

Les Ballets
TROCKADERO
de Monte Carlo

INSIGHT PACK

dc dance
consortium

UK TOUR 2026



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ENGLAND**

INTRODUCTION & CONTENTS

Dance Consortium is delighted to present Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo's 2026 tour to the UK.

These introductory notes are designed for everyone: the public, students and teachers to learn more about the company. Featuring background information and resources for formal and informal learning, these notes can be read alongside the [free show programme](#).

CONTENTS

Page 3 - About *Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo*

Page 4 - Video Trailer

Pages 5 & 6 - UK Tour dates

Pages 7-9 - A History of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

Page 10 - About Tory Dobrin

Page 11 - About Raffaele Morra

Pages 12 - 17 - UK Tour Repertoire

Page 18 - Cast & Creatives

Page 19 - Ballerina Boys Documentary

Pages 20/21 - Discussions starters

Pages 22/23 - Learning & Engagement

Page 24 - About Dance Consortium

Page 25 - Coming soon



Dance Consortium presents: Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo



Post show Q&A on opening nights (free for ticket holders)

Running Time: Approx 2 hrs (including 2 intervals)

Age Guidance: Check with local venue

For 50 years, the all-male comedy ballet company Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo (affectionately known as “The Trocks”) has been delighting audiences of all ages at sell-out performances featuring their fabulous sense of fun and their flawless dancing.

Originally from New York, the Trocks are now loved world-wide for their sassy spoofs and hilarious homages to classical ballet, where the dancers each transform into two personas, both ballerina and danseur!

Every performance frivolously froths with tutus and testosterone, blush-pink ballet pumps, fierce false eyelashes and prima ballerina attitude. However, what makes this company extraordinarily special is their immaculate technique and daring physicality, surpassed only by their impeccable comic timing.

We came to laugh, but we stayed to worship
– *The Telegraph*

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo - TRAILER

https://youtu.be/te4fM0W_3iQ?si=6EyMgnW1-iNcvb9f

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Les Ballets
TROCKADERO
de Monte Carlo

50th Anniversary UK Tour

Watch on YouTube

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo UK TOUR - BOOK NOW

Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, Dublin

[BOOK NOW](#)

Thur 30 Apr - 1 May 2026 7.30pm

Sadlers Wells, London

[BOOK NOW](#)

Tue 5 - Wed 6 May 2026 7.30pm

Wales Millenium Centre, Cardiff

[BOOK NOW](#)

Tue 12 - Wed 13 May 2026 7.30pm

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

[BOOK NOW](#)

Fri 15 - Sat 16 May 2026 7.30pm

Mayflower Southampton

[BOOK NOW](#)

Tue 19 - Wed 20 May 2026 7.30pm

Theatre Royal, Newcastle

[BOOK NOW](#)

Tue 26 - Wed 27 May 2026 7.30pm

Alhambra Theatre, Bradford

[BOOK NOW](#)

Fri 29 - Sat 30 May 2026 7:30pm

#TROCKSONTOUR

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo UK TOUR - BOOK NOW

Milton Keynes Theatre	<u>BOOK NOW</u>	Tue 2 - Wed 3 Jun 2026 7.30pm
Theatre Royal, Norwich	<u>BOOK NOW</u>	Fri 5 - Sat 6 Jun 2026 7:30pm
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury	<u>BOOK NOW</u>	Tue 9 - Wed 10 May 2026 7.30pm
Blackpool Grand Theatre	<u>BOOK NOW</u>	Fri 12 Jun 2026 7.30pm
Festival Theatre, Edinburgh	<u>BOOK NOW</u>	Tue 16 - Wed 17 Jun 2026 7.30pm
His Majesty's Theatre, Edinburgh	<u>BOOK NOW</u>	Fri 19 - Sat 20 Jun 2026 7.30pm
Buxton Opera House	<u>BOOK NOW</u>	Tue 23 - Wed 24 May 2026 7.30pm

#TROCKSONTOUR

A HISTORY OF: LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO



LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO was founded in 1974 by New York City-based ballet enthusiasts in order to present a playful, entertaining view of traditional, classical ballet in parody form and with men performing all of the roles – and in the case of roles usually danced by women: en travesti and en pointe. Founders Peter Anastos, Anthony Bassae, and Natch Taylor broke away from Larry Ree’s Gloxinia Trockadero Ballet to create a dance and choreography focused company. They put on their first shows on the makeshift stage of the West Side Discussion Group, an early gay and lesbian political organization, which was led by future Trockadero General Director Eugene McDougle. The performances were infused with a subversive edge as the country was still a long way from bringing drag performance to a mainstream audience.

