





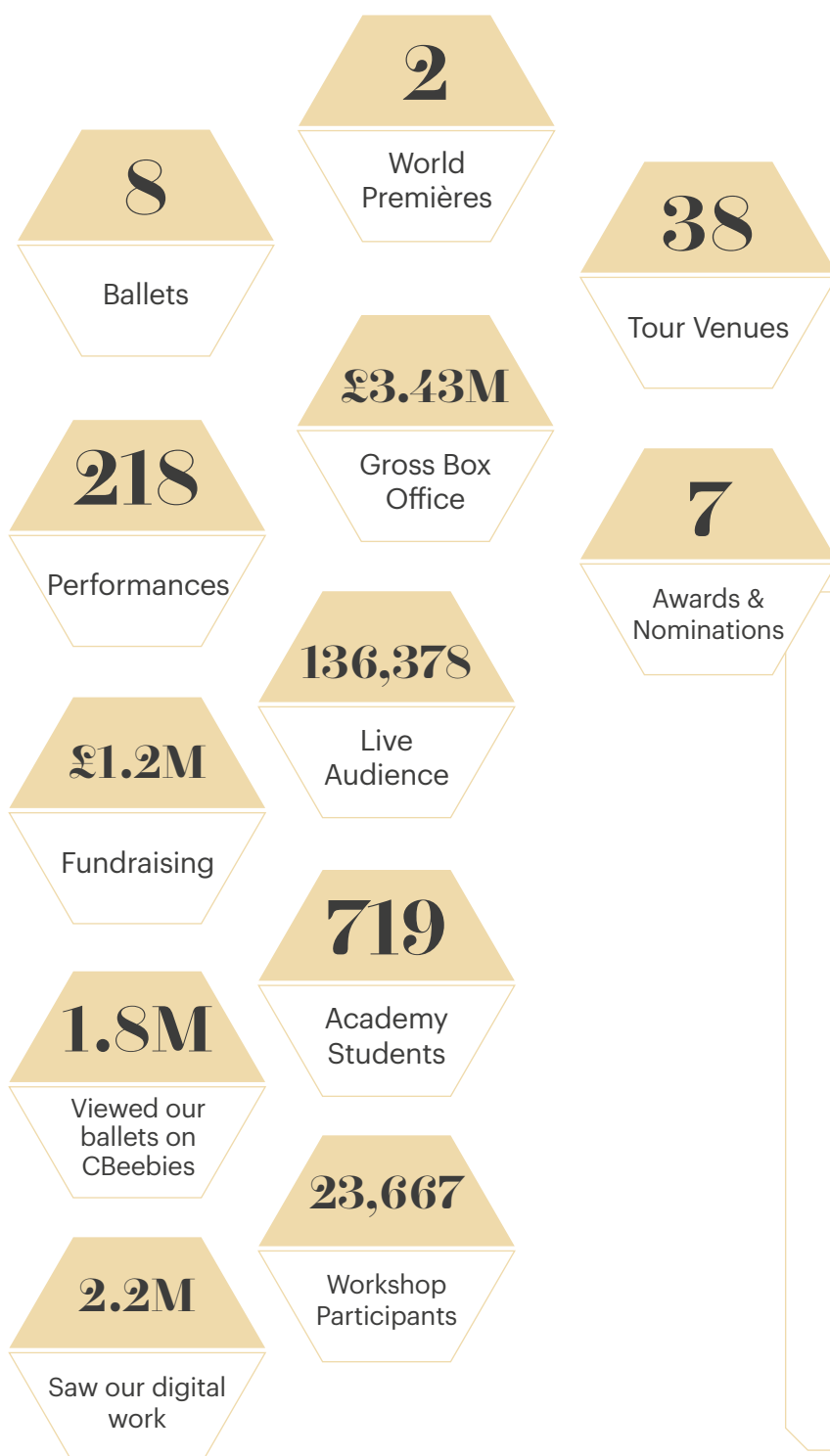
Contents

| | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 4 | Welcome |
| 6 | Jane Eyre |
| 7 | The Little Mermaid |
| 8 | Mixed Programme |
| 9 | The Three Musketeers |
| 10 | The Nutcracker |
| 11 | Victoria |
| 12 | For the Kids |
| 16 | Digital Ambitions |
| 18 | Other News |
| 20 | Dancers of the future |
| 22 | Ballet for all |
| 24 | Supporting our future |
| 26 | At home |
| 28 | Leeds Dance Partnership |
| 31 | Financial summary |

Welcome

Welcome to our Annual Review for 2018/19 celebrating a year of artistic, training, education and commercial excellence at Northern Ballet.

