



**IDTA**

Bobbie Drakeford, DSA Pat Lupino - Thompson,  
Director Emeritus and Yvonne Gout DSA  
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**DANCE  
INTERNATIONAL  
MAGAZINE**

Issue 3 - September 2017



# Dame Beryl Grey

90th Birthday Celebration  
June 2017

The Directors of the IDTA were delighted to honour one of the Association's Patrons, Dame Beryl Grey, on her 90th Birthday, with a luncheon at the Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly on 13th June.

The event started with a reception for Dame Beryl and welcome speech by the President, Miss Yvonne Goût.

Throughout the reception and luncheon, pianist Dr. Simon Fricker performed a wonderful selection of music, creating a warm and relaxed atmosphere in the beautiful Marie Antoinette Suite.

After lunch IDTA Director Miss Anna Jones gave a speech, in the form of a poem, honouring Dame Beryl's life and career in dance.

Following Miss Jones' speech, we welcomed Fellow and Examiner, Miss Doris Dorbon who recalled dancing in Festivals with Dame Beryl at a young age. Miss Dorbon followed Dame Beryl's career and described attending performances given by her. Miss Dorbon thanked Dame Beryl for her inspiration and support of dance throughout her career. Director Emeritus, Jane Tumelty and Chief Executive Director, Keith Holmes gave their congratulations to Dame Beryl.

At the end of the speeches, on behalf of the Association, the President presented Dame Beryl with an orchid and engraved plaque to commemorate the occasion. Dame Beryl thanked the Directors for arranging the celebration and gave an inspiring speech on her love of dance.

*Liz Murphy, Chief Executive*

## **Welcome speech by the President, Miss Yvonne Goût:**

As the President of the IDTA, it gives me great pleasure to be speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of the Association. Today marks a very special occasion for a remarkable lady, Dame Beryl Grey; celebrating her 90th Birthday.

Dame Beryl Grey has had a fascinating career, as one of our leading Ballerinas. She was Britain's first Ballerina, at the tender age of 14, joining the Sadler's Wells Ballet, now known as the Royal Ballet. Dame Beryl steadily progressed to Principal Ballerina.

In 1942 Robert Helpmann created the first role for her entitled "The Birds", where she performed the Nightingale.

She was the first western Ballerina to be invited to dance with the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow and the fledgling Peking Ballet in China, something that was not heard of from an English Ballerina, dancing behind the Iron and Bamboo curtain.

Dame Beryl has done so much for the world of Dance. Today lunch for Dame Beryl is in recognition of her support to the IDTA and to the dance world. Happy Birthday Dame Beryl Grey. Bon appetite





**Dame Beryl Grey**

*Dame Beryl Grey – What can I say?  
For it's such an honour today  
On behalf of all of us here  
We've come to raise a glass and cheer*

*The Ritz is such a setting scene  
To toast the star, that you have been  
Your Birthday gives us all a chance  
To honour your name in the World of Dance*

*The roles you performed with such finesse  
Made us think "Whatever next"?  
It must be hard to choose the best  
From "Sleeping Beauty" and the rest*

*"To Russia with Love" you then did go  
And showed them what we really know  
To leap and spin across the stage  
At such a very tender age!*

*And then a big surprise one day  
In Covent Garden he'd hidden away  
Yes – it was Eammon with his big red book  
And on your face was such a look.*

*You smiled and took it very well  
For "This is your Life" he wanted to tell  
And as he went through page by page  
We leant about your life on stage.*

*You've travelled far and wide to see  
Your audiences filled with glee  
They always have a great night out  
Because you've a legend and there's no doubt*

*Please charge your glasses and get ready  
Now rise to your feet, but take it steady  
And now the best part of the day  
As we'll all shout "Hip Hip Hooray"*

*Let's give three cheers for Dame Beryl Grey*

*Anna Jones, IDTA Director*