



## **JOB APPLICATION PACK: ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF IMAGES BALLET COMPANY**

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## **LONDON STUDIO CENTRE: BRIEF HISTORY**

The internationally recognised Higher Education Conservatoire, prides itself on training excellent dancers, singers and actors, allowing students to specialise in ballet, contemporary dance, jazz and commercial dance and musical theatre. Whilst also producing graduates who have formed their own companies and established themselves as choreographers, teachers, producers, and directors. London Studio Centre offers a comprehensive suite of programmes including a BA (Hons) Professional Dance Performance Degree for students who are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of the theatre, an MA in Dance Producing and Management, for students looking to move into the production side of dance theatre making, an MA in Dance Performance in all four specialist areas of ballet, contemporary dance, jazz and commercial dance and musical theatre, a Foundation degree in Dance Performance aimed at the exceptionally talented students (from 16 years old), a BA Top Up Professional Performance, an MA in Dance Education and PGCert Professional Dance Teaching for those wishing to enhance their teaching practice.

London Studio Centre is rooted in Western theatre dance forms and enjoys a tradition of dance education dating back to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Leon Espinosa (1825-1904) settled in London. In 1872, he established a school for ballet and related theatre arts, after having trained at the Paris Opera and then danced and taught at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. His son Edouard Espinosa (1871-1950) continued the family tradition as one of the founders of the Royal Academy of Dance and then the British Ballet Organisation.

London Studio Centre's founder, Bridget Espinosa, was heir to this distinguished tradition, to which she contributed her own expertise as a dancer and director. Under her leadership LSC pioneered a multi-disciplined dance education fitted to the needs of the modern world of dance and musical theatre, which included the possibility of university validation of its provision. Her son, Nicholas Espinosa, continued these developments and, in 1995 Middlesex University validated London Studio Centre's BA Honours Theatre Dance programme. The Director, Nicholas Espinosa is also the Chairman of bbodance and a Trustee for Yorke Dance Project.

LSC began life in and around Tavistock Square in central London. In 1987 it moved into property on York Way, next to Kings Cross Station, where it remained until 2012. In 2012 LSC re-located to artsdepot in North Finchley where it has created a unique collaborative partnership with the performing arts venue. The partnership provides the conservatoire with rehearsal and performance spaces that facilitate LSC's high quality training, and the building's bright, contemporary feel has quickly provided the ideal atmosphere for London Studio Centre's new home.

LSC's facilities comprise ten dance studios, two fully equipped theatres, drama and singing rooms, a library with IT suite and a lecture room. The triple-height atrium café and social areas also offer ample space for relaxation.

London Studio Centre is committed to providing an education in dance and related subjects for the professional theatre, in an environment where the individual creative talents of each student are nurtured. All programmes we offer maintain the Centre's mission to be a world-class conservatoire for professional dance and

musical theatre, enabling artists to reach their creative potential in performance, creation and production and, thereby, shaping the future of the profession. LSC values and offers a holistic approach, one that keeps pace with recent developments in dance pedagogy. Student representation and student surveys contribute significantly to annual course monitoring and make an important and valuable contribution to quality management.

London Studio Centre is accredited by The Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT) and is listed as one of CDMT's Accredited Schools. The CDMT ensures the provision of high-quality professional dance, drama and musical theatre training through accreditation of full-time dance and performing arts schools and has provided the industry benchmark of quality assurance for professional dance and musical theatre training in the UK since 1979.

LSC is registered with the Office for Students, providing access to students for Student Finance and Visa's for international students. A review of the London Studio Centre by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in May 2022, the UK's independent quality body for higher education, expressed confidence that 'academic standards are reliable, meet UK requirements, and are reasonably comparable' – the highest judgement available through the review process. The review team did identify specific improvements or areas for development.

The majority of the teaching staff are actively engaged in professional theatre, enabling students to be aware of new techniques and trends. Students are given an unparalleled range of opportunities to gain performance experience, both in-house and in professional venues.

