

September 2008



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East Meets West



East Meets West Variety Show at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, will feature music, dance and other entertainment from Korea, and local Birmingham choirs and steel bands.

One of the highlights of the show is the internationally acclaimed The Little Angels, Korea's national folk ballet. From the first beat of the Hourglass Drum Dance to the last whirl of their exquisite costumes, the stage comes alive with the excitement and beauty of The Little Angels. Since their beginning in 1962, these graceful and charming young ladies have brought joy and beauty to millions of people throughout the world. In 49 international tours they have given more than 5,000 performances and 500 television appearances. When they performed at the Mexican Olympics 1968 Arts Festival, a leading newspaper reported "The Little Angels wove a spell of Oriental magic which held the audience spellbound." The New York Times described the company as "The Little Angels, Korea's national folk ballet, is a phenomenal company. There are few other folk companies that could match the flawless adult professionalism of The Little Angels".

The company was founded in 1962 with about 30 members, who travelled all round the world, presenting the beautiful culture and arts inherited from their ancestors throughout the past 5,000 years. Currently the company has about 150 members, dedicated and spirited young ladies aged from seven to fifteen, who have been especially selected and trained in the Korean folk arts. Members of the company spend more than three hours a day training the practicing the dance, singing and playing the gayageum to ensure that the company's high standards of performance are maintained.

Tickets for East Meets West are £25 each and may be booked on www.rotaryconvention2009.com

Volunteer Help

Volunteer as a guide/helper/other duties during and after the Convention. There are many opportunities to volunteer during this event. We have 25,000 Rotarians visiting from all over the world and we want them to have special memories of their visit to Birmingham and the 100th Rotary International Convention. We need hundreds of volunteers to help make this Convention an exceptional Great Britain and Ireland and International success. We need guides in Birmingham and around the NEC, we need helpers, advisors, people to do jobs from stuffing envelopes to raising flags and putting up signage. There are jobs and tasks of every size, duration and location. Send us your details and we'll make sure you're included in this fun and rewarding way of volunteering.

Please note that all volunteers who go to the NEC will need to be registered with the convention as a delegate and no discounts are available. This is Rotary International policy for every convention.

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PDG David Hopkins OBE.
Newsletter Editor

Now that the countdown has started to the Great Britain Olympics in 2012 - Rotary is well down the line in its countdown to the RI Convention starting on the 20th June 2009 with the Parade of Nations, the Opening of the House of Friendship and the Katherine Jenkins concert.

The spotlight of the world is now fixed on Great Britain and Ireland following our exceptional performance in so many sports disciplines. As Lord Seb Coe said at the conclusion of the games "Our Olympics will be judged by the support and friendliness of the British people". In Rotary we in Great Britain and Ireland will be judged similarly - we need to take this opportunity to participate in this unique occasion where the world of Rotary will be our guests.

The Convention Committee has done so much to ensure that the organisation will be second to none. We need the support of all British and Irish Rotarians to ensure that we give our fellow visiting Rotarians the best welcome yet.

See you at the Convention in June 2009. Book early - 280 days left at the time of writing.

House of Friendship - Birmingham 2009

The House of Friendship at Rotary's 100th Convention in Birmingham next year will be one of the largest Rotary has seen. Situated in the NEC's largest hall, Hall 5, this Hub of the 2009 Convention will have over 500 booths set in a Victorian theme with an English Pub, English Gardens, a fun youth area with a carousel and helter-skelter.



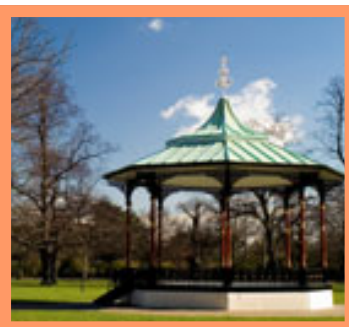
Entertainment will be provided from either the Victorian Bandstand or a large stage area, during most of the opening hours in the five days of the Convention. There will be large fellowship areas, banner exchange and a variety of food to suit all.

The House of Friendship will open on Saturday 20th June, following a parade around the Lake Pendigo at the NEC, all will be welcome to take part and we hope many will be in the countries' National Costume.



Of the 500 booths, just over 200 will be allocated by Rotary International—these will include the licensed vendors. Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation Information areas and RI allocate booth spaces free to some Club and District Projects, Global Networking Groups and the Rotary Fellowships.

Each exhibit from a Rotary Club, District or Rotaract Club must focus on Innovation, cost effective means of meeting an important need in a local or overseas community project and should show significant personal involvement of Rotarians, Rotaractors and or Interactors.

