

ROYAL BALLET & OPERA

**Friends'
Open Day**

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Sunday 1 June 2025

Friends' Open Day

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2pm — 4.30pm

Welcome to the Friends' Open Day!

We're delighted to open our doors and share this special day of ballet, opera and behind-the-scene moments with you.

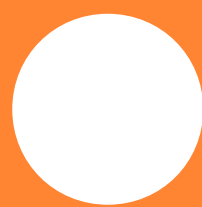
From joining a barre class or a sing-along, to watching rising stars of tomorrow, exploring the artistry behind a *pas de deux*, discovering how we bring our productions to life, or simply enjoying the music of our orchestra and singers — there's something here for everyone to enjoy.

Your support makes everything here at the Royal Ballet and Opera possible. We hope today gives you a true sense of the extraordinary world you help create.

Thank you for being such an important part of it.



Take Part



Dressing Up

Step into the enchanting world of The Royal Ballet and Opera with costumes inspired by magical stage characters. Who will you transform into?

Level 5
2pm — 4.15pm

Back Down Memory Lane

Go back in time with RBO collections, and discover fascinating objects from past and present productions.

Level 5
2pm — 4.15pm

Backstage Tours

Enjoy a sneak peek at the inner workings of the Royal Opera House in these 45 minute backstage tours.

1858 Lobby
2.30pm — 3.15pm
3pm — 3.45pm
4pm — 4.45pm
4.30pm — 5.15pm

*pre booking is required for this activity, please speak to a member of the Friends team for more information

Big Sing

Raise your voice and sing like a bird in this Big Sing workshop. Led by conductor JOANNA TOMLINSON, accompanied by KATHERINE TINKER.

Linbury Foyer
2.10pm — 2.30pm

Ballet Barre

Fancy being a ballet dancer? Give it a go in this barre workshop led by by SHEVELLE DYNOTT, accompanied by DEBBI PARKS on piano.

Linbury Foyer
2.35pm — 2.55pm
4.05pm — 4.25pm

The Big RBO Quiz

Are you the ultimate Royal Opera House boffin? Join our very own Quizmaster and former dancer of The Royal Ballet DAVID PICKERING, accompanied by his glamorous assistant and former Principal Dancer ZENAIDA YANOWSKY and challenge your opera and ballet knowledge with your fellow Friends.

Paul Hamlyn Hall
4.10pm — 4.30pm



Aud Jebson Dancers in Rehearsal

Join us for a live rehearsal with Aud Jebson Dancers let be former Principal Dancer ZENAIDA YANOWSKY. Watch how the dancers learn to tell beautiful stories through dance and movement.

Paul Hamlyn Hall
2.05pm — 2.35pm

Handshadows — *Alcina*

Alcina is a powerful sorceress who rules over an enchanted island, but nothing is quite as it seems. Join hand shadow artist DREW COLBY, singer ANNA STARUSHKEVYCH and accompanist STEPHEN CLARKE for a magical reimagining of Handel’s magnificent opera.

Clore Studio
2.30pm — 2.50pm

*Capacity is limited for this event, seats will be allocated to first come, first served. Doors and queue will open 2.15pm

Stage Fighting

Head into battle with stage fighters LOCKHART OGILVE and RICH GITTINS as they show you how an on-stage fight is created.

Linbury Foyer
3pm — 3.30pm

Unpicking a *pas de deux* with Joe Powell-Main

Welsh ballet dancers JOE POWELL-MAIN and ELLA APPLEBY perform a short piece inspired by *Romeo and Juliet*. Afterwards, you’ll have the chance to learn some of the choreography and create your very own *Romeo and Juliet pas de deux*, whether seated or standing.

Paul Hamlyn Hall
3.10pm — 3.40pm

Good Toes Naughty Toes

Created by Family Sunday regulars Thick & Tight, *Good Toes, Naughty Toes* explores what good and bad can mean to both children and adults through the lens of ballet training. In this work, a dancer questions their understanding of right and wrong, acceptance and rejection, good and bad and true and false. This brand-new work is set to a soundtrack of two Royal Ballet dancers discussing these themes, offering a rare glimpse into their journeys, both personal and artistic.

Clore Studio
3.30pm — 3.55pm

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From Prelude to Performance

Step into a world of exquisite chamber music, performed by the world-class musicians of the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. KAORU YAMADA (1st Violin), MARION McGOWAN (2nd Violin), JUDITH BUSBRIDGE (Viola) and LAUREN STEEL (Cello).

Linbury Foyer
3.35pm — 4pm

Insights: Costume

Ever wondered how our costume department get hundreds of dancers and singers ready for over thirty productions a year? Join this in conversation to discover the tricks of the trade.

Crush Room
3.15pm — 3.45pm

Battle of the Arias

Get an insight into The Royal Opera productions of *Faust* and *Carmen* with live performances from BORIS PINKHASOVIC, ALISON LANGER and JINGWEN CAI as they perform their favourite arias, accompanied by NICHOLAS ANDELL-EVANS. Followed by a Q+A session led by the Assistant Director of *Faust*, EMMA DOHERTY.

Paul Hamlyn Hall
2.40pm — 3.05pm

From Handel to Homeland

A mini-recital journeying from Handel’s heart-wrenching *Scherza infida* to Mignon’s nostalgic longing for home in *Connais-tu le pays*, and ending on a spirited note with a Ukrainian folk song about a pub, heartbreak and possibly a witch. Performed by singer ANNA STARUSHKEVYCH, accompanied by STEPHEN CLARKE on piano.

