

BBC TELEVISION: SUMMARY OF HOLDINGS RELATING TO SIR FREDERICK ASHTON

Compiled by Jill McLoughlin

The BBC holds most items although some have been sent to the National Film Archives

DATE	TITLE	DETAILS
1937	Demonstration Film: 48'00"	b/w 35mm film illustrating TV output in 1937. Includes members of Vic Wells Ballet and Ballet Rambert in various excerpts including a solo danced by Margot Fonteyn (she and Dallas Bower thought it was choreographed by Ashton); Tarantella from 'Façade' (2'00"): 'Passionate Pavane'
24.6.46	Demonstration Film: Television is here again 68'13"	Includes excerpt from 'Façade' with Margot Fonteyn, Robert Helpmann and Frederick Ashton (IN: -16'28")
22.9.59	Set to Music 45'00"	Margot Fonteyn and Michael Somes in the Shadow Dance from 'Ondine' Act I.
17.1.60	Monitor: 43: Ballet Rambert 21'17"	Item showing the work of Ballet Rambert with Marie Rambert interviewed by Huw Wheldon. Film extract from 'Foyer de Danse' (1932) Alicia Markova (L'Etoile) Sir Frederick Ashton (Dancing Master)
26.2.62	This is Your Life: Marie Rambert 30'00"	Eamonn Andrews talks to Marie Rambert about her life. Includes a contribution from Sir Frederick Ashton.
27.12.62	The Royal Ballet: La Fille mal gardée 98'18"	With Nadia Nerina, David Blair, Stanley Holden, Leslie Edwards and Alexander Grant, Franklin White and Laurence Ruffell.
22.04.62	The Royal Ballet:	Whole performance

	Les Rendezvous 20'55"	
15-19 th April 1963	BBC TV Conference: Choreography for Television 16'28"	Film sequence for BBC TV Conference. Includes an extract Big Band Percussion 27.12.62 in which Ashton does his "dog" dance (2'14-4'43") Extract 'La Fille mal gardée' tx 27.12.62. Ashton dances the piece "When I am Married" (11'09 – 16'28") <i>NB: Possibly not transmitted, but footage is held in BBC Library.</i>
26.7.65	Workshop: In Search of Constant Lambert 63'00"	Francis Coleman presents a portrait of Constant Lambert in which many friends and colleagues remember the musician who made such a crucial contribution to the establishment of ballet in Britain, including Sir Frederick Ashton who talks about their collaboration on ballets.
23.12.65	News 357/65/05 0'29"	Item regarding Cinderella: various shots of Robert Helpmann and Frederick Ashton getting ready as the Ugly Sisters. Ashton fixing bonnet, putting on boots, fully made up and then talking. Cs telegrams <i>NB: No sound for the interview</i>
4.3.66	Gala Performance 51'00"	Michael Flanders introduces Nadia Nerina and Christopher Gable in two excerpts from 'Cinderella', the Broom Dance and the pas de deux from the Ballroom Scene
22.4.66	Gala Performance 51'00"	Michael Flanders introduces Margot Fonteyn and Attilio Labis in the Shadow Dance from Act I of 'Ondine'. This item is 16'00". This is possibly a repeat of above programme and included in it.
26.3.67	The Royal Ballet: The Dream 44'27"	Whole performance Only copy at National Film Archive
13.1.68	Release: Frederick Ashton	Oleg Kerensky interviews Sir Frederick Ashton on his new ballet 'Jazz Calender'

	3'04"	“not first ballet he has written to jazz music, dancers enjoy dancing to jazz, they get bored with just doing classics, re choosing music for ‘Jazz Calender’, based on children’s rhyme ‘Monday’s Child’ tried to get different mood for every day”
10.3.68	The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker	For first time, BBC2 present complete ballet in colour from ROH. Sir Frederick Ashton interviewed by Derek Hart.
26.5.68	Workshop: Sir William Walton 89'27"	Film profile of the life and music of composer William Walton. Includes shots of Frederick Ashton and Moira Shearer dancing ‘Tango Paso doble’
21.8.68	Contrasts: The Royal Ballet: Monotones 29'50"	The Royal Ballet dance Monotones I and II. Sir Frederick Ashton talks about the ballet.
26.1.69	The Royal Ballet: Sleeping Beauty 69'40"	Acts II and III. Choreographed by Petipa with additional choreography by Sir Frederick Ashton. <i>Acts II & III are at the NFA, not sure if Act I was kept.</i>
18.5.69	Omnibus: Margot Fonteyn: Birthday of a Ballerina 42'22"	A tribute to Margot Fonteyn on her 50 th birthday including extracts from ballets including ‘Ondine’. Sir Frederick Ashton speaks throughout the film about Margot Fonteyn’s career. How she had all the qualifications necessary, physical beauty and proportions and extraordinary sense of music. He speaks of the influence of Constant Lambert upon her. He says ballet dancing is like horse racing, dancers have to have the right proportions, and Margot Fonteyn had all these. He mentions his ballet ‘Ondine’, says it expresses her wonderful fluidity, lyricism and acting ability although a lot in it doesn’t come off in his opinion. Talks about dancers’ hard life and how they have little time for outside life. Dancers feel great attachment to their partners with reference

