

ROYAL BALLET & OPERA

**Friends'
Open Day**

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Sunday 1 June 2025

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10.30am — 1pm

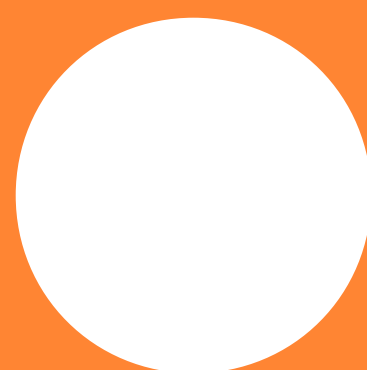
Welcome to the Friends' Open Day!

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
10.30am — 12.45pm

Back Down Memory Lane

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

Level 5
10.30am — 12.45pm

Backstage Tours

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

1858 Lobby
10.30am — 11.15am
11am — 11.45am
12pm — 12.45pm
12.30pm — 1.15pm

*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
10.40am — 11am

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
11.05am — 12.25pm
12.35pm — 12.55pm

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
12.40pm — 1pm



Aud Jebson Dancers in Rehearsal

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

Paul Hamlyn Hall
10.35am – 11.05am

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
11am – 11.20am

*Capacity is limited for this event, seats will be allocated to first come, first served. Doors and queue will open 10.45am

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
11.30am – 12pm

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
11.40am – 12.10pm

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
12.35pm – 1pm

*Capacity is limited for this event, seats will be allocated to first come, first served. Doors and queue will open 12.20pm



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
12.05pm – 12.30pm

Insights: Stage Management

What does a typical day in the life look like for a Stage Manager here at the Royal Ballet and Opera? Delve behind the scenes in this fascinating in conversation.

Crush Room
11.45am – 12.15pm

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
11.10am – 11.35am

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
12.15pm – 12.35pm

Timetable



10am

10.15am – 10.30am
**Members of the Orchestra
of the Royal Opera House**
Main Entrance Foyer

10.30am – 11.15am
Backstage Tours
1858 Lobby

10.30am – 12.45pm
Dressing Up
Back Down Memory Lane
Level 5

10.30am – 10.35am
**Welcome Speech from
the Membership Team**
Paul Hamlyn Hall

10.35am – 11.05am
**Aud Jebsen Dancers
in Rehearsal**
Paul Hamlyn Hall

10.40am – 11am
Big Sing
Linbury Foyer

11am

11am – 11.45pm
Backstage Tours
1858 Lobby

11am – 11.20am
Handshadows – *Alcina*
Clore Studio

11.05am – 11.25am
Ballet Barre
Linbury Foyer

11.10am – 11.35am
Battle of the Arias
Paul Hamlyn Hall

11.30am – 12pm
Stage Fighting
Linbury Foyer

11.40am – 12.10pm
Unpicking a *pas de deux*
Paul Hamlyn Hall

11.45am – 12.15pm
Insights: Stage Management
Crush Room

12pm

12pm – 12.45pm
Backstage Tours
1858 Lobby

12.05pm – 12.30pm
From Prelude to Performance
Linbury Foyer

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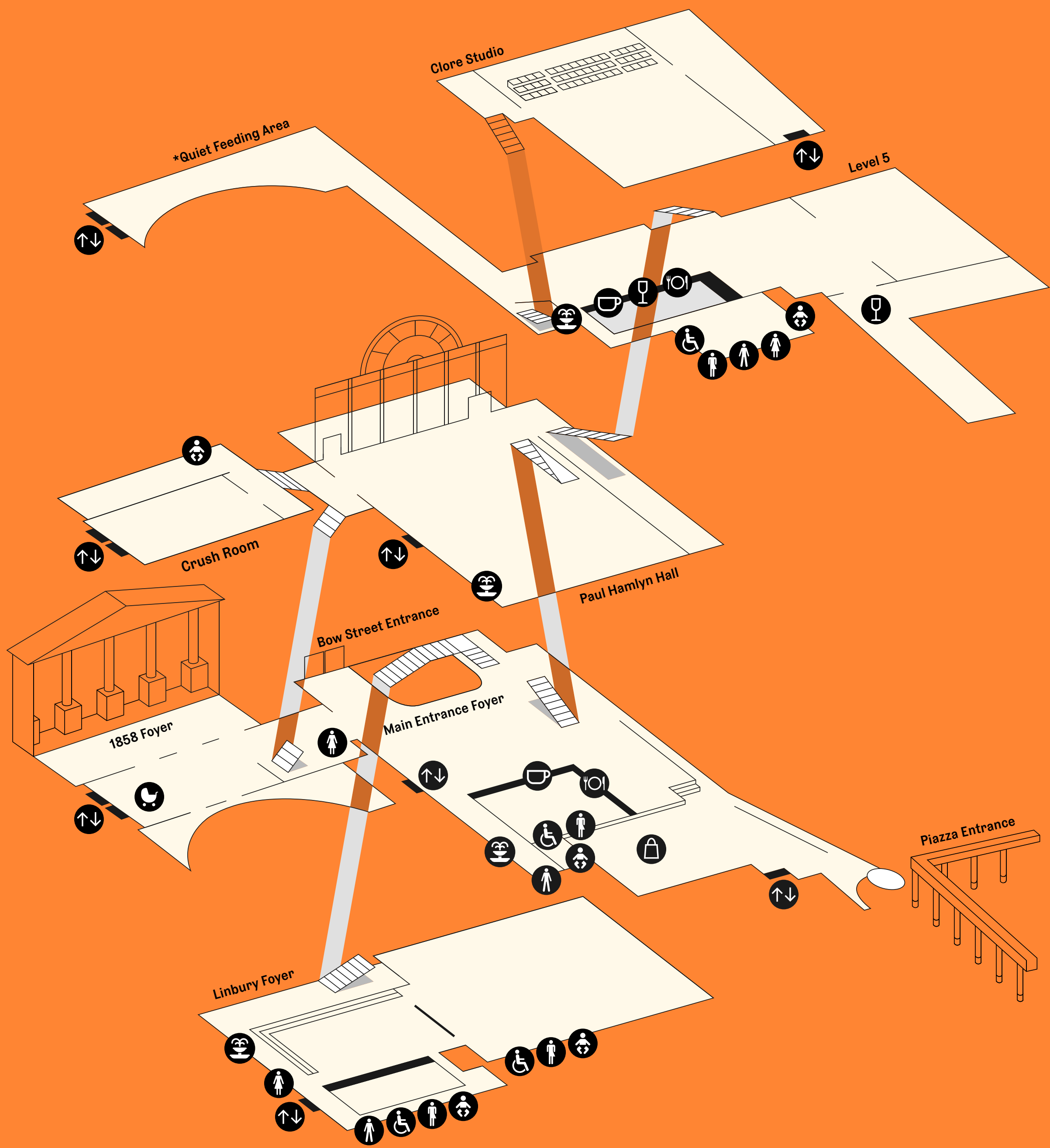
12.30 – 1.15pm
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1858 Lobby

12.35pm – 1pm
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Clore Studio

12.35pm – 12.55pm
Ballet Barre
Linbury Foyer

12.40pm – 1pm
The Big RBO Quiz
Paul Hamlyn Hall

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.