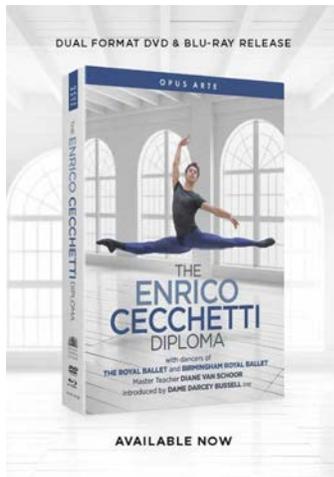


THE MAKING OF THE FILM

BY DIANE VAN SCHOOR



*With dancers of the Royal Ballet
and Birmingham Royal Ballet*

*Master Teacher Diane van
Schoor*

*Introduction by Dame Darcy
Bussell DBE*

THE ENRICO CECCHETTI DIPLOMA

As artistic director of the Cecchetti Legacy Project, I worked with a wonderful team of professionals: Ross MacGibbon, filmmaker and producer par excellence; his team and Roland Thompson, accompanist.

Kevin O'Hare CBE, director of the Royal Ballet gifted the use of the studios to the project and Philip Mosley, artistic scheduling manager, coordinated studio space - the beautiful Ashton and MacMillan studios at the Royal Opera House.

I wanted to use dancers from the three English companies, but on

comparing schedules, it was unachievable. The dancers from the Royal Ballet were: James Hay, Chisato Katsura and Romany Pajdak and from Birmingham Royal Ballet: Ruth Brill, Laura Day, Brandon



Lawrence and Lachlan Monaghan. Their level of commitment just cannot be adequately expressed and our gratitude is impossible to articulate.

Ross persuaded me that it could not be a legacy, heritage project without including what he referred to as 'gems' - the background information in Cecchetti's work. The style of the film was therefore determined to embrace discussion, teaching, coaching and performing. It was a very long journey. However, Romany Pajdak's quote says it all –

'I urge every professional dancer to seek and study the Cecchetti Diploma as a vital means to forward expand and prolong their careers'.

There was still something missing – an introduction which Dame Darcy Bussell graciously provided; an ending with both company directors 'in discussion' and the dancers speaking of their experiences studying this work.

The accompanying booklet contains historical information and references to where some of the work may be found in the classical repertoire and remembering that not all viewers will be versed in the knowledge of the Method, there is a short history of Cecchetti and the Diploma. An additional



navigational guide allows navigation either via the syllabus or via the 'Days of the Week' exercises. After negotiation with Opus Arte (now part of the Naxos group), they agreed to produce the film. The film has been translated into Italian and due to interest from Opus Arte's distributors, also into Japanese.

Grateful thanks go to the directors of The Royal Ballet and Birmingham Royal Ballet, the Legacy Group, The Cecchetti Society Trust Chair and Trustees and the generous supporters and donors who fuelled this project from beginning to end.

The Cecchetti Society Trust and the Legacy Fundraising Group are proud to announce the release of *'The Enrico Cecchetti Diploma'*.

Perhaps the greatest coup for Cecchetti is the fact that the product will be sold at the Royal Opera House and a special URL will take you directly to it namely:

<https://shop.roh.org.uk/products/the-enrico-cecchetti-diploma-dvd-bluray>.



The webpage will take pre-orders in June and the dual format release – DVD and BluRay, which runs for just under four hours (220 minutes Diploma, 9 minutes extra features) will be available in the shop in July to coincide with a review in the July issue of *Dancing Times*. It will sell for £99.95 [GBP] and at this stage postage is undetermined.

It is my hope that the film will be a valuable teaching tool and resource for dancers, qualifying candidates and teachers and that in the words of Dame Darcy Bussell: 'I hope it will inspire a future generation of dancers and teachers.'

Diane van Schoor FISTD [CB] FRSA