



Ballet Futures: Pipeline Project Auditions Application Guidelines

Please find below further information about ENB Ballet Futures, the application process and audition workshop for prospective young dancers to join us in September 2024.

Ballet Futures – Overview

Ballet Futures: The Pipeline Project is a children's training programme that encourages and incentivises dancers from traditionally underrepresented groups in ballet (African Diaspora, Caribbean, South Asian and Southeast Asian heritage) to participate in sustained professional ballet training from the earliest possible point.

What do we understand as underrepresented groups?

For this particular project, we are understanding underrepresented groups within Classical Ballet to speak to children from African Diaspora, Caribbean, South Asian and South East Asian heritage.

It is important to note that children from East Asian heritage, such as China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan or Hong Kong are not eligible.

However, if a child is of dual (Asian) heritage (1 parent/guardian from Southeast Asia and 1 parent/guardian from East Asian heritage) then they may be considered. For clarity, please note the following list of the main Southeast Asian countries; Vietnam, Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma) and Brunei.

Who are we looking for?

Ballet Futures is looking for dancers from underrepresented groups who will be aged 8-12yrs on 1 September 2024.

We are driven by our definition of talent - natural aptitude, musicality, co-ordination, expression/charisma, and evidence of enjoying classical ballet! We obviously aim to uphold the spirit of the project and seek children from underrepresented groups who demonstrate this talent.

Training

Run in association with 5 dance schools nationwide, this platform provides gifted and talented young dancers aged 8 and above the training and space to grow into their potential as young artists.

As a Ballet Futures recipient you will receive:

1. The schools provide the training for the dancers (two ballet classes per week) free of charge.
2. A uniform bursary is provided for each dancer to equip themselves with all the attire that they will be requiring for their journey (ballet tights, leotards, ballet shoes/pointe shoes)

Theatre Trips

Ballet Futures arrange two theatre trips per year for the dancers.

These trips normally take place at one of London's prestigious theatres such as the London Coliseum, Sadler's Wells, or the Royal Albert Hall, as well as theatres local to you.

Where possible we also incorporate special elements to the trip such as meeting the company dancers for a Q&A session, backstage tours, and, on special occasions with schedules permitting, we have access to observing the company dancers in their daily class on stage, ahead of their performance.

Performance Opportunities

Ballet Futures have been extremely fortunate to have been able to offer some of our dancers professional performing opportunities in English National Ballet's productions such as *Raymonda*, *Cinderella* in-the-round at the Royal Albert Hall and most recently a dancer was selected from Adagio School of Dance, to perform the role of 'Young Clara' in ENB's production of *Nutcracker* at the London Coliseum.

Experience Days

The dancers are invited to Mulryan Centre for Dance, home of English National Ballet in London, where they have the unique opportunity to meet the dancers from the company and enjoy a Q&A session, where they get to ask the dancers about their dance journeys and lives as ballet dancers.

They also get to observe the dancers in their daily company class, company rehearsals, and also get to take class themselves with industry professionals from diverse backgrounds/ENB company dancers. The Ballet Futures dancers and their parents/carers get to visit the different departments that all work to produce the spectacular performances that the dancers will get to witness throughout the year.

School Visits

Ballet Futures team delivers two visits per year to each of our associated schools. During visits we offer a programme of activity that may consist of;

- A Ballet class taught by industry professionals from the demographics that we are seeking, such as African Diaspora, Caribbean, South Asian & Southeast Asian backgrounds.
- A Repertoire session taught by ENB Company dancers & also industry professionals from underrepresented groups.
- A Ballet History & Black/Asian Ballet History research task/sharing.
- Coaching and Target setting sessions with Michelle Ballentyne, Lead Artist Ballet Futures.

The visits are delivered to the whole school so that all of the students can benefit from some of the opportunities that Ballet Futures has to offer.

Graduating/Success Stories

We are a new project; however, Ballet Futures dancers have already moved on to train at Elmhurst, London Vocational Ballet School, and the Royal Ballet School. We hope to encourage and mentor dancers as they take their next steps into future training, wherever that may be.

Ballet Futures – Annual Cohort

Ballet Futures follows an academic year of the associate school they are attending. Times/dates of training are determined by associate dance schools. The cohort of dancers are regularly observed and monitored to ensure their training is progressing well. Dancers' continuation in the programme is dependent on progression assessed during formal visits.

Core Dates for 2024/2025

Dates are subject to change and are normally shared with our cohort once an offer of a place is confirmed.

Autumn Term 2024

Dates TBC - School Visits

Sat 21 Dec - Theatre Trip, London Coliseum

Winter/Spring Term 2025

Dates TBC - School Visits

Dates TBC - Theatre Trip (in your local area)

Sat 26 Apr – Experience Day, at ENB's home, the Mulryan Centre for Dance, London

Summer Term 2025

Dates TBC - School Visits

Date TBC – Theatre Trip, London

Application Form

Dancers who would like to attend the Ballet Futures audition workshop must complete [the application form here](#).

Applications for the Audition Workshop close on Friday 31 May 2024, 12 noon. Applications received after this date and time cannot be considered.

Application forms must be completed. If you have any problems, please email to balletfutures@ballet.org.uk with the subject line '**Ballet Futures APPLICATION FORM**'.

Your application will not be complete until you have submitted a passport photo to us at balletfutures@ballet.org.uk

Dancers will be notified as to whether they have been invited to the audition workshop no later than Wednesday 5 June by email.

Accessibility

Dancers who identify as having an access need and wish to submit a video response, please email balletfutures@ballet.org.uk for further details.

Audition Workshop

The Ballet Futures Audition Workshops will take place at associate schools. Invited applicants will only be requested for one of those dates.

- **Sunday 9 June** at **Dupont Dance Stage School**, Memory Lane, Leicester, LE1 3UL
- **Saturday 15 June** at **Adagio School of Dance**, 661 Rayleigh Road, Brentwood, CM13 1SS
- **Sunday 16 June** at **West London School of Dance**, 58 Bulwer Street, London, W12 8AP

Dancers will take part in a ballet technique class and creative workshop.

Dancers may take part in a group discussion with members of the audition panel on the day. This is to get to know the dancers and provide an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have. You may also be invited to a Zoom interview the w/c 17 June 2024 between the times of 16.00 - 18.00.

Dancers should bring clothing appropriate for both ballet and contemporary classes, along with warm layers. NO pointe shoes, just soft ballet shoes. If you do not have ballet shoes, socks are permitted at the Barre only.

Dancers should ensure that they bring plenty of water and a packed lunch.

Dancers will be notified no later than Friday 5 July whether they are invited to the Ballet Futures Cohort 2024-25 by email.

Dancers must respond to cohort invites no later than 19 July 2024

Fees

Ballet Futures is funded, and you are not expected to pay any fees for two weekly classes provided by the associate school. Your travel costs, uniform and trips to the theatre including agreed expenses and hotel stays where appropriate will be paid for by Ballet Futures.

How many spaces are available?

The number of spaces available can vary year on year. For 2024-25 intake, Ballet Futures has spaces for up to 10 dancers for the 2024-25 cohort.

If you have any further questions regarding Ballet Futures, the application or audition process, please visit www.ballet.org.uk/balletfutures or email balletfutures@ballet.org.uk.