		to Margot Fonteyn with Michael Somes and Rudolf Nureyev.
25.1.70	Omnibus: Anna Pavlova 49'08"	Ronald Eyre presents a film portrait of Anna Pavlova with interviews including Sir Frederick Ashton. Ashton talks about her: how marvellous she was to him, saying he had a great future. First saw her in Lima in 1917 and it was the first theatre he visited. At first he thought her ugly but by the time she started to dance, he was completely beguiled and thought her the most beautiful thing he had ever seen. The artist with the greatest theatrical impact he had seen, she was extremely passionate and used to be brutal to her dancers sometimes. She surrounded herself with dancers who were correct, but had no temperament, also her company was made up of tall and short dancers, she being the ideal height in the middle, the ideal figure. She was marvellous in vignettes and he describes the dances 'Californian Poppy' and 'Dragonfly', with film sequences and speaks of the amazing lightness and speed with which she moved.
11.10.70	Omnibus: Everything in the Garden I 64'00"	Past history of ROH including past 26 post-war years. Dame Ninette de Valois talks of the struggle and describes the dancers' rise to fame - various shots of Margot Fonteyn, Sir Frederick Ashton and others.
18.10.70	Omnibus: Everything in the Garden II 60'00"	Present and future of ROH including money aspect, artistic triumphs and inadequate resources. Sir Frederick Ashton is included in the discussions.
25.12.70	The Royal Ballet: Cinderella 104'00"	Cast includes: Anthony Dowell (Prince), Antoinette Sibley (Cinderella) and Sir Frederick Ashton & Robert Helpmann as the Ugly Sisters.
2.4.71	Review: The Tales of Beatrix Potter	A review of the ballet including a film profile of Beatrix Potter.

	26'00"	
25.12.71	La Fille mal gardée 98'00"	Performance
28.1.72	Review: Sadler's Wells 13'55"	Various people talk about the theatre's history and current financial deficit and appeals to the public. Includes rare footage of Margot Fonteyn and Robert Helpmann in 1937 rehearsal for Sir Frederick Ashton's 'A Wedding Bouquet'.
10.3.72	Review: Sir Frederick Ashton 17'00"	Sir Frederick Ashton talks about his work and directs Antoinette Sibley and Anthony Dowell in ballet rehearsal for "Meditation from Thais".
20.4.73	Gala Performance	Includes 'The Walk to the Paradise Garden' danced by Merle Park, David Wall and Derek Rencher.
12.4.74	Gala performance	Includes pas de deux from Acts I & II of 'The Two Pigeons' dance by David Wall and Doreen Wells.
16.6.74	Omnibus: Dame Ninette de Valois 53'20"	Her life and career. She talks about Sir Frederick Ashton amongst others.
15.12.75	The Royal Ballet: Elgar's Enigma Variations 33'43"	Performance. Cast includes: Derek Rencher, Svetlana Beriosova, Anthony Dowell, Ann Jenner and Wayne Sleep.
15.6.76	The BBC1 Documentary: Ballet Rambert: The First 50 64'00"	A historical look at Ballet Rambert on its 50 th anniversary with recollections from Mme Rambert throughout and contributions from Sir Frederick Ashton. Extracts from Façade (recreation of Markova's polka, 1931 (5'33" to 6'05") danced by Markova. Extract from 'Foyer de Danse'/Two Brothers (of 16.8.59)
21.10.76	Omnibus: All the	Profile of Anthony Dowell based on his preparations for an

