

Frederick Ashton, The Ballet and Suffolk Exhibition

Opened Thursday 19 May until Sunday 9 October

Town Hall Galleries, Gallery 3, Cornhill; Christchurch Mansion and Christchurch Park
(associated material and events at the Jerwood DanceHouse)

Frederick Ashton, Founder Choreographer of The Royal Ballet, was proud of his roots in Yaxley, Suffolk. This Royal Opera House exhibition celebrates his Suffolk links, his career with The Royal Ballet and the influence his native countryside had on his ballets. The exhibition can be seen in two venues, the Town Hall Gallery 3 and Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich, with associated material and events being presented at the nearby Jerwood DanceHouse.

The Town Hall Galleries focus on Ashton's long career with The Royal Ballet, recalled in a photographic exhibition. Post-World War II life behind the scenes at the Royal Opera House is evoked in a recreation of Margot Fonteyn's dressing-room including her Ondine costume. Some of the material on display belonged to Ashton, including a set of 19th Century German prints of ribbon dances, which influenced his choreography for *La Fille mal gardée*. These have never been shown before. Costumes from this ballet, including Stanley Holden's clogs, as well as costumes from *The Dream* worn by Antoinette Sibley and Anthony Dowell can also be seen.

Two displays of costumes from Ashton's ballets are exhibited in the historic room settings of Christchurch Mansion. They feature his production of *Cinderella* with costumes worn by Margot Fonteyn, Michael Somes, Robert Helpmann and Ashton himself. There are also nine costumes from *Tales of Beatrix Potter*, including those for Mrs. Tiggy-winkle, Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddle-duck and Mr. Jeremy Fisher.

At DanceEast's Jerwood DanceHouse there are free daytime screenings of Royal Opera House film *Come Dance With Me*, which includes ballets by Ashton, alongside an exhibition of photographs of The Royal Ballet in new works.

There is also an accompanying Ashton Trail leaflet highlighting places associated with Ashton's life and work. Pick up a leaflet, visit our website or call us for more information on 01206 282434.

This exhibition, trail and associated events have been made possible by partnerships between, Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service, Royal Opera House and DanceEast.

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For information on museum venues and exhibitions at the Town Hall Galleries or Christchurch Mansion please contact;

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