LSC's alumni are working worldwide with dance companies, in musicals and mainstream theatre from the West End to Broadway, in television, film and commercial dance. Graduate students have embarked on successful careers, joining companies such as Rambert Dance Company, English National Ballet, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, Michael Clark Company, Richard Alston Dance Company, Sarasota Ballet, Scottish Ballet, Scottish Dance Theatre, ZooNation, Vienna Festival Ballet, the Royal Shakespeare Company and Royal National Theatre; while others have appeared in leading roles in musicals in the West End and elsewhere including *American Idiot*, *Billy Elliott*, *Cats*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Chicago*, *Hairspray*, *Jersey Boys*, *Les Misérables*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Miss Saigon*, *Matilda the Musical*, *Memphis the Musical*, *Stomp*, *The Book of Mormon*, *The Lion King*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Thriller Live*, *We Will Rock You and Wicked* to name but a few. Many graduates are also working as independent, creative artists in dance and theatre.

## **Images Ballet Company**

Images Ballet Company (formerly Images of Dance), the first of London Studio Centre's performing companies, was formed in 1991 in order to provide classical ballet students with invaluable performing experience and to bring different aspects of classical ballet to new audiences. The repertoire focuses on expanding the individual student's artistry and versatility and features newly commissioned work by British choreographers, as well as re-creations of classical and heritage ballets. From the twentieth century repertoire, the company has danced work by Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, John Cranko, Ninette de Valois and Sir Kenneth MacMillan. The company has also performed excerpts from *La Vivandière*, *La Bayadère*, *Les Sylphides*, *Swan Lake*, *Paquita* and *Laurencia*. Liz Aggiss, Mark Baldwin, Matthew Bourne, Jack Carter, Geoffrey Cauley, Laurent Cavanna, Adam Cooper, Michael Corder, David Fielding, Christopher Hampson, Matthew Hart, Oliver Hindle, Michael Ho, Jennifer Jackson, Darius James, Harold King, Isira Makuloluwe, Christopher Marney, Sally Marie, Cathy Marston, Ashley Page, Renato Paroni, Morgann Runacre-Temple, Viacheslav Samodurov, Stephen Sheriff, Wayne Sleep, William Tuckett, Dominic Walsh and Christopher Wheeldon have all created new works for the company.

This year provides the intensive training and performance experience that is required by advanced classical ballet students who wish to pursue a professional career. The current programme builds on the original course which was developed by Nic Espinosa and Margaret Barbieri in consultation with Dame Alicia Markova. It aims to prepare students to meet the demands of performing in a range of work on the ballet stage today, fostering a critical awareness of the choreographic movements in classical ballet, deep understanding of the form and nurturing each dancer in their unique gifts/talents as an artist. The work in this company emerges from current approaches to classical ballet, while valuing its heritage. Following Margaret Barbieri, Artistic Directors have been Jennifer Jackson (Royal Ballet), Larissa Bamber (Royal Ballet) and Jose Martin Trujillo (Royal Ballet, English National Ballet).

In addition to daily ballet classes, specialist courses in repertoire, virtuosity, pas de deux and pointe work are included in the curriculum. These are complemented by other disciplines considered essential for a career as a professional ballet dancer, including contemporary dance and a programme of Individual Physical Development sessions which provide students with physical grounding in strength and conditioning in support of growing their individual artistic practice. Master classes and weekly workshops with leading figures in dance are organised to enable further creative exploration, artistic development and professional networking. Career management and audition techniques are also studied ensuring that the students receive a comprehensive education that prepares them for professional career.

