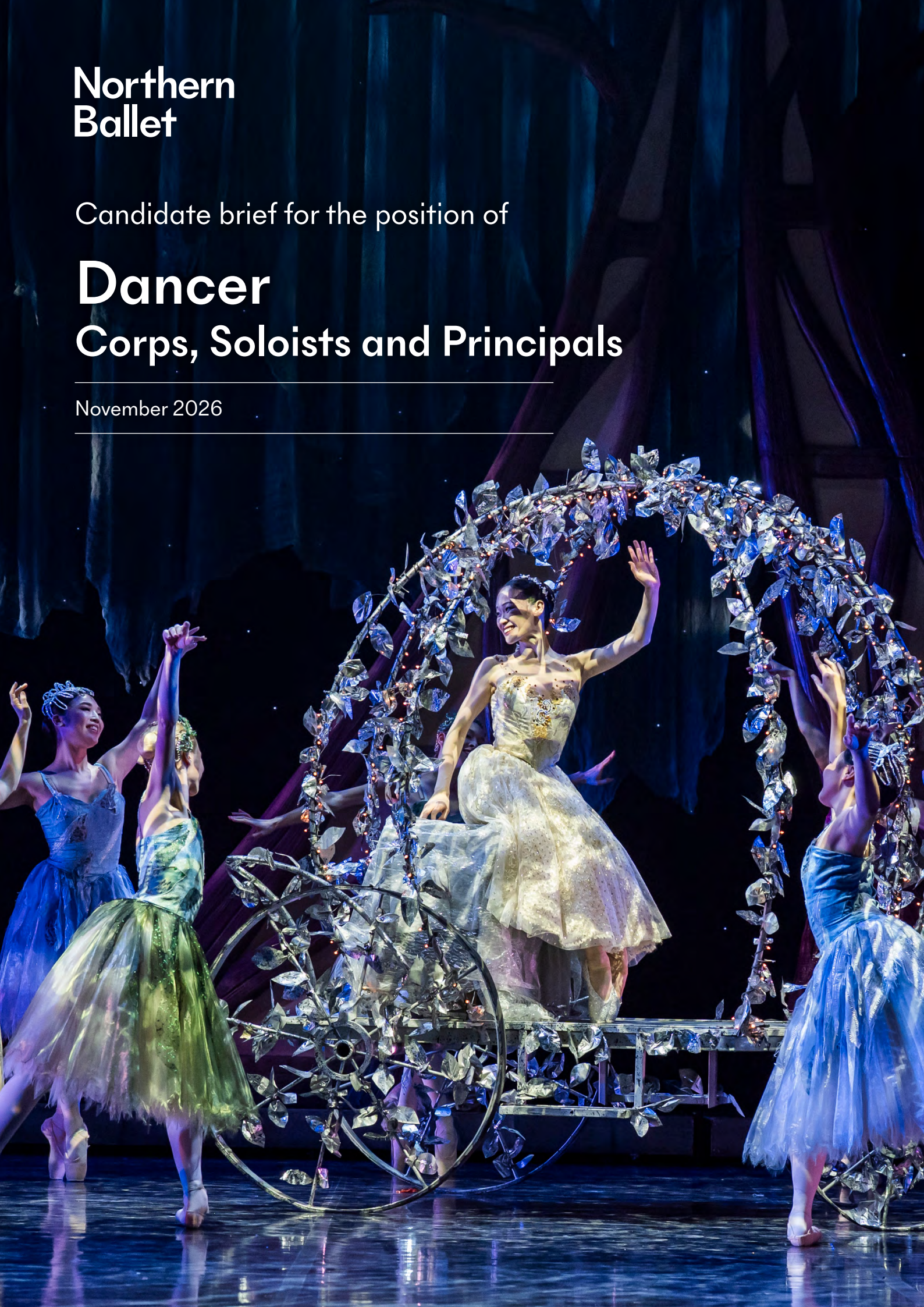
Northern Ballet

Candidate brief for the position of

Dancer

Corps, Soloists and Principals

November 2026



Contents

About Northern Ballet	4
A Centre of Excellence	6
Diversity & Equality	7
Academy of Northern Ballet	7
Northern Ballet Learning	8
The Role	10



