

THE DUCHESS OF CORNWALL VISITS ON POINT: ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE AT 100 AT THE V&A WITH DAME DARCEY BUSSELL



Dame Darcey Bussell and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall with a costume worn by Dame Darcey. Photo by David Tett

- **Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall visits the Royal Academy of Dance's centenary display at the V&A in London**
- In her first official engagement since becoming Vice-Patron of the RAD, The Duchess was given a tour of *On Point: Royal Academy of Dance at 100* with RAD President Dame Darcey Bussell and curators Eleanor Fitzpatrick and Jane Pritchard
- ***On Point* is the largest display by the RAD in its history, curated in partnership with the V&A.** Over 60 original objects and over 80 archival images - many of which have not been displayed before – tell the story of the RAD. Highlights include costumes worn by star dancers, previously unseen footage of Dame Margot Fonteyn and a ballet barre area
- **For more information about the display ,which is open to the public until 1 May 2022, visit www.royalacademyofdance.org/onpoint**
- **Images from the visit by David Tett available to download [here](#). Password 'onpoint'**

9 June 2021: In her first official engagement with the Royal Academy of Dance since becoming Vice-Patron, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall visited the Academy's centenary display *On Point: Royal Academy of Dance at 100* at the V&A in London today. The Duchess was given a guided tour of this landmark display by curators Eleanor Fitzpatrick (Archives and Records Manager at the RAD) and Jane Pritchard (Curator of Dance, Theatre and Performance at the V&A). Her Royal Highness was joined at the display by RAD President Dame Darcey Bussell.

The Duchess had the opportunity to see costumes from some of the most famous dancers to grace the stage, such as Dame Darcey and Rudolf Nureyev, as well as an array of artefacts chronicling 100 years of dance history and the RAD's role in the development of British ballet. The Duchess, who is a keen advocate for dance and recently spoke about how she takes RAD's Silver Swans classes, had the opportunity to pose at the ballet barre installed as part of the display with Darcey Bussell.

Dame Darcey Bussell DBE, President of the RAD said: *“I was honoured to join The Duchess of Cornwall and Angela Rippon on a zoom call last year to announce Her Royal Highness as Vice-Patron of the Royal Academy of Dance. It was therefore very special to be able to join HRH today as we marked her first official engagement for the Academy. It was wonderful to see The Duchess take such an interest in this display marking 100 years of the RAD.”*

Luke Rittner CBE, RAD Chief Executive said: *“We announced HRH The Duchess of Cornwall’s role as Vice-Patron of the Royal Academy of Dance last year, which was when the Academy officially turned 100. As we continue to mark this milestone, it is very fitting for Her Royal Highness to learn more about our rich history through this display at the V&A. We were absolutely thrilled to be able give The Duchess this special tour of the display, particularly as we celebrate the reopening of museums and theatres, as well as the return to dance classes across the UK.”*

Dame Monica Mason DBE, RAD Vice President said: *“It was a pleasure to welcome HRH The Duchess of Cornwall to the RAD’s centenary display. I find it hugely inspiring to look back on 100 years of the Royal Academy of Dance, who I first started learning to dance with, and I hope that The Duchess was equally inspired.”*

The Academy received its Royal Charter from King George V in 1936. The following year, the RAD was awarded its coat of arms by the College of Arms. The Academy is proud to have Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as its Patron and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall as Vice-Patron.

The Royal Academy of Dance continues to mark its centenary, looking back on 100 years of teaching the world to dance and boldly forward to the next 100 years, including a move to a new, state of the art headquarters which is scheduled to formally open in spring 2022. This new home for dance will enable the RAD to expand on its mission to bring dance to more people in more places, and serve our local community. Find out more: www.royalacademyofdance.org

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Notes to Editors

Website: www.royalacademyofdance.org

Facebook: @RoyalAcademyofDance

Twitter: @RADheadquarters

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About the Royal Academy of Dance

Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) is one of the most influential dance education and training organisations in the world with a strong global membership in 85 countries.

Established in 1920 to improve standards and re-invigorate dance training, the Academy helps and encourages its teachers to perfect their teaching skills and pass on this knowledge to their students.

There are currently over 1,000 students in full-time or part-time teacher training programmes with the Academy and each year the examination syllabus is taught to thousands of young people worldwide, with around a quarter of a million pupils per year going on to take RAD exams.

About the V&A

The V&A is the world's leading museum of art, design and performance with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity, spanning 5000 years of human creativity. It was established in 1852 to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, its purpose is to champion creative industry, inspire the next generation, and spark everyone's imagination.

For press information, contact:**Celia Moran**

Press & Communications Manager

Royal Academy of Dance

Tel: +44 (0)20 7326 8002

E-mail: cmoran@rad.org.uk

ROYAL ACADEMY OF
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