Our Year in Numbers



Winner:

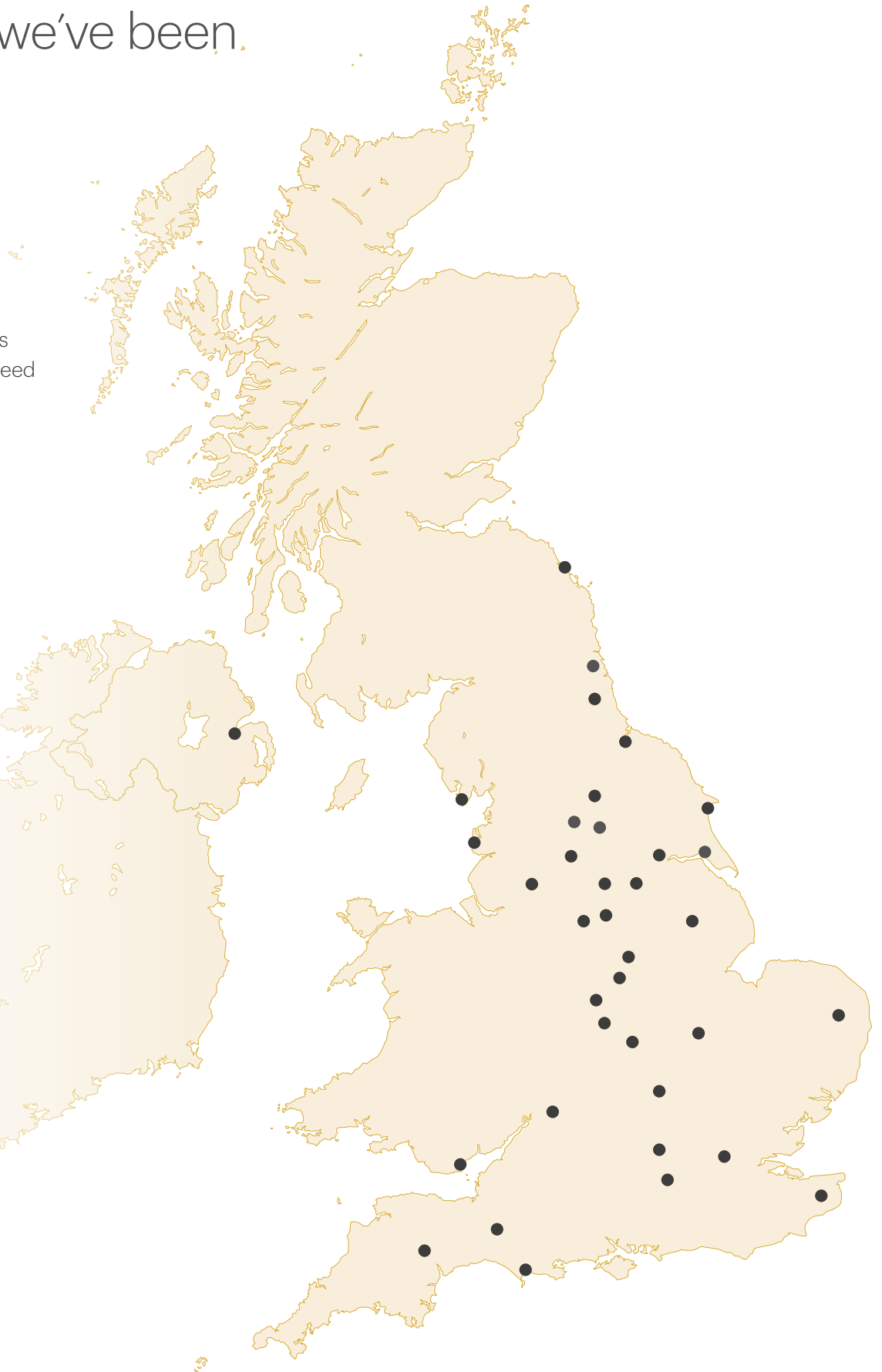
- > UK Theatre Awards
Achievement in Dance
- > BroadwayWorld UK Award
Outstanding Achievement
in a New Dance Production
The Little Mermaid
- > Emcees Awards
Best Corporate Partnership
with **first direct**