Cover: Northern Ballet dancers in *Cinderella*. Photo Tristram Kenton
Above: Gemma Coutts and in *Gentleman Jack*. Photo Emily Spencer

Who we are

Northern Ballet is a powerhouse for inventive dance, creating and touring narrative dance at various scales nationally and internationally. Bold and confident in our approach, we engage, involve and move our audiences. We reach a diverse range of people through passionate storytelling, a mastery of classical dance technique and an absolute commitment to our leading role as an international ambassador for world-class dance.

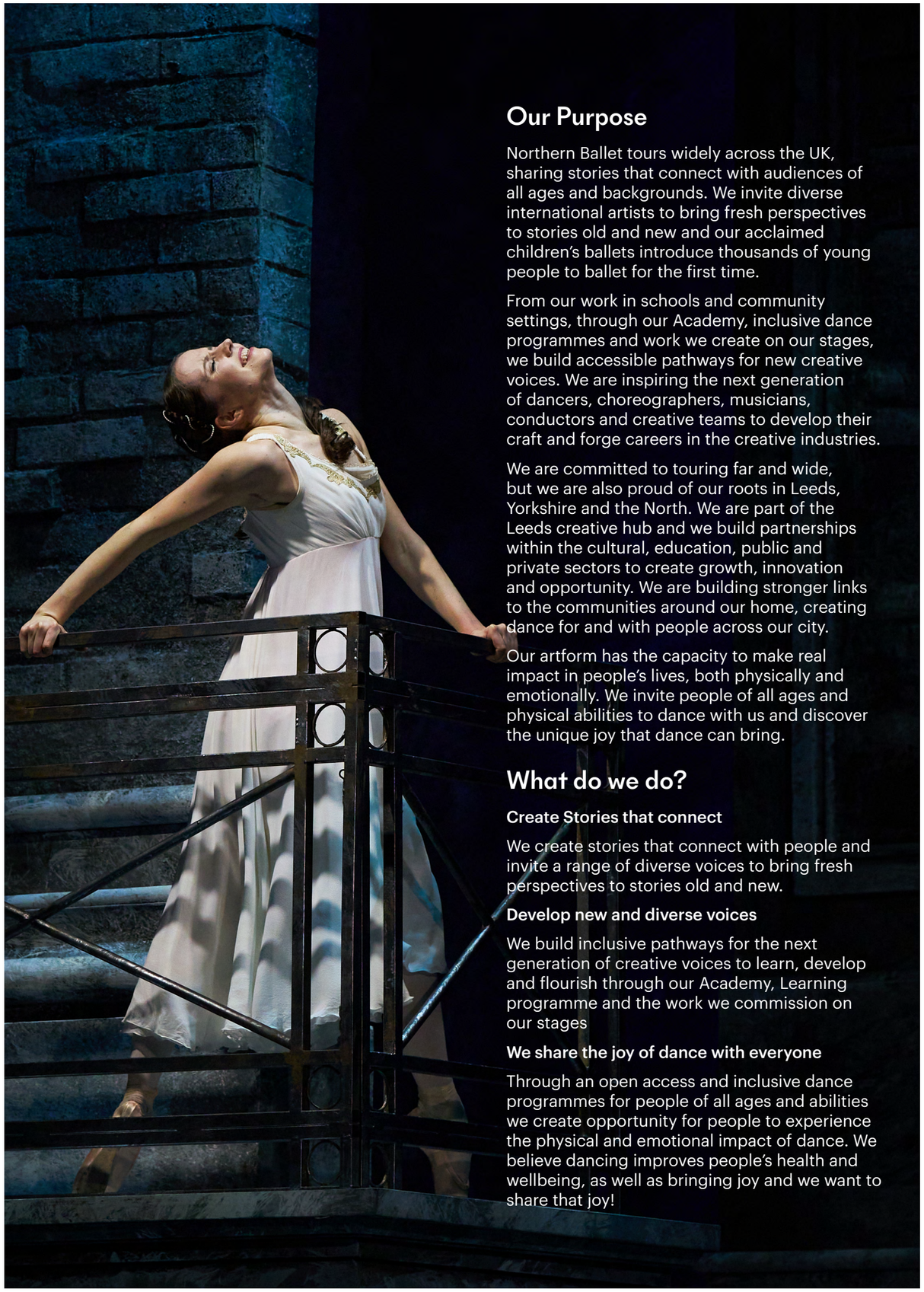
Based in Leeds with a major presence in the city, Northern Ballet tours widely across the UK, creating full-length narrative ballets, mixed repertoire, and productions specifically for children.