trockadero.org



The Trocks, as they are affectionately known, soon garnered critical acclaim and cultural cachet in publications with major reach, such as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, and *the Village Voice*. By mid-1975, the company's inspired blend of dance knowledge, comedy, and athleticism, moved beyond New York City when the Trocks qualified for the National Endowment for the Arts Touring Program, hired a full-time teacher and ballet mistress, AND made its first extended tours of the United States and Canada. Packing, unpacking, and repacking tutus and drops, stocking giant-sized toe shoes by the case, and running for planes and chartered buses all became routine parts of life. They have been going non-stop ever since, appearing in 43 countries and more than 660 cities worldwide. The company branched out from the vibrant live performances and expanded its scope with an education program in 2016 and the Choreography Institute in November 2023. With so much activity, the Trocks have garnered a dedicated fan base, repeating performances in countries year after year, and continuing to add first-time engagements as the company continues its 50th Anniversary celebrations.

THE TROCKS: AWARDS AND ACCOLADES



Interest and accolades have accumulated over the years. The Trocks have proved an alluring documentary subject, featured in an Emmy-winning episode of the acclaimed British arts program *The South Bank Show*; the 2017 feature film *Rebels on Pointe*; and most recently *Ballerina Boys*, which aired on PBS *American Masters* in 2021. Several of the Trocks' performances at the *Maison de la Danse* in Lyon, France were also aired by Dutch, French and Japanese TV networks. Other television appearances have ranged from a Shirley MacLaine special to the Dick Cavett Show, "What's My Line?" "Real People," and "On-Stage America." The dancers also have the distinction of appearing with Kermit and Miss Piggy on "Muppet Babies."

The company's awards include a prestigious UK Critics Circle National Dance Award for Best Classical Repertoire (2007) and nomination for Outstanding Company (2016), the Theatrical Managers Award (2006, UK); and the Positano Award for Excellence in Dance (2007, Italy). The company has appeared in multiple galas and benefits over the years, including at the 80th anniversary Royal Variety Performance to aid the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund in December 2008, which was attended by members of the British Royal family, including the now King Charles III.

ABOUT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TORY DOBRIN

- Born and raised in LA, Tory joined The Trocks, as a dancer in 1980, just six years after they started life as a downtown drag act in the Meatpacking District of New York in the wake of the Stonewall Riots.
 - He became Artistic Director in 1992 and hung up his pointe shoes four years later to concentrate on running the company.
-
- Tory's Trockardero ballerina & danseur names: Margot Loweyn-Octane & Adam Baum.
 - He trained at the Stanley Holden Dance Center in Los Angeles, the Houston Ballet Academy, and Harkness Dance Center in New York. Before he joined The Trocks, he danced with the Dallas Ballet, the Radio City Music Hall Ballet, the New Jersey Ballet, and American Dance Machine.



ABOUT ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR RAFFAELE MORRA

- Italian-born Associate Artistic Director and Ballet Master: Teaches class and leads rehearsals
 - Former dancer with the Trocks (2001 – 2015)
 - Raffaele's Trockadero ballerina and danseur names; Lariska Dumbchenko and Pepe Dufka
-
- Responsible for teaching the repertoire to new dancers, re-staging ballets from the vast library and running rehearsals
 - Choreographed works including “Majisimas,” a parody of the ballet “Majisimo” by Jorge Garcia
 - Teaches Trocks masterclasses, summer schools and community workshops on tour



UK TOUR REPERTOIRE - LE LAC DES CYGNES (SWAN LAKE, ACT II)



MUSIC BY PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

CHOREOGRAPHY AFTER LEV IVANOVICH IVANOV

COSTUMES BY MIKE GONZALES

DECOR BY CLIO YOUNG

LIGHTING BY KIP MARSH

Swept up into the magical realm of swans (and birds), this elegiac phantasmagoria of variations and ensembles in line and music is the signature work of Les Ballets Trockadero. The story of Odette, the beautiful princess turned into a swan by the evil sorcerer, and how she is nearly saved by the love of Prince Siegfried, was not so unusual a theme when Tchaikovsky first wrote his ballet in 1877 -- the metamorphosis of mortals to birds and visa versa occurs frequently in Russian folklore.