Nominated:

- > National Dance Awards
Outstanding Company
- > National Dance Awards
Best Male Dancer
(Javier Torres)
- > UK Theatre Awards
Best Presentation of
Touring Theatre
- > UK Theatre Awards
Promotion of Diversity

Where we've been

Belfast
Barnsley
Barrow-in-Furness
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Blackpool
Bradford
Bridlington
Buxton
Canterbury
Cardiff
Cheltenham
Corby
Derby
Doncaster
Durham
Exeter
Goole
Harrogate
Huddersfield
Hull
Leeds
Leicester
Lincoln
London
Mansfield
Middlesbrough
Milton Keynes
Newcastle
Norwich
Nottingham
Peterborough
Reading
Salford
Sheffield
Weymouth
Woking
Yeovil



Jane Eyre

A ballet by Cathy Marston



‘This is ballet that packs a punch and tells a grippingly emotional story’

Mail on Sunday

Cathy Marston’s *Jane Eyre* returned for the first time since its 2016 world première embarking on an extensive UK tour.

Telling the infamous story of the fiery Jane and her embattled journey to find love and independence, this tour of *Jane Eyre* was a smash hit with critics and audiences alike, and garnered prestigious international attention (see page 18).

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Performances | 33 |
| Venues | 5 |
| Live audience | 24,758 |



The Little Mermaid

A ballet by David Nixon OBE

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Performances | 14 |
| Venues | 2 |
| Live audience | 10,141 |

The world première tour of David Nixon OBE's box office hit *The Little Mermaid* had final performances in Milton Keynes, where we enjoyed our most successful season in 10 years, followed by Leicester which received one of our large-scale ballets for the first time.

This staggeringly popular new ballet, based on the traditional Hans Christian Andersen fairytale, has become one of the most successful original ballets in our repertoire.

