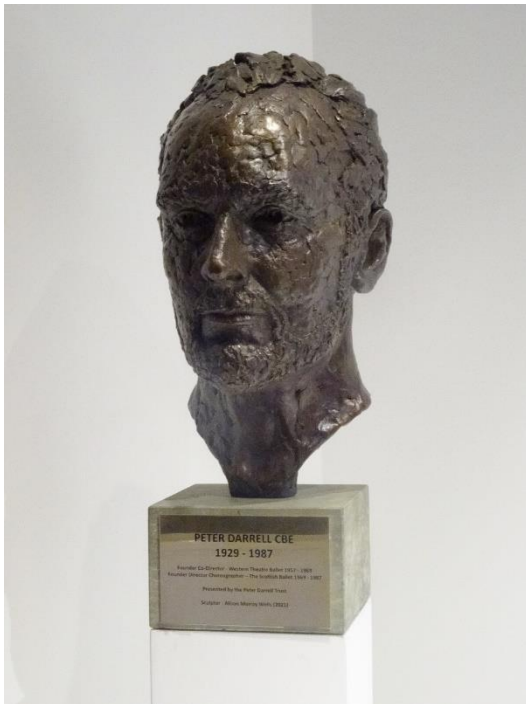


THE PETER DARRELL TRUST Newsletter - February 2022

It's quite some time since we sent an update, and what a difficult two years this has been. As 2022 unfolds, here's to brighter times ahead.

Peter Darrell takes his place at Sadler's Wells Theatre



The Trust was delighted to unveil a bronze bust of Peter on 29 November 2021. This new sculpture, by Alison Murray Wells, is now displayed alongside those of his peers, at Sadler's Wells Theatre in London. As most of you know, Peter started his career with Sadler's Wells Ballet together with a number of young dancers and choreographers, many of whom would become substantial contributors to the history of British Ballet – Kenneth MacMillan, Peter Wright, and John Cranko amongst them. Peter co-founded the Western Theatre Ballet in 1957 in Bristol and led the company to London where it was based at Sadler's Wells before again moving to Glasgow in 1969 to become The Scottish Ballet.

Acknowledged as a great storyteller in dance and as one of Britain's major choreographers, Peter takes his place with many of the key figures from British dance history that are already represented through a grouping of busts and portraits in the stage door foyer of Sadler's Wells Theatre.

Photo credit: Alan Crumlish

The Peter Darrell Trust was delighted to have been able to gift this new bronze of Darrell to the collection, with the help of personal donations from friends and supporters, a number of whom attended the unveiling in November.

Speaking before the unveiling Angela Petrie, Chair of The Peter Darrell Trust thanked the many donors for their contributions that helped to make the creation of the bust possible; Roger Spence, formerly a General Manager of The Scottish Ballet, thanked Sadler's Wells for their support in achieving our aim and Alison Murray Wells for her brilliant work in bringing Darrell back to life, while also remembering the very special person who Peter Darrell was.

Alistair Spalding, Artistic Director and Chief Executive, of Sadler's Wells, welcomed Peter back to Sadler's Wells and spoke of his great choreographic skills and the early ground-breaking narrative works for which he was rightly famed. Alistair then asked Brenda Last to add a few words on Peter before she, Hazel Merry and Oliver Symons, all dancers from the early days of Western Theatre Ballet, unveiled the bronze to an audience of over 30 old friends and colleagues.

An event like this involves lots of work behind the scenes, and the trustees want to thank Alistair Spalding, Britannia Morton and the staff of Sadler's Wells Theatre for all their assistance. (And many congratulations to Alistair who has been awarded a Knighthood for Services to Dance in the New Year Honours).

Special mention must be made of Roger and Judy Spence who really pushed this project along, liaising with Sadler's Wells Theatre and with sculptor Alison Murray Wells on behalf of the Trust, and bringing it to fruition. Finally, thank you again to all who contributed to the Peter Darrell Bronze:

Daive Bombana
Evelyn Bryson
Sally Collard-Gentle
Lorna Crawford
Ann Curtis
Mary Darke
Bruce Doig
David Earl
Jim Fletcher

Rebecca Fletcher
Dawn Freillinger
Wendy Graham
Rhoda Gunn
Margaret & Ronald Halley
Penny Haydock
Caroline Marshall
Katie McCorkindale
Ian McLeod
The Peter Darrell Trust

Fiona Melvin
Noriko Ohara & Douglas Pringle
Tim Palmer
Angela & Euan Petrie
Suzie Ryan
Jenny & Murdoch Shirreffs
Judy & Roger Spence
Elly Taylor
Renton Thomson

Scottish Ballet - The Nutcracker by Peter Darrell

Scottish Ballet's 2021 Christmas season of The Nutcracker was unfortunately interrupted due to Covid restrictions, but thankfully the company was able to resume touring and a very successful season has just finished at Belfast Grand Opera House.

<https://www.scottishballet.co.uk/event/the-nutcracker>

GALINA SAMSOVA

We were sad to hear that Galina Samsova had died on 11 December 2021. Many of us have personal memories of Galina from her time as Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet, or from other stages of her long career. There have been some lovely obituaries in various publications that really say it all. A life well lived, she will be missed by many.

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OTHELLO – Sarasota Ballet

The Trust was approached by Iain Webb, Director of Sarasota Ballet for permission to present Darrell's Othello during their 30th Anniversary Season last year. Originally proposed as an in-theatre programme, the Covid-19 pandemic forced a change of plan and the company instead put together a season of performances that were shown online.

Othello, staged by assistant director Margaret Barbieri, formed the centrepiece of Digital Program 3 in January 2021, and received excellent reviews.

<https://www.sarasotaballet.org/peter-darrell>

To The Sea by Jamie Laurence

If you haven't already seen it, do check out **To The Sea**, a short dance film created by Jamie Laurence and supported by The Peter Darrell Trust during year one of the pandemic, at a time when in-theatre performance was practically at a standstill.

<https://www.jamiellaurence.com/films>