We have our own studio theatre in our purpose-built facility in the city centre, programming dance from UK and International companies. Our programme is supported by a wide reaching learning programme and professional training routes provided by our Academy.

Northern Ballet is a registered charity benefitting from regular funding from Arts Council England (ACE) and this is an exciting time as we embrace the ACE strategy, Let's Create, whilst developing our own new five-year vision and strategy for the Company.

We also enjoy support from Leeds City Council and are a key part of the Leeds culture offering.

The last two to three years have been challenging for most arts organisations, but we have a strong foundation and leadership to take the company on to new heights of success.



Our Purpose

Northern Ballet tours widely across the UK, sharing stories that connect with audiences of all ages and backgrounds. We invite diverse international artists to bring fresh perspectives to stories old and new and our acclaimed children's ballets introduce thousands of young people to ballet for the first time.

From our work in schools and community settings, through our Academy, inclusive dance programmes and work we create on our stages, we build accessible pathways for new creative voices. We are inspiring the next generation of dancers, choreographers, musicians, conductors and creative teams to develop their craft and forge careers in the creative industries.

We are committed to touring far and wide, but we are also proud of our roots in Leeds, Yorkshire and the North. We are part of the Leeds creative hub and we build partnerships within the cultural, education, public and private sectors to create growth, innovation and opportunity. We are building stronger links to the communities around our home, creating dance for and with people across our city.

Our artform has the capacity to make real impact in people's lives, both physically and emotionally. We invite people of all ages and physical abilities to dance with us and discover the unique joy that dance can bring.

What do we do?

Create Stories that connect

We create stories that connect with people and invite a range of diverse voices to bring fresh perspectives to stories old and new.

Develop new and diverse voices

We build inclusive pathways for the next generation of creative voices to learn, develop and flourish through our Academy, Learning programme and the work we commission on our stages

We share the joy of dance with everyone

Through an open access and inclusive dance programmes for people of all ages and abilities we create opportunity for people to experience the physical and emotional impact of dance. We believe dancing improves people's health and wellbeing, as well as bringing joy and we want to share that joy!

Dominique Larose in *Romeo & Juliet*. Photo Kyle Baines

A Centre of Excellence



Northern Ballet is one of the world's leading narrative ballet companies.

'A Company that boasts the best dance actors in the world.'
Dance Europe

Winner of the FEDORA - VAN CLEEF & ARPELS Dance Prize 2025 for *Gentleman Jack*

'Northern Ballet is back with a bang'
The Telegraph on *Dangerous Liaisons*

★★★★

'Northern Ballet has never been a company to shrink from a challenge'
The Telegraph on *The Great Gatsby*

Nominated Outstanding Company at the National Dance Awards for 7 years running

Nominated for Excellence in Touring
UK Theatre Awards 2022

Nominated Outstanding Male Classical Performance for Joseph Taylor in *Casanova*
National Dance Awards 2022

Nominated Outstanding Achievement in Dance for Sarah Chun in *Three Short Ballets* at the Royal Opera House
Olivier Awards 2025

Aerys Merrill.
Photo Guy Farrow.

Diversity & Equality

We are proud that 40% of our dancers are from global majority backgrounds and we continue to seek opportunities to further increase diversity throughout the whole Company. We continue with our long term strategy by developing the 'Spotted!' programme at local schools to ensure any child with the potential to pursue a career in ballet is nurtured and supported to do so.