	Superlatives 69'00"	opening night in New York, in the course of which he is injured. Extracts from 'The Sleeping Beauty' Act II pas de deux (1 st tx 26.1.69); 'Cinderella' (1 st tx 25.12.70); 'The Dream (26.3.67): 'Monotones II' (1 st tx 21.8.68); 'Enigma Variations', 'Meditation from Thais'.
30.5.77	Silver Jubilee: the Queen's Silver Jubilee Gala 7'28"	Report by Humphrey Burton on a visit to the Royal Ballet School on Friday 20 th May for a ballet rehearsal for the Silver Jubilee Gala. Sir Frederick Ashton talks about planning the Gala and rehearses Margot Fonteyn in his ballet 'Hamlet-Prelude'. He says the gala should be brief, only one hour each of opera and ballet. Various shots of Margot Fonteyn wearing rehearsal tights, dancing to Ashton's instructions. (0'2" to 2'11", 6'42s-7'28s)
30.5.77	Silver Jubilee: The Queen's Silver Jubilee Gala 190'00"	Evening of Opera and Ballet live from the Royal Opera House to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee devised by Frederick Ashton & John Copley. Included in the programme are: Symphonic Variations, Hamlet Preludes and La Valse.
7.5.78	Dance Month: The Dream: A Month in the Country 106'00"	Robin Ray introduces a programme devoted to the work of Sir Frederick Ashton. It includes a profile of him, specially recorded interview with him and performance by the Royal Ballet of 'The Dream' and 'A Month in the Country'.
13.5.78	Dance Month: Les Noces 90'00"	Humphrey Burton introduces a concert performance of Les Noces, followed by a Royal Ballet performance. Several interviews including one with Sir Frederick Ashton are dispersed throughout the programme.
28.5.78	Dance Month: Tarantella, Leda and the Swan, Enigma Variations 54'20"	A triple bill featuring the world premiere of Lynn Seymour's 'Leda and the Swan' and also 'Tarantella' (Balanchine) and 'Enigma Variations'

28.10.78	In Performance: An Evening with the Royal Ballet 136'39"	Humphrey Burton introduces the Royal Ballet from the Royal Opera House. Part I: 'Elite Syncopations' (MacMillan) and 'Four Schumann Pieces' (van Manen). Part II: Divertissements comprising: The Fanny Elssler pas de deux from 'La Fille mal gardée': Wendy Ellis and Michael Coleman, The Bluebird & Princess Florine pas de deux from 'The Sleeping Beauty' (Petipa): Jennifer Penny and Wayne Eagling 'Tweedledum & Tweedledee': Lesley Collier, Wayne Sleep and Graham Fletcher. 'Monotones II': Vergie Derman, Derek Deane and Mark Silver; 'Brahms Waltzes In The Manner of Isadora Duncan': Lynn Seymour; The Balcony pas de deux from 'Romeo & Juliet' (MacMillan): Lesley Collier and Anthony Dowell.
24.12.78	The Sleeping Beauty 146'28"	Choreography by Marius Petipa, Sir Frederick Ashton & Kenneth MacMillan.
1.5.79	Behind the Scenes at Covent Garden 2 versions: 63'00" and 30'00"	Julian Pettifer looks backstage at the work and rehearsals of the Royal Ballet including Sir Frederick Ashton rehearsing Margot Fonteyn in 'Hamlet Prelude' and also Margot Fonteyn and Wayne Eagling (?in Sleeping Beauty).
30.5.79	Nationwide: Antoinette Sibley 8'00"	Sue Cook reports on Antoinette Sibley who was forced to retired from dancing due to a torn cartilage in her knee. She talks about Frederick Ashton who created many roles for her together with footage of Sir Frederick Ashton creating a ballet with two dancers. (4'45" – 5'23")
15.9.79	An Evening with	Princess Margaret introduces the programme and pays tribute to