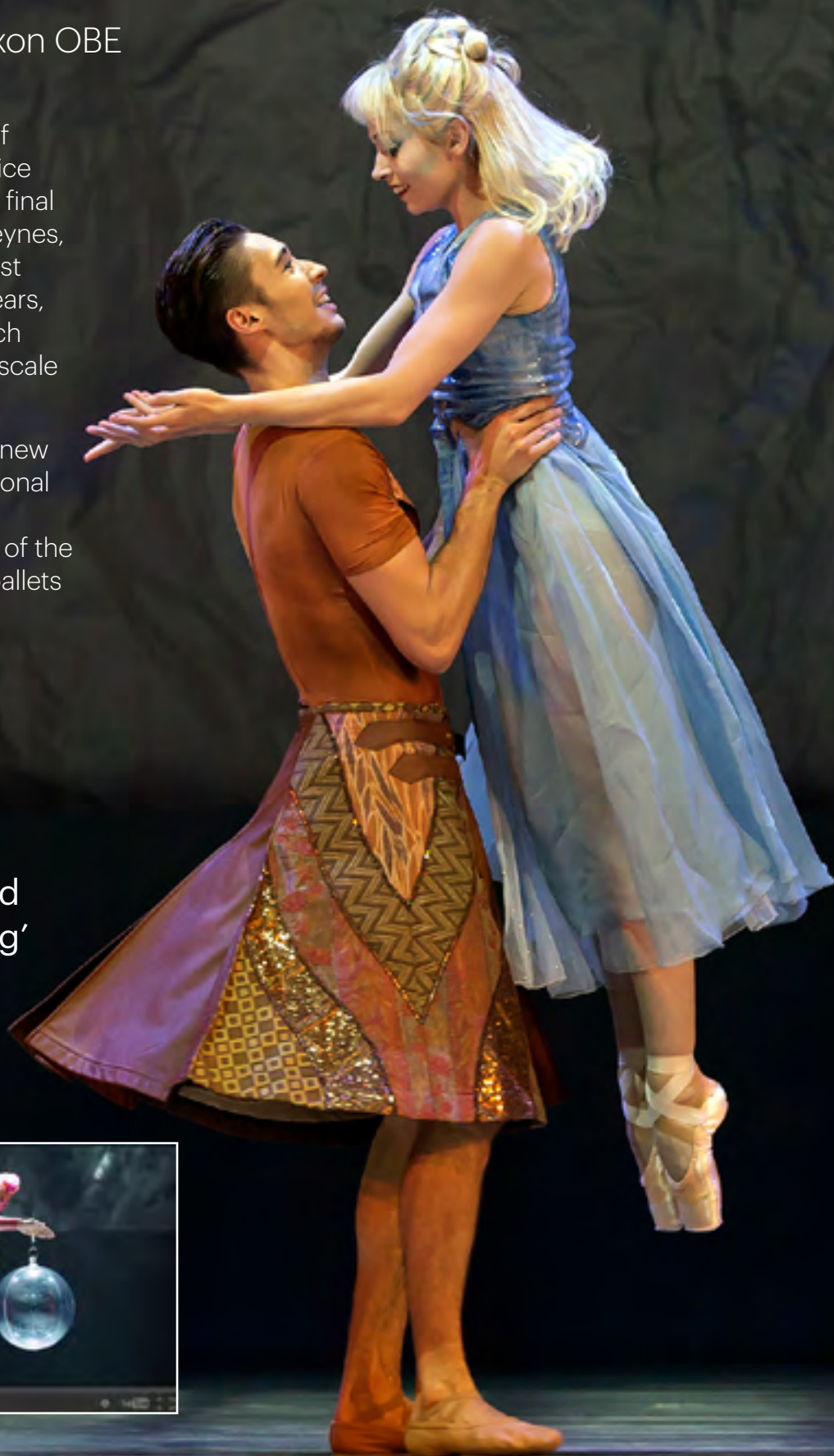
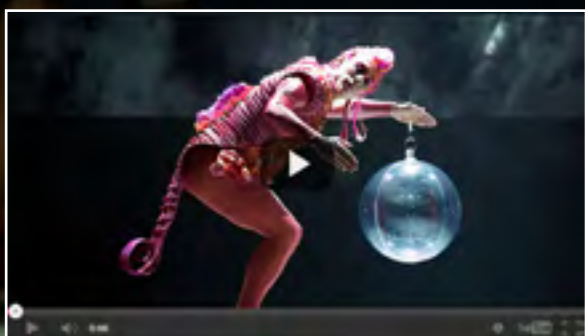


'Superb'

The Reviews Hub

'An utter delight and surprisingly moving'

East Midlands Theatre



Mixed Programme



'Extraordinary'

The Reviews Hub

**'Pulsing with
contemporary
energy'**

DanceTabs



In September 2018, we staged an exhilarating programme of three new short ballets in a showcase of the dancers' physicality and emotive power. Featuring *The Kingdom of Back* by emerging choreographer Morgann Runacre-Temple, *Mamela...*, a choreographic debut by our First Soloist Mlindi Kulashe and *The Shape of Sound*, a breath-taking work by Kenneth Tindall.

Performed in the intimate Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre, Leeds and Doncaster Cast, audiences were treated to a close-up display of contemporary ballet at its finest.

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Performances | 8 |
| Venues | 2 |
| Live audience | 2,470 |



The Three Musketeers

A ballet by David Nixon OBE

Autumn 2018 saw the return of David Nixon OBE's swashbuckling adventure ballet *The Three Musketeers*, which returned to the UK stage for the first time in more than 10 years.

This fun-filled adaptation of the classic Alexandre Dumas novel, packed with larger than life characters, thrilled audiences from Newcastle to Canterbury with the antics of d'Artagnan and his musketeer comrades.

'The finest possible manifestation of popular dance entertainment'
Dance Europe

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Performances | 23 |
| Venues | 4 |
| Live audience | 15,503 |



The Nutcracker

A ballet by David Nixon OBE

The ultimate festive ballet made a come back three years since its last outing, as *The Nutcracker* embarked on a national tour complete with a fresh look. With colourful new costumes recreated for the first act, this was our most successful run of this popular family show to date achieving our best ever visits to Hull, Norwich and Woking.

