Street, Birmingham B5 4AU | +44 (0) 121 245 3500 | brb.org.uk

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET AND THE ROYAL BALLET SINFONIA

Birmingham Royal Ballet started life in London as Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet. It moved to Birmingham in 1990 and became Birmingham Royal Ballet. It is one of the country's leading touring ballet companies and is recognised as a major international force in the world of classical dance.

Based at Birmingham Hippodrome, it has been under the artistic leadership of Carlos Acosta CBE since January 2020. Birmingham Royal Ballet has its own orchestra, the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, led by Music Director Koen Kessels.

Birmingham Royal Ballet offers opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with, and learn about the Company. The dedicated LEAP team (Learning, Engagement, Access & Participation) deliver a wide range of projects and host many events.



Tom Rogers as King Rat and Mathias Dingman as The Prince in *The Nutcracker*. © Bill Cooper..

THE LEAP AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME

The LEAP Ambassadors programme is a free voluntary professional and personal development programme for young people aged 16-25, led by Birmingham Royal Ballet's Learning, Engagement, Access & Participation department.

Throughout the programme Ambassadors participate in group training sessions which offer insight into the various departments within a large arts organisation including:

- Company Management
- A Day in the life of a Dancer
- Technical Production
- Digital Content and Social Media
- Presenting with Impact
- Events Management
- and much more!

'We're delighted to be opening our doors to this programme once again as recruitment for the 22/23 cohort of LEAP Ambassadors is now open! This year's programme will run **October 2022 to July 2023**, culminating with a sharing of the Ambassadors' achievements and experiences with a celebration event in the Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- This is a free, voluntary opportunity from October 2022 to July 2023.
- LEAP Ambassadors will be asked to read and sign an agreement.
- LEAP Ambassadors are expected to attend all the dates in the schedule as well as approx. 40 hours individual training across the year. Individual training is flexible to your interests and availability.
- LEAP Ambassadors are expected to adhere to all Birmingham Royal Ballet policies.

The LEAP Ambassadors programme is a commitment, and while there is flexibility in many aspects, including the individual training and any additional opportunities, the group training sessions and celebration rehearsals are compulsory and must take place on fixed dates. A full schedule can be found on page 7.

Photos. © Hannah MacGregor.



If you have any questions, please contact:
Hannah MacGregor, Engagement Coordinator,
hannahmacgregor@brb.org.uk

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for applicants who bring a diverse range of personal attributes to the Company. You do not need to have any qualifications or experience in ballet, just a keen interest to learn, step outside your comfort zone and rise to new challenges.

***Please note this programme is not suitable for young people who are working professionally within the arts.**



We are looking for young people who are:

- **Creative** – can contribute imaginatively to projects and have a ‘can-do’ attitude.
- **Curious** – have a willingness to learn about ballet and other art forms.
- **Collaborative** – have the ability to work in a team, contributing and sharing ideas to help overcome any challenges.
- **Committed** – have a good work ethic, excellent time management and reliability.
- **Confident** – can take personal ownership of their learning journey.
- **Communicators** – have the ability to present ideas in a clear and effective manner.
- **Listeners** – have the ability to listen, be friendly and compassionate to others.
- **Respectful** – are able to engage with people of different ages, backgrounds and experiences.
- **Flexible** – are willing to support Birmingham Royal Ballet in a range of contexts.
- **Reflective** – have the ability to think about and comment on your experiences and learning.
- **Advocates** – have the ability to work in a professional environment and be a representative of Birmingham Royal Ballet.

WHAT WILL I GET UP TO?

- Attend a series of group training sessions with arts industry professionals, gaining in-depth knowledge and understanding of how a large-scale arts organisation works.
- Complete an individual training programme tailored to your interests, with the opportunity to shadow a member of staff and gain insight into the varied careers available in the arts industry.
- Plan, rehearse and deliver a LEAP Celebration event, with the help of an artistic curator, showcasing your achievements on the programme to an audience of friends, family and Birmingham Royal Ballet's staff, friends, funders and networks.
- Get up-close to the Company dancers through exclusive access to watch Company class and rehearsals.
- Attend various Birmingham Royal Ballet performances, for free with friends, family and other Ambassadors.
- Receive a tour of the Birmingham Royal Ballet studios, workshop rooms and The Jerwood Centre, a rehabilitation clinic for dancers.
- Be a member of the Company and have a photo and biography uploaded to the website.
- Participate in a free dance masterclass including ballet and other dance styles
- Have the opportunity to volunteer on events and projects led by Birmingham Royal Ballet.
- Be mentored throughout the programme by the Engagement Manager and Engagement Coordinator, receiving advice and support on how you can get the most out of the programme.
- Have the option to work towards achieving an Arts Award.
- Share aspects of your time on the programme with Birmingham Royal Ballet's audience via blogs, reviews, social media takeovers and publications.
- Reflect on your learning, contribute to the ongoing development of the programme and the next generation of LEAP Ambassadors, to help us ensure that more young people get a quality experience and benefit from this opportunity.
- Have lots of fun!!

Photos of Ambassadors: Hannah MacGregor



Photo. © Hannah MacGregor.

HOW TO APPLY

The application process for the LEAP Ambassadors programme consists of two parts. To be considered as a LEAP Ambassador you must be eligible and apply by completing the application form **AND** attending an applicant day on **Saturday 15 October**, at Birmingham Royal Ballet studios. Timings of the Applicant Day will be confirmed when you submit an application form, at Birmingham Royal Ballet studios. If you submit an application form but do not attend the applicant day then you will not be considered for the role of a LEAP Ambassador.

APPLICATION FORM GUIDANCE

All applicants must complete Part A of the application form. Applicants should choose how to respond to the questions in Part B. The options are text, video or a combination of both. The questions we ask are to help us gain a good understanding of who you are, why you think you're suitable for the programme and what you hope to achieve.