Paul Hamlyn Hall
3.45pm — 4.05pm

Timetable



2pm

- 1.45pm — 2pm

Members of the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

Main Entrance Foyer

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- 2pm — 2.05pm

Welcome Speech by the Membership Team

Paul Hamlyn Hall

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- 2pm — 4.15pm

Dressing Up

Level 5

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- Back Down Memory Lane**

Level 5

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- 2.05pm — 2.35pm

Aud Jebson Dancers in Rehearsal

Paul Hamlyn Hall

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- 2.10pm — 2.30pm

Big Sing

Linbury Foyer

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Handshadows — *Alcina*

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Backstage Tours

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- 2.35pm — 2.55pm

Ballet Barre

Linbury Foyer

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Battle of the Arias

Paul Hamlyn Hall

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Unpicking a *pas de deux*

Paul Hamlyn Hall

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The Big RBO Quiz

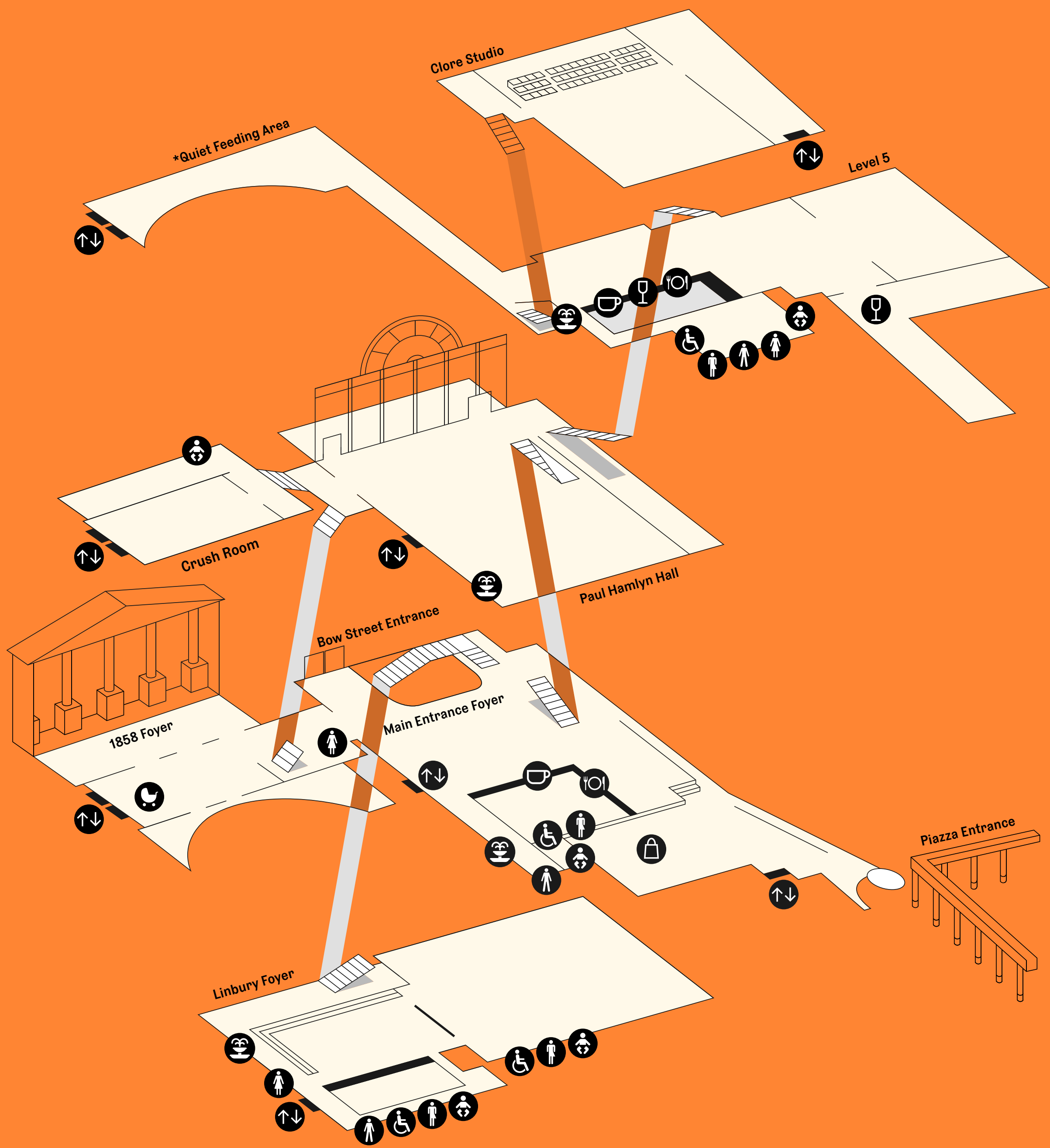
Paul Hamlyn Hall

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- 4.30pm — 5.15pm

Backstage Tours

1858 Lobby

Map



MEN’S TOILETS

WOMEN’S TOILETS

ACCESSIBLE/GENDER
NEUTRAL TOILETS

BABY CHANGING

WATER FOUNTAIN

BUGGY PARK



CAFÉ

BAR

FOOD

SHOP

LIFT



*The Royal Opera House is a breastfeeding friendly venue. If you require a quieter place to feed please head up to Level 5.