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Performances | 36 |
| Venues | 4 |
| Live audience | 40,274 |



'A fabulous festive ballet'

Daily Telegraph

'A joy to watch'

Yorkshire Post



Victoria

A ballet by Cathy Marston

Coinciding with the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of Britain's most iconic monarchs, Cathy Marston's regal ballet biopic of the life of Queen Victoria, premièred in March 2019.

Victoria received instant critical acclaim, presenting a thought-provoking and emotional ballet exploring the complex relationship between Victoria and her youngest daughter Beatrice.

With a national tour taking *Victoria* to audiences across the length and breadth of the UK until June 2019, *Victoria* also reached even more audiences through distribution on the big screen (see page 16).



| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Performances | 22 |
| Venues | 3 |
| Live audience | 19,128 |



'A feast of brilliance'

The Guardian



'Northern Ballet feels like a company on a roll'

Daily Telegraph



For the Kids

Our established programme of children's ballets continues to grow in popularity and 2018 saw another production added to our repertoire. Choreographed by Jenna Lee, working with us for the first time, *Puss in Boots* premièred in Leeds in October 2018 with a sell-out run of 18 performances.

We also took our first ever children's ballet back on tour in spring 2018 as *Ugly Duckling* flew into theatres nationwide introducing a new generation of children and young families to the world of dance, live music and theatre.

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Performances | 82 |
| Venues | 25 |
| Live audience | 24,104 |

On Screen

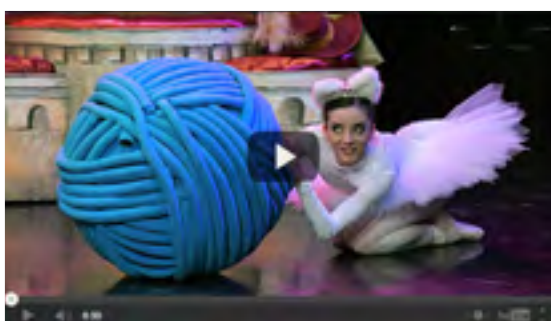
CBeebies added our purr-fect new ballet to their repertoire when *Puss in Boots* was filmed in early 2019 and broadcast at Easter. More than 1.8M people have enjoyed our children's ballets on CBeebies during 2018/19; and three productions also made their silver screen debut early in 2019 (see page 16).

NEWSFLASH!

In May 2019 we announced our seventh new children's ballet. *Little Red Riding Hood*, choreographed by Northern Ballet dancer Mariana Rodrigues, will première in October 2019 followed by a national tour in 2020.



Ugly Duckling



Puss in Boots







Northern Ballet dancers in *The Shape of Sound*. Photo Emma Kauldhar.

Digital Ambitions

In 2018/19 we embarked on a significant new phase of our digital work, embracing new technology and platforms to increase the volume, ambition and variety of our digital projects.

Musketeers on location

D'artagnan and his comrades fought the Cardinal's henchmen on location at Kirkstall Abbey in our first promotional video to use drone technology.



In Cinemas

We made our silver screen debut when our children's ballets *Tortoise & the Hare*, *Elves & the Shoemaker* and *Three Little Pigs* were shown in cinemas in early 2019. We also captured *Victoria* for cinema broadcast in June 2019, our first full-length ballet to be shown in cinemas.

On DVD

After a highly successful broadcast on BBC Four back in 2016, Jonathan Watkins' *1984* was released on DVD in April 2018 giving even more people the chance to experience this critically acclaimed adaptation of George Orwell's dystopian novel.

Digital Dance

In March 2019 we launched our new Digital Dance website providing a platform for our direct to digital dance films. Currently including original dance films *Spree* and *Silenced*, the website also collates information about all our cinema, online and DVD releases in one place.

Visit digitaldance.org



Sarah Chun in *Silenced*

In Other News

Jane Eyre crosses the Atlantic

In October 2018 it was announced that two of the USA's most prestigious ballet companies, American Ballet Theatre in New York and Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, would be staging Cathy Marston's *Jane Eyre* in summer 2019.

