

SPOTLIGHT – Student Associates perform in The Red Shoes Thurs 19 January 2017

In October 2016 at the beginning of *The Red Shoes* rehearsals we invited two third year students from Central School of Ballet, Brittanie Dillon and Stephen Murray, to be our first ever Student Associates. As part of our mission to support dance schools and conservatoires in nurturing, and developing the next generation of talent. Brittanie and Stephen have had the opportunity to to be a part of New Adventures when creating a brand-new production and before Christmas they even got to perform on the Sadler's Wells stage!



Featured in Central School of Ballet's Spring News here's what Brittanie and Stephen have said about their experience.

BRITTANIE:

To experience company life compared to school life was an invaluable opportunity and to see the way they work was really interesting. The connection they had when dancing together was very striking and fascinating to watch. The collaboration of everyone working together was really inspiring.

STEPHEN:

Everyone enjoyed playing their part and creating the piece and from the first day there was such a good atmosphere. We didn't feel awkward or intimidated coming in as student apprentices at all. Everyone was really friendly and welcoming.

BRITTANIE:

We learnt so much from the dancers- they all bring so many different elements into the company, which is really exciting. The two Principal dancers who both play Vicki Page dance the role so differently and it is amazing to see how you can interpret the same character in such a different way. It shows that there is not just one right answer in how to play a part, it's how you interpret it yourself. I think that was the biggest lesson I learnt — to be a successful dancer I must bring my own personality into a performance and not just copy someone else's interpretation.

STEPHEN:

We also learnt that one of the most important things we need to do to succeed is to put ourselves out there and be confident!

MAIN IMAGE TAKEN AT THE RED SHOES CELEBRITY GALA BY DAN WOOLLER