Students hone specific skills and gain crucial experience, participating in a production from the creation of material, through a rehearsal period and into public performances. They work with leading directors, choreographers,

technicians, costume designers, stage managers and musical directors, providing an invaluable insight into the day-to-day life, challenges and necessary stamina of a professional performer. The company is engaged with established professionals in its chosen field as well emerging new talent, furnishing students with invaluable connections as they progress into their professional careers – a bridge to a professional future. The context of creating and performing classic and bespoke choreography in a variety of venues makes for rich individual learning and development. The tour culminates in a final London performance, which acts as a showcase attended by artistic directors, choreographers and other potential employers and collaborative artists.

Principal dancers from major companies, such as The Royal Ballet, English National Ballet and Rambert Dance Company rehearse the company and coach individual students. This enables them to study particular roles intensively, acquiring the performance skills that are essential to the professional dancer. Students collaborate with major choreographers in workshops and on the creation of new ballets. This provides them with the ideal opportunity for understanding the development of a professional production on to the stage and for honing the creative and collaborative skills that underpin a successful career.

The course is a rich opportunity for the ballet dancer to forge their identity as an artist, develop entrepreneurial and creative thinking and the ability to apply knowledge in different settings. While some graduates join ballet companies, others use the professional development skills they learn at London Studio Centre to develop their own portfolio careers. Many have worked on dance and modelling projects for high-profile companies such as Jaguar, Lexus, Debenhams, Marks & Spencer, H&M and Bloch as well as music acts including Take That, Ed Sheeran and Rudimental. Graduates have also launched new initiatives in the industry including dance and fitness projects such as Ballet You, which offers ballet workshops and ballet-inspired workouts. Some explore ballet within the context of other art forms including dance films and performances within art galleries whilst many decide to pass on the knowledge and training they received at London Studio Centre by going in to teaching dance or setting up their own dance schools.

Companies that graduates have joined include The Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, Scottish Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, Rambert Dance Company, New Adventures, Royal Swedish Ballet, Ballet Ireland, Leipziger Ballett, Ballett am Rhein, Mainz Ballet, K-Ballet Company (Japan), Norwegian National Ballet, Australian Ballet, New National Theatre Ballet (Tokyo), Sarasota Ballet, Cape Town City Ballet, Vienna Festival Ballet, Ballett der Staatsoper (Dresden), Ballett der Bühnen der Landeshauptstadt, Kiel, The Israel Ballet, Malmo Baletten, Orlando Ballet and Ballet San Jose (Cleveland).

Images Ballet Company is made up of students from a range of LSC programmes following different learning outcomes, including our degree programmes, MA Dance Performance and One Year Professional programme.

# **LSC's Mission, Vision and Values**

## **VISION**

To be a world-class conservatoire for professional dance and musical theatre, enabling our graduates to reach their creative potential in performance, creation, production, and education, thereby, shaping the future of the profession.

## **MISSION**

To enable students to become innovative and skilled performers, creators, producers, and education managers, at the cutting edge of professional dance and musical theatre through the development and delivery of innovative programmes.

## **VALUES**

The London Studio Centre is committed to:

- Excellence in professional practice
- Preserving and developing the heritage of dance and musical theatre
- Engagement with a diverse and representative range of dance forms and celebrating their origins
- Respect for the individual, inclusive of their culture and background
- A culture of health and well-being
- Freedom of thought and expression, fostering academic freedom of speech
- Promoting entrepreneurship and innovation
- A culture of creative opportunities
- Life-long learning and continuing professional development
- Students as partners in quality management and enhancement

## **Job Description: ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF IMAGES BALLET COMPANY**



### **General Functions:**

The Artistic Director is responsible for all students in Images Ballet Company, their training and mentoring throughout this professional training year. In addition, to devising, developing and managing the production and tour for the company.

### **Consultation:**

In carrying out their duties, the Artistic Director shall consult, where it is appropriate, with the Director, Dean of Studies, Programme Leader, Assistant Director, Head of Student Programming, Course Consultant, Company Tour Manager, and where necessary other administrative and teaching faculty at the London Studio Centre and external organisations as appropriate.