Choreographic Legacy

We held a Choreographic Workshop in February 2018 but the impact went beyond the final sharing. The resulting pieces by dancers Dreda Blow and Gavin McCaig were adapted for our digital dance platform (see page 16-17) and the films were released in March 2019. Our First Soloist Mlindi Kulashe also received his first choreographic commission, creating *Mamela...* which premièred in our *Mixed Programme* in October 2018.





World Ballet Day

We once again participated in the 22-hour worldwide celebration of ballet in October 2018. As part of the main World Ballet Day live stream, Artistic Director David Nixon OBE was interviewed about the *Mixed Programme* and leadership in dance. Meanwhile on our own channels we launched an exciting video featuring *The Three Musketeers* at Kirkstall Abbey and livestreamed a rehearsal for *The Shape of Sound*.

Kenneth Tindall appointed to staff

Former Premier Dancer and choreographer of *Casanova*, Kenneth Tindall, was officially appointed to Northern Ballet's Artistic Staff as Artistic Director of Digital and Choreographer in Residence.

Dancers of the future

In 2018/19 the Academy of Northern Ballet continued to inspire and train the dancers of the future and nurture a passion for dance in **2,137** people aged from 18 months to 80+. We also delivered **49** Spotted! workshops in **22** schools across Yorkshire engaging a diverse range of students in ballet.

A Royal Visit

Some of our Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) students were able meet and perform for HRH The Earl of Wessex when he visited Northern Ballet in March 2019.

Kittens make progress

After the successful introduction of our Kitten Programme last year to train young dancers who are not yet old enough to become CAT students, we introduced additional weekly classes for five of our 'kittens' who then all successfully auditioned to join the CAT programme for 2019/20.

Student Success

Our CAT students gained places at top vocational schools including English National Ballet School, Central School of Ballet and Northern Ballet School. Our Associate programme students also celebrated success after being accepted into some of the country's top schools for 2019/20 and two of our Professional Graduate Programme students were offered Apprentice contracts to join Northern Ballet in summer 2019.





Ballet for all

Working non-stop to engage people in dance from all walks of life, this year our Learning team worked with **22,249** people. This included working with **133** schools, **12** children's centres and running **57** events at venues across our tour.

After **10** fantastic years working with **7,860** pupils at **208** schools, we also said a fond farewell to our START Schools project to make way for Rise, a new project that will pilot in September 2019.

Our Highlights:

Burberry Inspire

We launched a four-year partnership with the Burberry Foundation to work with **8** schools in West Yorkshire to develop students' aspirations for creative careers both on and off stage. In year one, we worked with **1,928** students in **2** schools offering dance workshops, opportunities to learn about sets, costumes and lighting, as well as visiting the theatre, many for the first time, to see *Victoria*.

'The *Victoria* trip has to be the highlight... Many of the children didn't even know the Grand Theatre existed and I couldn't find any that had been to a ballet before, so in terms of broadening their horizons, it was invaluable.'

Teacher

Dance for Parkinson's

We launched our first Dance for Parkinson's programme helping people living with Parkinson's to develop strength, balance, coordination and confidence in their own bodies. The participants and their companions dance together to live music and explore characters and movements from Northern Ballet's productions whilst having the opportunity to alleviate isolation and improve their quality of life by building a community.

'The fact that your carer can take part is very different to other activities as we don't usually get to do the same thing together.'

Participant

'The course has been so cleverly thought out. To see a class of Parkinson sufferers, rise from their chairs at the first attempt when they are swaying like flowers is incredible. And now, at home, if Melvyn has trouble turning around, I simply tell him to be a Russian Prince!'

Participant's wife





Supporting our future

In 2018/19, thanks to the generous contributions of our individual, trust, foundation and corporate supporters we raised an incredible **£1.2M** towards the development of our work.

After nine years of partnership, **first direct** continued to grow their commitment by making an additional contribution to our new digital dance programme and becoming our National Stage & Screen Sponsor. Our digital dance programme is also generously supported by The Foyle Foundation.

