

## **Wikipedia editathon: Frederick Ashton**

We are proposing to hold a Frederick Ashton Wikipedia editathon on 22 June, 9am – 3.30pm.

Our aim is to invite a group of experts and Wikipedia editors to the Royal Opera House, and facilitate a collaborative editing session, drawing on expertise and resources within the organization, such as books, newspaper cuttings, photographs.

The editing will focus on improving coverage of Frederick Ashton on Wikipedia. The particular articles we work on will be discussed with participating editors, but might include Ashton's biography page or pages about his individual works.

### **Aims of the editathon**

- Promote and celebrate the work of Frederick Ashton and his unique relationship with The Royal Ballet and the Royal Opera House
- Engage with new digital communities, both in the UK and internationally
- Highlight the breadth of material in ROH Collections and expert knowledge within the organization
- Lay the foundations for a strong and long-lasting relationship with the Wikipedia community
- Explore the implications of sharing material in ROH Collections with Wikipedia, through a small-scale 'trial' project

### **Background**

Since 2011, there have been Wikipedia editathons held at the British Library and British Museum, as well as at a number of libraries, museums and galleries in the UK and US. They have focused on a wide range of topics, from musical theatre to New York, World War I to Central Asian History.

Current coverage of Ashton on Wikipedia is limited. Approximately 15 of his 100+ ballets have their own articles. The standard of the articles is variable, and none have been identified as 'Good' or 'Featured'. The accuracy of the information is patchy (from 2005 until recently, the date of Ashton's death was incorrect). There are few images of Ashton and his works; they tend to be DVD covers, posters or production shots.

### **Event details**

Andrew Gray, Wikipedian in Residence at the British Library, has offered to help with planning and promoting the event.

Francesca Franchi is in consultation with the Ashton Foundation about whether they would like to participate in the event in some way.

We expect up to 20 Wikipedia editors to attend the event. We aim to recruit participants through Wikipedia channels: WikiProject Ballet and Opera pages, and potentially the Wikimedia UK blog. Giving enough advance warning will allow editors from further afield to travel to London for the event.

We plan to hold the editathon in the Crush Room at the Royal Opera House. There are two wi-fi access points, allowing everyone to access the internet using the Visitors network.

Participants will be asked to bring along their own laptops. We'll have two laptops from the Digital Media department, and three or four from IT. A screen and projector will be set up, so that Wikipedia pages can be viewed as they're edited. Photographs will be taken throughout the day.

As part of the day's activities, participants will be given a 'behind the scenes' tour: e.g. viewing of a Royal Ballet rehearsal, guided tour round the Ashton tribute in the Piazza Link and the Nadia Nerina exhibition, or a screening of a film from Collections.

The event will be documented fully and profiled via our blog and social networks. We will also invite some dance bloggers (e.g. Ballet Bag) to take part in the event and provide additional coverage.

## **Resources**

Royal Opera House staff with an expertise or interest in Frederick Ashton will be encouraged to get involved on the day, and be on hand to provide guidance and assistance to the editors.

We'll bring a selection of books and material from Collections to the Crush Room for editors to consult and to suggest topics to focus on. We'll also provide a full list of all Ashton material in Collections – including newspaper cuttings, photographs, programmes – and staff 'runners' will be on hand to bring material as it's requested, and ensure that it's handled safely.