The original Swan Lake at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow was treated unsuccessfully; a year after Tchaikovsky's death in 1893, the St. Petersburg Maryinsky Ballet produced the version we know today. Perhaps the world's best known ballet, its appeal seems to stem from the mysterious and pathetic qualities of the heroine juxtaposed with the canonized glamour of 19th century Russian ballet.



UK TOUR REPERTOIRE - GO FOR BAROCCO

Stylistic heir to Balanchine's Middle-Blue-Verging-On-Black-and-White Period, this ballet has become a primer in identifying stark coolness and choreosymphonic delineation in the new(neo) neo-new classic dance. It has been called a wristwatch for Balanchine clock-time.

MUSIC BY J.S. BACH

CHOREOGRAPHY BY PETER ANASTOS

COSTUMES BY MIKE GONZALES

LIGHTING BY KIP MARSH



UK TOUR REPERTOIRE (LONDON ONLY)

METAL GARDEN UK PREMIERE

“In short, this generation has conceived an intensity of movement so great that it has not to be seen against something else to be known, and therefore, this generation does not connect itself with anything, that is what makes this generation what it is and that is why it is American, and this is very important in connection with portraits of anything.”

- Gertrude Stein

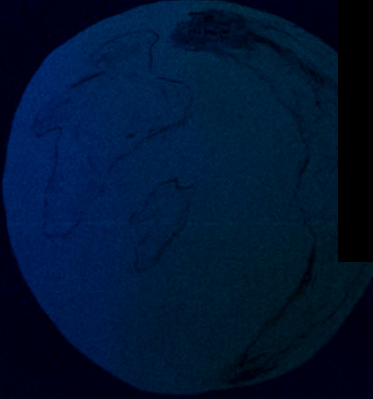
CHOREOGRAPHY BY SEÁN CURRAN
MUSIC BY TIGGER BENFORD AND PETER JONES
COSTUMES BY JEFFREY STURDIVENT
LIGHTING BY KIP MARSH

UK TOUR REPERTOIRE - THE DYING SWAN

This solo, created for Anna Pavlova in 1905 would become, in later years, her signature dance--and perhaps the most famous solo in ballet. The Trockadero offers its own distinctive interpretation of the terminal fowl.



MUSIC BY CAMILLE SAINT-SAENS
COSTUME BY MIKE GONZALES



UK TOUR REPERTOIRE - VALPURGEYEVA NOCH (“WALPURGISNACHT”)

This ballet is inspired by the Bolshoi Ballet’s Valpurgyevea Noch, which Russians have long respected as a specimen of Soviet balletic camp.



MUSIC BY CHARLES GOUNOD

**STAGED AND WITH ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY
BY ELENA KUNIKOVA AFTER LEONID LAVROVSKY**

COSTUMES BY NICOLE VALENCIA-GANN

LIGHTING BY JAX MESSENGER

DÉCOR BY KIP MARSH

UK TOUR REPERTOIRE (LONDON ONLY)

PAQUITA

Paquita is a superb example of the French style as it was exported to Saint Petersburg in the late 19th Century. Paquita was originally a ballet-pantomime in 2 acts, choreographed by Joseph Mazillier, to music by Ernest Deldevez. The story had a Spanish theme, with Carlotta Grisi (creator of Giselle) as a young woman who is kidnapped and saves a young and handsome officer from certain death. Premiering at the Paris Opera in 1846, the ballet was produced a year later in Russia by Marius Petipa.

Petipa commissioned Ludwig Minkus, the composer of his two most recent successes (Don Quixote and La Bayadere) to write additional music in order to add a brilliant “divertissement” to Mazillier’s Paquita. Petipa choreographed for this a Pas de Trois and a Grand Pas de Deux in his characteristic style. These soon became the bravura highlights of the evening-to the point that they are the only fragments of Paquita that have been preserved. The dancers display a range of choreographic fireworks, which exploit the virtuoso possibilities of academic classical dance, enriched by the unexpected combinations of steps.