Other highlights:

- The Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation renewed their commitment to support artistic and outreach work for the next **five years**
- The Emerald Foundation renewed their commitment to the creation of new productions across every strand of our touring for the next three years
- We received new multi-year grants from the Garfield Weston Foundation to support three new productions and from The Linbury Trust for three new children's ballets
- We secured a new three-year grant from The Leverhulme Trust for the Academy of Northern Ballet providing bursaries for Centre for Advanced Training students
- We launched our new Benefactor programme for individual giving and welcomed **10** new supporters at this level
- With **first direct** we won Best Corporate Partnership at the 2018 Emcees Awards
- We were shortlisted for the Achates Philanthropy Prize Individual Award
- Leeds2023 made a **two-year** commitment to support *Expressions*, our inclusive dance platform
- The 'Making Memories Christmas Appeal' raised over **£3,000** to support our Let's Dance project, delivered in partnership with Martin House Children's and Young People's Hospice
- We welcomed new supporters from the corporate sector including bdb and Brewster Partners



At home

2018/19 saw a **7%** increase in the number of performances held at the Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre with the world première of Northern Ballet's *Puss in Boots*, Phoenix Dance Theatre's *Phoenix at Home* and performances by visiting companies including Yorke Dance Project, Ballet Cymru, Ballet Black and James Wilton Dance.

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Performances | 81 |
| Live audience | 12,205 |

We held **151** meetings, conferences and events at our headquarters in Leeds city centre, more than double the previous year. Across these events we welcomed over **3,200** guests with clients including:

- Yorkshire Water
- BBC Fierce Women in Media
- Leeds City Council International Women's Day Event
- Birdseye
- Stage Coach
- Yorkshire Building Society
- **first direct**
- Lloyds Bank
- One Dance UK Conference
- Jacobs
- JN Bentley

We also held some special events of our own including 'Behind the Veil' an exclusive live-streamed event offering a behind the scenes insight into the creation of our 2019 world première of Cathy Marston's *Victoria*.



Leeds Dance Partnership

Leeds Dance Partnership continued to grow and develop in its mission to establish Leeds as an international centre of dance excellence.

With core members including Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Playhouse, Northern Ballet, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Phoenix Dance Theatre and Yorkshire Dance, a commitment to diversity, ambition, skill, talent, export and research underpins our work.

Our highlights

Leeds Light Night

We curated an exhilarating dance programme in the Quarry Hill zone of Leeds with performances by Tom Dale Company, Rita Marcalo and students of Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

The One Dance UK Conference

In association with One Dance UK, we contributed significant resources to develop and host their annual conference in Leeds. The event culminated in the presentation of the inaugural One Dance UK Awards at which a new regional award was given to Ian Rodley and Dance Action Zone Leeds for excellent dance practice in communities.

Supported by Leeds Dance Partnership

We supported a performance and workshop programme in Leeds which included 13 organisations from five countries across the world including the UK, Norway, Hungary, Morocco and Japan.

Walking with Leeds

In March 2019, we hosted a cultural walking tour event with producing partners Walking Talking Project. The participants, who were guests of the Informal Network for Contemporary Performing Arts Plenary conference in Hull, joined us from as far afield as Australia and Canada. The event was held in association with Absolutely Cultured Hull and the British Council.

Artist Fellowships

We provided a number of artist and choreographer development opportunities ensuring that the future generation of dance leaders can thrive in Leeds and the North. This included Fellowships linking artists with major organisations, bursaries and performing opportunities and working with Phoenix Dance Theatre on their international choreographer and composer research labs.





Financial Summary

Download the 2018/19 Financial Statement

Key Facts

Revenue generated from touring

£2,671,605

This includes a record **£2,184,000**
in net Box Office Income

Income from all donations and sponsorship

£1,338,705

Funding received from Arts Council
England and Leeds City Council

£4,052,000

Cost of artistic product and touring

£8,517,980

**northern
ballet**

Artistic Director
David Nixon OBE

Chief Executive
Mark Skipper DL

[Click here to see what's in store for 2019/20](#)

[Click here to join the celebrations
for our 50th anniversary year](#)

[Click here to become a free
Northern Ballet member](#)

Find us online
northernballet.com



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



National Stage & Screen Sponsor

first direct

Abigail Prudames in *The Little Mermaid*. Photo Emma Kauldhar.
Registered charity no. 259140. Company registration no.
947096. Northern Ballet Limited registered in England and
Wales. Company limited by guarantee and share capital.