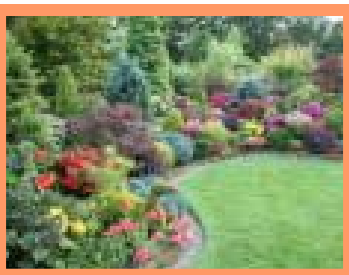


Final allocation of project booths is determined by the Programmes Division of Rotary International. There is a standard application form which is currently being revised and will be available on the RI web site in October. www.Rotary.org or you can request a form is sent to you when ready from Kimberly.Dunton@rotary.org



The booth sizes will be 3m x 3m and will include for the RI free ones one table, two chairs, signage and a wastebasket, any extras have to be ordered from the show's decorator. The additional 300 booths will be sold commercially by Managed Events the NEC on behalf of the Host Organising Committee. These will be available to Rotary Clubs, Charities, Craft Stalls, Tourist Centre, Industry all subject to the rules laid down by RI and the organisers.

The cost of the booths are £1100 + VAT for space only, £1750 + VAT including shell scheme walls, carpet and name board and £2500 + VAT for a premium shell which includes walls, carpet, name board, 1 electrical socket, 1 strip light and a furniture allowance.



For full details contact Danny Samson at Daniel.sansom@necgroup.co.uk or fax your request to +44 121 76773795. Also Peter Offer at peteroffer@aol.com

A night at the Ballet with Birmingham Royal Ballet's Love and Loss Triple Bill

Photographs by Andrew Ross

The Birmingham Royal Ballet, Britain's premier touring classical ballet company, will perform their final dress rehearsal before the summer season begins at the Birmingham Hippodrome on Tuesday. The programme is a triple bill entitled 'Love and Loss' and will include the following three ballets:

Galantaries, music by Mozart, choreography by David Bintley. Artistic Director Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Dance House, music by Shostakovich, choreography by David Bintley

The Dream, music by Mendelssohn, choreography by Sir Frederick Ashton (based on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream)

The evening will be a full Dress Rehearsal for their summer programme. Rotary will have 1000 seats in the circle. Tickets are £25.00 each and are available on www.rotaryconvention2009.com

The evening will start at 7.15pm and there will be two intervals during the evening. Please also note latecomers will not be allowed into the auditorium until a suitable break in the performance.

The Birmingham Hippodrome is one of Birmingham's largest theatres and is also the country's busiest, welcoming audiences of more than half a million people each year. Since its award winning £35 million redevelopment, the Birmingham Hippodrome is now one of the UK's finest theatres. The theatre has a 1850 seat auditorium and a 120 cover restaurant.

Birmingham Royal Ballet - A brief history

It is 50 years since the Royal Charter was first bestowed, BRB is looking forward with renewed vigour and security. Following ten years of applause for David Bintley's creative leadership, the Company now has a wonderful home in the acclaimed new Birmingham Hippodrome complex, which includes a state-of-the-art theatre, the Jerwood Centre for the Prevention and Treatment of Dance Injuries, and the Patrick Centre, a studio theatre for new work. The Company can also boast a new Chief Executive, Christopher Barron, who is presiding over a company now in a renewed position of important financial security.

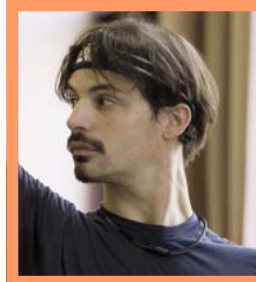
Birmingham Royal Ballet was formed in 1990, when Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet moved to Birmingham. Everyone connected with the Company proudly celebrates the versatility and flexibility of an organisation that creates challenging new work alongside the classics.

For Bintley, it is standing on the shoulders of giants that allows a view into the future: 'The hallmark of the Royal Ballet Companies has always been a mixing of classical and more avant garde work. I feel very influenced by The Royal Ballet of the 1950s and 60s under Ninette de Valois; she said we must have one foot in the future and one in the past. Today this is crucially important, both nationally and internationally.

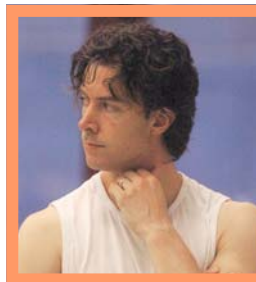
BRB is welcomed enthusiastically around the world. The Company has recently completed successful tours to the USA, Hong Kong and South Africa, Japan and China in 2009 and plans to increase its international profile. Barron believes audiences, both at home and overseas, hunger after the classical history of the Company, the startling energy of its new work, and the unique pool of talent it contains, on stage, in the orchestra pit and behind the scenes. The arrival of Elmhurst School for Dance in Edgbaston, Birmingham in 2004 is another crucial plank in the Company's determination to nurture and retain the best young dancers in the world.