We work to an accessible pricing structure in all venues, with premium tickets available alongside entry prices of around £15. Our Children's Ballets continue to be priced accessibly to reduce barriers to attendance, with an average ticket price currently of around just £7.

We offer accessible performances for visually impaired patrons through audio described performances in partnership with VocalEyes.

We continue to deliver relaxed performances of Children's Ballets in the Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre and work with partner venues to encourage and support them to do the same.

At our state-of-the-art studios we deliver Ability, our dance course for adults with learning disabilities and In Motion, our dance course for wheelchair users and each year we hold *Expressions*, our festival of inclusive dance.

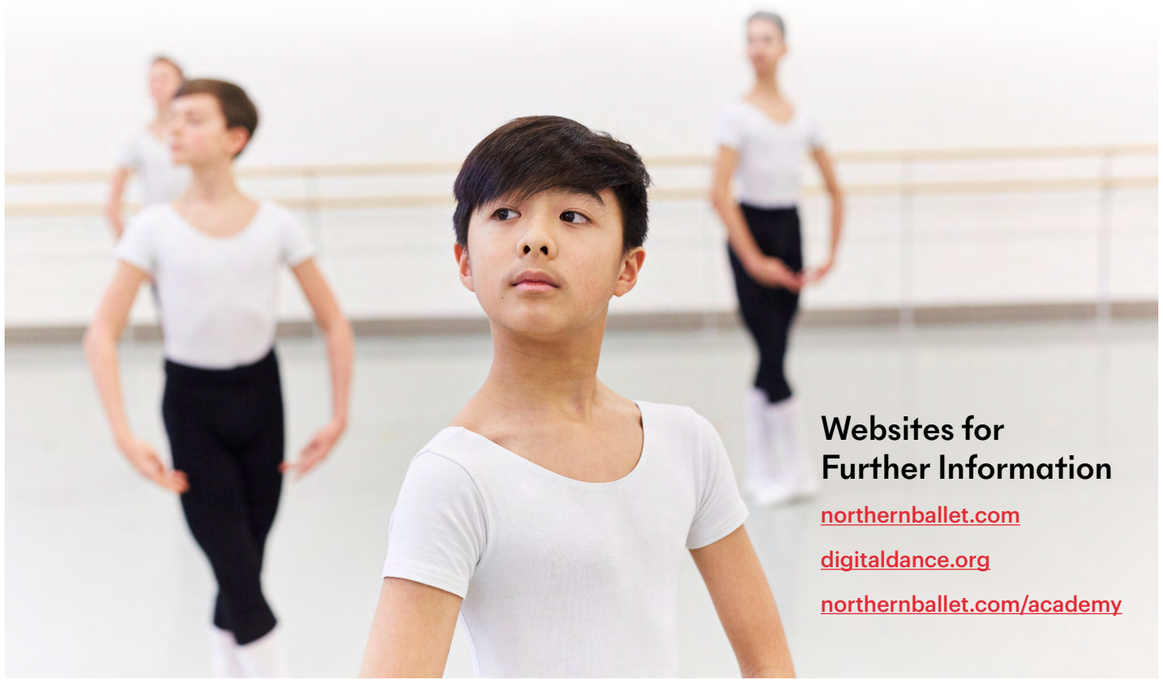
The Academy of Northern Ballet

We offer opportunities for people from all walks of life and of all ages and ability to experience the joy and excitement of dancing. Our Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) delivered in partnership with the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, continues to grow and proves highly successful in providing high quality dance training to young people enabling them to succeed in entering vocational training. CAT graduates from the ballet strand have continued onto training at the Royal Ballet Upper School, English National Ballet School, Central School of Ballet, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Elmhurst, the School of Hamburg Ballet and National Ballet of Canada School.

Our Associate Division offers training in classical and contemporary dance and is a less time intensive course with less focus on progression to a career in dance.

Our Professional Graduate Programme is an exciting one-year classical ballet finishing course designed to make the connection between full-time training and professional performance.