Text responses are limited to a maximum word count of 200 words per question and should be submitted using the PDF application form provided.

Video responses are limited to a maximum time of one minute per question and should be submitted as a web link (e.g. WeTransfer, Dropbox), including any passwords required to view it.

If you are choosing to respond using a combination of text and video responses, please use the application form for your text responses and state which question you are answering in your video responses.

Tell us a little bit about yourself

Think about:

- What you do for a living.
- What are your hobbies and interests?
- What are you passionate about?
- What is your biggest achievement to date?
- Any other information relevant to your application.

Tell us about a time when you have used your initiative and when you have worked as part of a team

Think about:

- Your example can be from any part of your life (e.g. personal, education, work)
- How did using your initiative and being proactive impact what you were trying to achieve?
- How did you work as part of a team to achieve an end goal?

Why do you think you would make a good LEAP Ambassador for Birmingham Royal Ballet?

Think about:

- How do you meet the criteria in the person specification?
- Can you provide an example of how you have demonstrated the attributes of a LEAP Ambassador?
- What do you feel you could bring to the role?

What do you hope to gain and achieve from the programme?

Think about:

- What would you like to achieve?
- What are you hoping to experience?
- Is there a particular career or area within the arts industry you are interested in learning more about?
- What impact or change do you hope the programme will have on you?



Photos. Left: © Hannah MacGregor; Right: © Paul Telfer.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

APPLICANT DAY GUIDANCE

The applicant day is designed for us to see how well you fit the criteria of who we are looking for (listed on page 3), how you contribute ideas and work as part of a team. The day will consist of a group workshop including games, team building exercises and provides an opportunity to showcase your creativity. It is not an audition and we encourage you to relax and have fun! The Applicant Day will take place across the morning and afternoon on Saturday 15 October and timings for this will be confirmed when you submit an application form.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply you must be aged 16-25 for the duration of the programme and not currently working professionally in the arts. You must be available for all of the sessions in the programme schedule on page 7 and be able to attend these sessions at Birmingham Royal Ballet studios. Please note we reimburse travel expenses for all group training and rehearsal sessions up to the value of £12 per day.

ACCESS SUPPORT

We are committed to being open and accessible to everyone. We recognise that for some people there may be barriers to applying for this programme. If you require any support with your application form or attending the applicant day, please contact us.

RECRUITMENT TIMELINE

Application deadline:

Thursday 13 October

Applicant Day:

Saturday 15 October (times tbc)

Successful applicants notified:

Tuesday 18 October

Programme begins:

Wednesday 26 October

Please send your completed application form and any links/passwords to video responses to Hannah MacGregor, Engagement Coordinator: hannahmacgregor@brb.org.uk by **Thursday 13 October**.

Please note that applications received after the deadline will not be considered for the role.



Photos. © Paul Telfer.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

The Ambassadors programme will run from October 2022 – July 2023 and will take place at Birmingham Royal Ballet, Thorp Street, Birmingham B5 4AU. It is expected that you attend all the dates listed below and approx. 40 hours individual training across the year.

*Please note we will confirm the date of the LEAP Ambassadors Celebration event date as soon as we can and at the earliest opportunity in the programme.

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	MEETING POINT
Wednesday 26 October 2022	Welcome meeting and watch performance of <i>Coppélia</i>	5pm – 10pm	BRB Reception / Stage Door (Thorp Street)
Saturday 29 October 2022	Induction Day	10am – 3pm	BRB Reception / Stage Door (Thorp Street)
Tuesday 15 November 2022	Personal profiles session	5.30pm – 7.30pm	Birmingham Hippodrome Reception (Thorp Street)
Monday 21 November 2022	Finding your passion and introduction to Individual Training options	5.30pm – 7.30pm	Birmingham Hippodrome Reception (Thorp Street)
Wednesday 30 November 2022	Technical Production group training and watch <i>The Nutcracker</i>	5pm – 10pm	BRB Reception / Stage Door (Thorp Street)
Thursday 19 January 2023	Digital Content and Social Media group training	5.30pm – 7.30pm	Birmingham Hippodrome Reception (Thorp Street)
Saturday 28 January 2023	Company Management group training and A Day in the life of a Dancer	10am – 3pm	BRB Reception / Stage Door (Thorp Street)
Monday 27 February 2023	Project Management group training	5.30pm – 7.30pm	Birmingham Hippodrome Reception (Thorp Street)
Sunday 5 March 2023	Dance Day	10am – 4pm	BBRB Reception / Stage Door (Thorp Street)
Tuesday 14 March 2023	Presenting with Impact group training	5.30pm – 7.30pm	Birmingham Hippodrome Reception (Thorp Street)
Monday 27 March 2023	1-1 Meetings	5pm – 8pm (30 mins per Ambassador)	BRB Reception / Stage Door (Thorp Street)
Tuesday 18 April 2023	Introduction to the Jerwood Centre for dance injuries	5.30pm – 6.30pm	BRB Reception / Stage Door (Thorp Street)
Wednesday 24 May 2023	Events and Hospitality group training	5.30pm – 7.30pm	BRB Reception / Stage Door (Thorp Street)
Friday 9 June 2023	Going Solo group training	5.30pm – 7.30pm	Birmingham Hippodrome Reception (Thorp Street)
Saturday 10 June 2023 Sunday 11 June 2023 Saturday 24 June 2023 Sunday 25 June 2023	Celebration Event rehearsals	10am – 5pm	BRB Reception / Stage Door (Thorp Street)
w/c 26 June OR w/c 3 July 2023 TBC	Celebration Event	TBC*	Birmingham Hippodrome Reception (Thorp Street)