BRB certainly has a devoted and growing audience in Birmingham and beyond. Bintley is particularly appreciative of this core support, and claims it is this loyalty and constancy that allows the Company to be adventurous. Both Bintley and Barron are passionate about the relationship with Birmingham and celebrate the way the Company has become secure and grounded in the life of the city. '15 years ago the only dance in this city was touring dance,' Barron says. 'Now it is an exciting home for creating dance and dancers.' For Bintley and his dedicated team the driving force remains the same as it was for Ninette de Valois when she founded the first company at Sadler's Wells Theatre 75 years ago: 'Of all the dance performing arts, ballet is the most diverse and the most popular,' Bintley concludes. 'From classics to the avant garde, from comedies to tragedies and abstraction, ballet does it all.

To find out more see www.brb.org.uk which carries interviews and features with members of the Company and visiting artists..



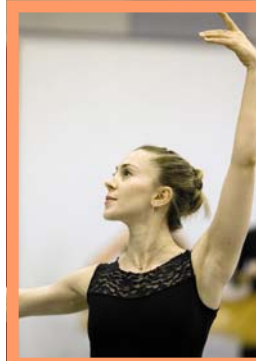
Antonucci Dominic



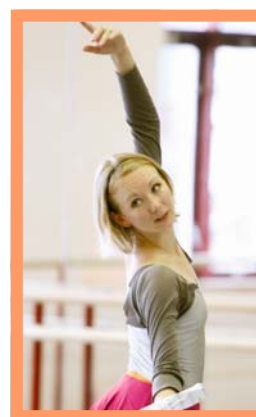
Lawrence Matthew



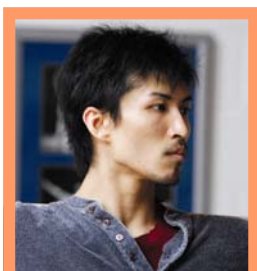
Sakuma Nao



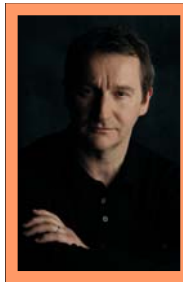
Vallo Ambra



Willis Elisha



Cao Chi



David Bintley

Calling all Caravanners



Join the International Caravanning Fellowship of Rotarians at the Convention

The International Caravanning Fellowship of Rotarians has arranged a caravan site for Rotarians wishing to bring their caravans to the Convention. The caravan site is at the Heart of England Events Centre at Meriden Road, Fillongley, Coventry, Warwickshire, CV7 8DX which is ten minutes drive from the NEC

Convention Centre. Booking forms will be available on the www.rotaryconvention2009.com website from mid September, for further information please contact Derrick Sanders President International Caravanning Fellowship of Rotarians email derrick50@uwclub.co.uk

For those who wish to join us but don't have caravans/motor homes (RV's) we will have details of hire companies throughout the UK. If you would like to find out a little bit more about us, details are available on our website www.rotarycaravanning.org.uk

The Caravanning Fellowship will also host a Home Hospitality event on Monday 22nd June at Fillongley.

Heart of England Conference and Events Centre, Fillongley

The Heart of England Event Centre is situated in 160 acres of prime Warwickshire countryside offering conference and meeting facilities for up to 500 delegates. The Centre has been purpose built to a very high standard and is centrally located between Birmingham and Coventry only minutes from the NEC, Birmingham International Airport and the M6 and M42 motorways.

Reserve Your Hotel Now!!

Birmingham and the West Midlands region has some excellent hotels and offers a large choice. Hotels include the luxury of 4 star deluxe or more practical budget accommodation, but still of an excellent quality and clean with en-suite facilities.



Take a look at www.rotaryconvention2009.com and reserve your hotel now.

Rotary International and Birmingham Convention Bureau have worked closely to present a wide range of hotels. Remember booking an 'official' Rotary hotel gives you access to transport to and from your hotel to the Birmingham NEC Convention Centre—whether you choose tickets for events or choose just to head back to your hotel each day, booking a Rotary International designated hotel gives you peace of mind.

Hotel rooms are selling fast, nearly £500,000 worth of hotel bookings were taken at the LA Convention by the Birmingham Convention Bureau staff!

Registrations to Date

Nigeria 1203 * USA 1056 * England 197 * Scotland 17 * Wales 7 * Ireland 6

In the next issue

Katherine Jenkins in concert with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Treorchy Male Voice Choir

Plenary Sessions Speakers

House of Friendship entertainment