MUSIC BY LUDWIG MINKUS

CHOREOGRAPHY AFTER MARIUS PETIPA

STAGED BY ELENA KUNIKOVA

COSTUMES AND DECOR BY MIKE GONZALES

LIGHTING BY KIP MARSH

CAST & CREATIVES



Artistic Director: Tory Dobrin
Executive Director: Liz Harler
Associate Director: Isabel Martinez Rivera
Associate Artistic Director: Raffaele Morra
Production Manager: Shelby Sonnenberg
Lighting Supervisor: Isaac Castillo
Wardrobe Supervisor: Charles van Roden

A.J. David as Vera Vidludik and Nicholas Khachafallenjar
Matias Dominguez Escrig as Gerd Törd and Pavel Törd
Salvador Sasot Sellart as Grunya Protazova and Marat Legupski
Jake Speakman as Colette Adae and Timur Legupski
Takaomi Yoshino as Varvara Laptopova and Boris Dumbkopf
Vincent Brewer as Moussia Shebarkarova and Vyacheslau Legupski
Harrison Broadbent as Heidi Kleine and Polykarp Legupski
Raydel Caceres as Blagovesta Zlotmachinskaya and Mikhail Mudkin
Robert Carter as Olga Supphozova and Yuri Smirnov
Andrea Fabbri as Tatiana Youbetyabootskaya and Araf Legupski
Peter Gwiazda as Maya Thickethighya and Roland Deaulin
Liam Vincent Hutt as Minnie van Driver and William Vanilla
Antonio Lopez as Marina Plezegetovstageskaya and Jacques d'Aniels
Felix Molinero del Paso as Holly Dey-Abroad and Bruno Backpfeifengesicht

Full company biographies can be found in the [online programme](#)

BALLERINA BOYS DOCUMENTARY

AVAILABLE ON SADLERS WELLS DIGITAL STAGE UNTIL JULY 2026

The image shows a YouTube video player interface. The background is a close-up of a person with long blonde hair and dramatic makeup, looking over their shoulder. The video title is "Ballerina Boys | Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo Dance Documentary | Free | Sadler's Wells". The title "Ballerina Boys" is written in a large, stylized font, with "Ballerina" in blue and "Boys" in pink. A red play button icon is centered over the video. In the bottom right corner, there is a "Watch on YouTube" button with the YouTube logo. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular icon with a play button and a refresh symbol.

SADLERS WELLS

Ballerina Boys | Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo Dance Documentary | Free | Sadler's Wells

Ballerina Boys

Watch on YouTube

10 DISCUSSION POINTS FOR VISITING GROUPS

Group leaders may wish to take inspiration from our 10 points for discussion:

- Why do you think the show starts with an announcement? What is the impact on the audience?
- Swan Lake is an iconic ballet with many traditional versions plus contemporary re-tellings. How does this version compare with others you have seen? What differences and similarities are there?
- How is humour incorporated into the ‘four little cygnets’ quartet?
- In what space, levels and pathways does the swan group use when they are together on stage?
- Give two examples of where performers show spatial awareness during the dance.
- Can you identify and name different dance styles that are present in each of the pieces?
- What performance skills do you think are important for a Trockadero dancer?
- What do you think of the performers make-up and hair?
- What surprises you about the show and the dancers’ performances?
- If you were reviewing this show – how many stars (out of 5) would you give and what would be the headline of your review?

The Trocks Discuss...

BALANCING COMEDY AND BALLET

“Well, actually we do like a double job. You need to concentrate not only on the choreography but also on the steps. You need also to have this side of being funny. But you know, during the moment you take the comedy seriously, it works. Cause if you know that a joke is coming, and you're trying to look silly, that is what it looks not funny anymore. So the point of making a joke is doing it as seriously as you can in order for the audience to understand. And they see he's really trying, but he's looking so silly. But he's really trying. Once you get used to it, is very comfortable, and it comes naturally.”

- Dancer, Felix Molinero del Paso -

GENDER

“The thing about the Trockadero is that we don't really deal with gender in the way that you just asked. We are dealing with ballet and ballet has roles. You have roles that are normally taken by women - their gender is female. But we're not trying to have the audience think we're women. We don't really deal with the political sense of gender - we deal with the ballet world.

- Artistic Director, Tory Dobrin -

THE EVOLUTION OF THE TROCK'S COMEDY

“The level of the company has changed, which also means that the kind of jokes has changed. What made sense forty years ago doesn't make sense now because the people are different. So, we cannot make the same kind of jokes. We have to evolve.