### **Principal Duties and Responsibilities:**

#### *Productions*

- To be responsible for devising, developing and managing the company's repertoire and tour. They will be responsible for concept and overall quality of the outcome.
- To be responsible for rehearsals for all company pieces.
- To provide the artistic vision for the marketing of the tour and work with the marketing department to ensure it is fulfilled.

#### *Course Delivery*

- To contribute to the creation of module/unit handbooks, which include week-by-week teaching schedules.
- To be responsible for the curriculum development of the classical ballet pathway (Images).
- To teach Images Ballet Company on a regular basis, including daily classical technique and specialist repertoire.
- To ensure that the assessment process is properly managed and carried out in accordance with the university regulations.

#### *Mentoring*

- To mentor the students to support their training and to provide guidance about their professional aspirations.
- To provide support to students with student welfare issues as they arise, signposting them to LSC's Student Welfare department as appropriate.

#### *Management of staff*

- To be responsible for ensuring that faculty adhere to the requirements laid down in both programme, module/unit and staff handbooks.
- To identify, select and liaise with appropriate staff, choreographers, designers and theatre technicians to support the company tour.

- To help build team spirit and maintain team discipline and encourage and motivate good teaching practice.

#### *Administration*

- To attend all meetings as assigned, to include the Academic Board, Board of Studies, Admissions Review Board, Assessment Boards and others as noted.

#### *Forward Planning*

- To be responsible for ensuring that the standard of work in year's 1 and 2 of the undergraduate programmes/courses are appropriate preparation for the third year, alongside the Head of Department.
- To contribute to the admissions process of students applying to join the company.
- To contribute to the development of existing programmes/courses of study at LSC.
- To be an ambassador for LSC, promoting LSC programmes/courses where possible.

#### *Continuing Professional Development*

- To fulfil the expectations of staff development training for faculty and those deemed appropriate for the role, including but not limited to assessment procedures, equality and diversity and safeguarding training.
- To attend and participate in LSC's biannual staff development days 'Lift Off'.
- To participate in LSC's CPD recognition system, fulfilling the expected annual credits, and regularly recording any CPD activity on the CPD Record Form.
- To attend staff performance review meetings as required.

#### **To Whom Responsible:**

Director and Dean of Studies

#### **For Whom Responsible:**

Teaching faculty, choreographers and creatives, as appropriate  
(In conjunction with the Director and the Dean of Studies)



## Guidance notes

### Application

To make an application, please send the following:

- CV and Cover letter
- [Equal Opportunities Monitoring form](#)

Please send these to [humanresources@londonstudiocentre.ac.uk](mailto:humanresources@londonstudiocentre.ac.uk) as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the position, please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources on the above email or at 02075202800.

Please note:

- Should you require this application in another format please do not hesitate to contact us
- All correspondence will be made by email, please therefore make sure a valid email address is provided and checked during the application process

### Interview

LSC aims to notify candidates as soon as possible whether they have been invited for an interview. These will take place at a mutually agreed time.

Start date for the role is September 2024.

### Outcome

London Studio Centre will endeavour to inform all applicants of the outcome of their application (by email); however, if you have not received an invitation for interview from LSC within a month of applying, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.

Please note we are unable to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants regarding their application/ interview.

Final appointment is subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

### Equal Opportunities

London Studio Centre is committed to being an Equal Opportunities employer. We welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their gender, disability, race, culture, religion/belief, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic background, class, mental health or caring duties.

We are keen to hear from people from underrepresented groups in the performing arts (including people who are Black, Asian, Dual Heritage or from the Global Majority, D/deaf and Disabled people; people who are from lower socio-economic backgrounds; and/or people with caring responsibilities; or any other under-represented backgrounds in the performing arts sector).

### Data Protection

London Studio Centre conforms with the Data Protection Act (1998) and General Data Protection Regulation (2018) and will treat all information received with the relevant security.