

English National Ballet School

Statement Lynne Charles

1st September 2026

After two incredibly full and rewarding years as Artistic Director of English National Ballet School (ENBS), I have decided the time is right to refocus my role at the school and concentrate more directly on work that has always been closest to my heart: working with young dancers in the studio.

I am therefore delighted to be continuing at English National Ballet School as Artistic Director of the Graduate Artists Programme (GAP) and Artistic Advisor to English National Ballet Senior School.

What I love most is being in the studio with dancers, teaching, coaching, mentoring and guiding them as they make the challenging and exciting transition from student to professional artist. It is there I feel I can give the most, drawing upon a lifetime of experience as a dancer, teacher, coach and artistic leader.

In my new role, I will lead the artistic vision and development of the Graduate Artists Programme, a programme I developed during my time as ENBS Artistic Director. I will work closely with English National Ballet to help students bridge the important space between school and professional company life. I will continue to teach, coach and mentor third-year students, contribute to recruitment and international auditions, and advise ENBS on the artistic development and future careers of its students.

At the same time, 4Pointe is entering an exciting period of international growth. What began with the methodology I created and developed over many years has grown into an international organisation and teacher-training community, with certified teachers, training programmes and partnerships across many parts of the world.

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At the heart of 4Pointe is the belief that pointe training can evolve without losing its artistic roots and dancers can be supported through a more mindful, intelligent and sustainable approach to pointe work. Seeing 4Pointe teachers take these ideas into their own studios, contribute their own experiences and become part of this growing professional community has been incredibly rewarding.

As 4Pointe continues to grow, I want to remain closely involved in its artistic and educational development while continuing to work with pre-professional dancers. This new role at ENBS gives me the opportunity to do both properly.

I am enormously proud of what I have accomplished during my time as ENBS Artistic Director and of the artistic and educational opportunities we have created for our students.

For me, this is not about leaving English National Ballet School. It is about evolving my relationship with the school and creating the space for two things about which I care enormously, our young dancers and the development of 4Pointe.

After a lifetime in dance, I still believe we must remain curious, continue to evolve and have the courage to recognise when it is time to change the way we work.

I am very excited about this next chapter and, most importantly, about getting back to what I love most: being in the studio.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynne R. Charles". The signature is written in a dark ink on a light-colored background.

Lynne Roberta Charles

Artistic Director, Graduate Artists Programme

Artistic Advisor, English National Ballet School