We also offer a range of Open Classes to children, young people and adults of all backgrounds and ability.



Websites for Further Information

northernballet.com

digitaldance.org

northernballet.com/academy

The Academy of Northen Ballet. Photo Justin Slee

Northern Ballet Learning

Our Learning Team is committed to creating opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience and learn about dance. We work in schools, theatres, and community settings across the UK to bring the joy of ballet to as many people as possible. From talks at theatres, to regular weekly specialist dance classes, the team works tirelessly to make ballet accessible to all.

We work in schools to support and encourage an active and creative approach to the curriculum, using the Company's narrative dance works as a tool to develop children's physical and emotional wellbeing through projects such as Rise. Our Early Years work is well-established and uses popular stories to encourage creative movement-play with music. We also support teachers and dance practitioners to develop their skills through regular CPD sessions and a range of resources to support the teaching of dance.

Inclusive Dance Practice is key to our success; the team have developed inclusive pedagogy across our output to ensure our teaching methodology is world-class, leading the way in making ballet more accessible. Our specialist courses include Ability, a dance course for adults with additional learning support needs, In Motion, a course for wheelchair users and Dance for Parkinson's. Each year we host *Expressions* – a festival of inclusive dance, bringing professional and community dance groups together to perform, learn, and share their passion for dance.

We believe that everyone can enjoy dance. Whether watching or joining in, experienced, or brand new to ballet – all our work is designed to be fun, creative, and inclusive.







Photos Emily Spencer, Ant Robling and Gavin Joynt

The Role

Job Title:
Corps, Soloists and Principals

Location:
Based in Leeds / touring in line with company schedule

Overview

Northern Ballet tours the UK and overseas extensively. Our repertoire is a varied and imaginative mix of neo-classical and classical narrative ballets.

You should be open-minded, creative and imaginative with strong classical technique and pointe work, exceptional partnering skills and strength. With a diverse Company of dancers, Northern Ballet actively encourages applications from dancers of all ethnicities.

Audition date

Saturday 27 February 2027
by invitation only

Closing application date

Tuesday 22 December 2026
(13:00 GMT)

Notification

ONLY successful applicants will be notified of invitation by Friday 22 January 2027.

To apply:

Applicants must complete the online application form and upload your CV with 2-3 dance photos that showcase the dancer's body, proportions and line.

Please also submit a video with no introduction or fancy editing, consisting of the following performed in leotard and tights for women and tight fitting dance attire for men:

- a short classical variation drawn from the standard repertoire, danced in pointe shoes by female applicants
- a short contemporary variation (that could consist of something drawn from repertoire, phrases from classwork or an applicant-created work) that illustrates the applicant's command of a range of movement different from that demonstrated in the classical variation
- 3-5 minutes of barre work, incorporating both sides, danced in soft shoes by male applicants and pointe shoes by female applicants
- 3-5 minutes of centre work that includes adagio, pirouettes, petit and grand allegro, danced in pointe shoes by female applicants
- For those with 3 or more years professional experience, you may include current videos of studio material plus performances that demonstrate equivalent skills.

THE VIDEO MUST BE HOSTED ON YOUTUBE.

Contact auditions@northernballet.com with any questions you may have.

Northern Ballet strives to understand, respect and champion diversity in all its forms and believes in embracing diversity within our workforce, repertoire and practices. Therefore, we support and encourage people from a variety of backgrounds and experiences to apply. As part of our commitment to the disability confident employer scheme, we guarantee to interview disabled applicants who meet the essential criteria for our vacancies.

If you require any adjustment during any stages of our recruitment process, please contact recruitment@northernballet.com and we will be in touch with you to make the necessary arrangements. Some examples of adjustments could include sending documentation in alternative formats such as large print, braille or audio. Adapting the environment for the interview or allowing additional time for you to answer questions.



Jonathan Hanks and Dominique Larose in *5 Tangos*. Photo Colleen Mair
Back: Sarah Chun in *Grandes Études*. Photo Hannah Beveridge


Northern
Ballet
northernballet.com