

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

LEAP Ambassadors

A professional development programme for 16 to 25 year olds

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

Ambassadors will experience all aspects of Birmingham Royal Ballet's work, from a day shadowing a dancer to behind-the-scenes with the Technical department.

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



LEAP Ambassadors
2019/2020

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.



Ellis Small and Alexander Yap in *Imminent*. © Johan Persson.

THE LEAP AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME

The LEAP Ambassadors programme is a voluntary professional development programme for young people aged 16-25 led by Birmingham Royal Ballet's Learning, Engagement, Access & Participation department. It offers a unique way for young people to investigate behind the scenes, experience practical projects, enjoy meeting new people, develop new skills and become an integral part of a vibrant arts organisation. The programme not only gives insight into the job roles available within the industry but also helps to guide young people towards an area or role within the industry that they may like to pursue in the future.

Throughout the programme Ambassadors participate in group training sessions which offer insight into the various departments within a large arts organisation including Project Management, Company Management, Brand, Marketing & Communications, Technical Production and much more! Adding further value, Ambassadors receive a personalised training programme tailored to their interests, where they have the chance to shadow a member of staff and gain invaluable 'hands on' experience.

Following a successful pilot year in 19/20 and a year's break due to the pandemic, we're delighted to be opening the doors to this programme again. This year's programme will take place November 2021 to July 2022 and culminate with a sharing of the Ambassadors' achievements and the LEAP Ambassadors Celebration on Friday 8 July 2022 in the Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- This is a voluntary opportunity from November 2021 to July 2022.
- LEAP Ambassadors will be asked to read and sign an agreement.
- LEAP Ambassadors are expected to attend all the dates in the schedule.
- 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, additional opportunities etc, the group trainings are compulsory and must take place on fixed dates. These occur on Tuesday evenings and a full schedule can be found on page 6.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Hannah MacGregor, Engagement Coordinator,
hannahmacgregor@brb.org.uk
0121 245 3534

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Birmingham Royal Ballet is seeking to engage young people aged 16-25*, to participate in a voluntary professional development programme. Ambassadors will get the chance to work creatively, develop their knowledge and understanding of the arts, build confidence and enjoy meeting new people.

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.
- **Advocates** – have the ability to work in a professional environment and be a representative of Birmingham Royal Ballet.
- **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.
- **Confident** – can take personal ownership of their learning journey.

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.
- Have the option to work towards achieving a Bronze Arts Award.
- Be a member of the Company and have a photo and biography uploaded to the website.
- Receive a tour of the Birmingham Royal Ballet studios, workshop rooms and The Jerwood Centre, a rehabilitation clinic for dancers.
- Attend various Birmingham Royal Ballet performances.
- Have the opportunity to volunteer on events and projects led by Birmingham Royal Ballet's LEAP department.
- Get exclusive access to watch Company class and rehearsals.
- Be able to participate in a dance masterclass including ballet and other dance styles.
- 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.
- Share aspects of your time on the programme with Birmingham Royal Ballet's audience via blogs, reviews, social media takeovers and publications.
- 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 networks and funders.
- 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.

Photos of Ambassadors: Hannah MacGregor



HOW TO APPLY

To be selected as a LEAP Ambassador you must apply by completing the application form. 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.

APPLICATION FORM GUIDANCE

All applicants must complete Part A of the application form. Applicants can choose how to respond to the questions in Part B from the following three options:

1. Text
2. Video
3. A combination of text and video

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.

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?

Why is this opportunity important for you at this time and how will this help create future opportunities for you?

Think about:

- Why is this opportunity relevant to your development right now?
- How will you benefit from the programme?
- What would you like this opportunity to lead to?

RECRUITMENT TIMELINE

Application deadline:

Friday 22 October 2021

Informal interviews via Zoom:

Tuesday 26 October and Wednesday 27 October 2021

Successful applicants notified:

Thursday 28 October 2021

Programme begins:

Tuesday 9 November 2021

Please send your completed application form and any links to video responses to Hannah MacGregor, Engagement Coordinator:
hannahmacgregor@brb.org.uk

Please note that applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

The programme will take place at Birmingham Royal Ballet, Thorp Street, Birmingham B5 4AU.

It is expected that you attend all the dates listed below.

*Any dates and times that are tbc will be scheduled around the availability of LEAP Ambassadors.

In addition, it is expected you complete an individual training programme, tailored to your interests and availability. You will also have the opportunity to engage with additional voluntary activities throughout the programme such as dance masterclasses, attending live performances and more!

Date	Activity	Time
Tuesday 9 November 2021	Welcome and an introduction	5pm-8pm (2hrs tbc)*
Saturday 13 November 2021	Induction day	10am-1.30pm
Tuesday 30 November 2021	Individual training and Arts Award briefing	5pm-8pm (2hrs tbc)*
TBC*	<i>Nutcracker</i> performance, Birmingham Hippodrome	7pm-10pm
Tuesday 11 January 2022	Group training: Project Management	5pm-8pm (2hrs tbc)*
w/c 14 February 2022 (date tbc)	Group training: Technical Production 1	5pm-8pm (2hrs tbc)*
w/c 21 February 2022 (date tbc)	Group training: Technical Production 2	TBC*
Tuesday 22 March 2022	1-1s and Arts Award check ins	40mins per Ambassador between 5pm and 8pm
Tuesday 29 March 2022	Group training: Company Management	5pm-8pm (2hrs tbc)*
w/c 4 April & w/c 11 April 2022 (day tbc)	A day in the life of a dancer (Shadow a dancer for the day)	TBC*
Tuesday 26 April 2022	Group training: Brand, Marketing & Communications	TBC*
Tuesday 24 May 2022	Group training: Presenting with impact	5pm-8pm (2hrs tbc)*
Friday 17 June 2022	Group training: Going Solo	5pm-8pm (2hrs tbc)*
Saturday 18 June 2022	Celebration rehearsal 1	10am-5pm
Sunday 19 June 2022	Celebration rehearsal 2	10am-5pm
Saturday 2 July 2022	Celebration rehearsal 3	10am-5pm
Sunday 3 July 2022	Celebration rehearsal 4	10am-5pm
Thursday 7 July 2022	Celebration rehearsal 5	4pm-8pm
Friday 8 July 2022	Celebration performance	4pm-9pm
Tuesday 19 July 2022	Evaluation and closing meeting	5pm-8pm (2hrs tbc)*