We have to evolve constantly... We have to keep up with society and see what people like, what people laugh at, and, of course, we have to give the best ballet performance that we can. That is what I think is the success of this company.”

- Associate Artistic Director, Raffaele Morra -

Further Discussions starters and links to source articles & further information

Interview: Tory Dobrin on the enduring
genius of ‘The Trocks’ at 50

[LINK](#)

Naked Men Talking: Tory Dobrin

[LINK](#)

Making Fun of Ballet (With Love): The
Trocks Talk Pointe Shoes, Discipline, and
Leaving the Diva Attitude Onstage

[LINK](#)

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WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@LESBALLETSTROCKADERO

WWW.TIKTOK.COM@THETROCKS

X.COM/THE_TROCKS

TROCKADERO.ORG

LEARN, CONNECT, DANCE - LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

Dance Consortium's engagement programmes run parallel to tours, offering audiences an opportunity to deepen their understanding and passion for dance. The UK tour of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo not only delivers captivating performances but also presents enriching learning and engagement activities tailored for schools, community groups and dance enthusiasts:

Workshops - Associate Artistic Director Raffaele Morra and company artists teach **movement workshops** for schools and community groups, giving budding dancers and participants a unique opportunity to learn from world-class performers.

Open Rehearsals - Observe the company as they prepare for the evening performance providing a unique opportunity into the process as the company gets ready for the show. Attendees are invited to watch a portion of company class and subsequent rehearsal onstage. There will be a brief introduction after the class by the Artistic Director or Associate Artistic Director, followed by an informal chat with participants.

Round Table Discussions - A chance to delve deeper into the history of the Trocks, Available as a lecture, presentation, panel or round-table discussion.

Make Up Seminar - See how the Trocks transform from street look to ballerina! Sit in one of the dressing rooms backstage, watch a makeup demonstration and chat with one of the company members.



LEARN, CONNECT, DANCE - LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT CON'T

Post-show Q&As - Illuminating post-show Q&A sessions are hosted on the tour's opening night in each city. Audiences gain valuable insights into the artistic process, inspirations and stories behind Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo. Dates for post-show Q&A's [available here](#)

Audio Described Performances - As part of Dance Consortium's work towards offering increased access to tours, Audio Described performances are offered at the majority of venues throughout the Trocks tour. Providing live verbal commentary with information on the visual elements of a production, a touch tour and audio description will be delivered in partnership with Talking Theatre. Dates for Audio Described performances [available here](#).

Talent Development - Dance Consortium has year-round commitment to supporting creative careers and talent development. Recent initiatives include ongoing project, [Future Leaders](#), that establishes connections between our 24 member theatres and the next generation of off-stage theatre workforce. Work placements provide hands-on experiences for students from the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) during many Dance Consortium tours, offering invaluable real-world experience.

For more information about Learning & Engagement offers check the [dance consortium website](#) - or contact your local venue.

Email: meg.saunders@danceconsortium.com with any questions.



ABOUT DANCE CONSORTIUM

Dance Consortium is a group of 24 large theatres located across the UK and Ireland.

With a shared passion for engaging people with contemporary dance from different parts of the world, the theatres work together to find dance companies and productions that will excite, challenge, inspire and entertain their audiences. Since its formation in 2000, Dance Consortium has presented 57 tours by 31 different companies, whose performances and education activities have been experienced by hundreds of thousands of people across the UK.

Visit the [Dance Consortium Touring page](#) including background and programme information and video clips from previous tours dating back to 2003.





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1 - 2 Feb
DUBLIN Bord Gáis Energy Theatre

5 - 6 Feb
BIRMINGHAM Hippodrome

9 - 10 Feb
INVERNESS Eden Court Theatre

12 - 13 Feb
EDINBURGH King's Theatre

16 - 17 Feb
ABERDEEN His Majesty's Theatre

19 - 20 Feb
SALFORD Lowry

25 - 27 Feb
LONDON Sadler's Wells

2 - 3 Mar
NEWCASTLE Theatre Royal

9 - 10 Mar
NORWICH Theatre Royal

16 - 17 Mar
BRADFORD Alhambra Theatre

19 - 20 Mar
CANTERBURY Marlowe Theatre

23 - 24 Mar
SOUTHAMPTON Mayflower Theatre

26 - 27 Mar
PLYMOUTH Theatre Royal Plymouth

Photo by Instagram Keston

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