

Press Release

October 2011

English National Ballet's Dance for Parkinson's programme expands nationally with support from Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

English National Ballet is delighted to announce that it has received a grant of £97,000 from Paul Hamlyn Foundation to support its *Dance for Parkinson's* programme.

The grant received will allow *Dance for Parkinson's* to expand nationally over the next three years giving more people with Parkinson's access to dance classes and cultural activities with English National Ballet.

English National Ballet will create a *Dance for Parkinson's* UK training programme for dance and music artists and set up four satellite *Dance for Parkinson's* pilot programmes in hubs across the UK with partners: Pavilion Dance - Dance South West in Bournemouth; South East Dance Studios - Dance South East in Kent; Merseyside Dance Initiative in Liverpool and Theatre Bristol in Bristol. In addition, English National Ballet will deliver two *Dance for Parkinson's* seminars, one regionally and one in London to share good practice and raise public awareness of the programme and its benefits.

In 2011 English National Ballet published research about the positive benefits of Dance for Parkinson's, following a study by experts from Roehampton University. The grant from Paul Hamlyn Foundation will enable the Company to implement further research into the experience of dancing with Parkinson's from both qualitative and quantitative angles.

Craig Hassall, Managing Director of English National Ballet commented:

"The commitment of Paul Hamlyn Foundation to English National Ballet's three year Dance for Parkinson's programme demonstrates a wonderful vision and creativity from the Foundation towards the power of dance to enliven, inspire and involve many areas of the community. We simply could not deliver this important work without such vision."

Fleur Derbyshire-Fox, Director of Learning, English National Ballet added:

"This is a significant award from Paul Hamlyn Foundation and will enable us to expand the successful Dance for Parkinson's programme across the country with our four hub partners; to develop a recognised training programme for dance and music artists with the support of Dance Umbrella and Parkinson's UK and to co-ordinate two seminars to raise awareness. More people with Parkinson's will have the opportunity to take part in regular dance sessions and to engage with the Company through seeing performances, working with the dancers and having unique access to behind-the-scenes events."

- Ends -

For further information and images please contact Rachel Branton, Press Manager at English National Ballet on 020 7581 1245 / DL 020 7590 2933 / 07930 590350 or email rachel.branton@ballet.org.uk.

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Notes to Editors

About Dance for Parkinson's

English National Ballet is the first major dance company in the UK to offer a specialised dance and cultural activities programme for people with Parkinson's. Dance classes have taken place at English National Ballet's London base since 2010 through the support of Westminster City Council.

English National Ballet commissioned research conducted by Roehampton University: *English National Ballet, Dance for Parkinson's: An Investigative Study* which is the first of its kind in the UK.

The results from this research are groundbreaking, and suggest that dance temporarily relieves some symptoms of Parkinson's and aids short term mobility, as well as contributing to social inclusion and artistic expression.

English National Ballet's *Dance for Parkinson's* programme is inspired by Mark Morris Dance Group pioneering dance work with people with Parkinson's in the USA. English National Ballet has re-interpreted the approach, making its work unique and relevant to the Company, reflecting the resources of an internationally acclaimed classical ballet company. English National Ballet is the single dance company representative of a growing UK network of independent teachers of dance for people with Parkinson's administered by Dance Umbrella.

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About Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Paul Hamlyn Foundation is an independent grant-making organisation. Founded by the publisher and philanthropist Paul Hamlyn (1926-2001), it operates three UK programmes – in the Arts, Education and Learning, and Social Justice – and a programme of support for NGOs in India.

The Foundation's mission is to help people to fulfil their potential and enjoy a better quality of life. The PHF Arts programme aims to achieve this by increasing access to and enjoyment of the arts. The Arts programme provides funds through an Open Grants programme, open to eligible organisations at any time, and through Special Initiatives – strategic, targeted interventions in specific areas of need.

More information on the Arts programme or any of the Foundation's work can be found at www.phf.org.uk

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