	Frederick Ashton 86'21"	Sir Frederick Ashton as he celebrates his 75 th birthday. Humphrey Burton presents Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in 'Les Rendezvous' (21'48"); and the Royal Ballet in 'Monotones II' (10'27" first tx 28.0.78); 'Tweedledum and Tweedledee' (4'19" first tx 28.10.78) and 'A Month in the Country' (39'12" first tx 7.5.78)
20.9.79	Frederick Ashton – 75 the Week: A Real Choreographer 48'43"	Programme celebrating Sir Frederick Ashton's 75 th birthday in which he talks about his early life and creative influences, his relationship with Margot Fonteyn and creating new ballets. Includes excerpts from many of his ballets, at work with Royal Ballet School teaching Sinfonietta and rehearsing members of the National Ballet of Canada in 'The Two Pigeons'. Plus archive extracts of ballets throughout.
10.12.79	The Magic of Dance 6: Out in the limelight 60'00"	Margot Fonteyn introduces the last of six programmes. In this programme she reflects on a dancer's life. Extract from a Gala Tribute to her 60 th birthday for which Sir Frederick Ashton created 'Salut d'Amour'. Extracts from 'La Fille mal gardée' and 'Marguerite and Armand' (Fonteyn and Nureyev)
23.12.79	Cinderella 113'14"	Richard Baker introduces the Royal Ballet performing 'Cinderella'. Cast includes: Lesley Collier, Anthony Dowell, Derek Rencher, Brian Shaw, Monica Mason, Merle Park and Jennifer Penney.
26.12.79	Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet: Double Bill 69'23"	Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet perform 'Les Patineurs' and 'Pineapple Poll' (John Cranko) as part of their 'tent' season in Cambridge. 'Les Patineurs' cast includes: Kim Reeder, Lis Strike, Marion Tait, Vyvyan Lorrayne and Carl Meyers. 'Pineapple Poll' cast includes: Desmond Kelly, Marion Tait and David Morse
15.2.80	Friday	Ned Sherrin hosts a chat show including guest Wayne Sleep who

	Night...Saturday Morning 55'00"	talks about the brilliance of Sir Frederick Ashton: "doesn't like ones who want you to be 'cardboard cut out' of selves".
4.8.80	Royal Birthday at the Ballet 73'05"	Queen Mother celebrates 80 th birthday. Performance includes an extract from 'Rhapsody' with Mikhail Baryshnikov and Lesley Collier.
4.5.81	The Royal Ballet: La Fille Mal Gardee 97'31"	To celebrate The Royal Ballet and Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet 50 th anniversary the BBC shows 'La Fille mal gardée'. Cast includes Lesley Collier, Michael Coleman, Gary Grant, Brian Shaw.
19.5.81	Right Royal Company: Fifty Years of the Royal Ballet 69'00"	A film about the Royal Ballet which, through a series of interviews and excerpts, traces its development over the first 50 years. Includes Sir Frederick Ashton and extracts from his ballets: 'Façade (ex 1937 Demonstration Film), 'Les Rendezvous' (22.4.62), 'Cinderella' (29.12.70), 'A Month in the Country' (7.5.78) and 'La Fille mal gardée' (4.5.81).
14.6.81	Markova 55'00"	A film portrait of the life and work of Alicia Markova. Sir Frederick Ashton talks about his impression when he first met her (18.05-18.50) and her quality as a ballet dancer (23'40" – 24'10"). Includes extracts from various ballets including 'Foyer de Danse'.
31.12.83	Die Fledermaus	Including 'Voices of Spring' (end of Act II) choreographed by Sir Frederick Ashton and a specially created solo for Margot Fonteyn
8.4.87	Ballerina 1: body & Soul 59'59"	First in series of 4 programmes in which Natalia Makarova, explores what it means to be a ballerina. Frederick Ashton: re what it means to be a ballerina (1.52-2.09)
29.4.87	Ballerina 4: Handing on the Torch 58'20"	Natalia Makarova looks at great ballerinas of the past and young dancers who have the potential to become prima ballerinas. Sir Frederick Ashton talks about seeing Pavlova, her dance elegance,

		speed and grace, she projected magic.
19.8.88	News 232/88/02EC 1'30"	News items. Sir Frederick Ashton died in his sleep. Extracts includes Margot Fonteyn on how he taught ballet steps you didn't learn in class. Sir Frederick Ashton says he told Margot Fonteyn once she'd done a step wrong, she burst into tears.
6.9.88 (original prog tx'd: 9.4.88)	Masterclass: Frederick Ashton Masterclass 47'38"	A tribute to Sir Frederick Ashton who died this year aged 83. Repeat of a programme first transmitted on 9.4.88 in which he is seen rehearsing Antoinette Sibley and Anthony Dowell in pas de deux from 'The Dream' with newcomers Karen Paisey and Phillip Broomhead.
30.9.88	Omnibus: Sir Fred: A Celebration 59'26"	Life and work of Sir Frederick Ashton with ex-lib footage of his ballets, numerous interviews with friends and colleagues and home movies.
29.11.88	News 9pm 334/88/19EC 1'00"	The Queen Mother amongst hundreds of people at Westminster Abbey for memorial service to Sir Frederick Ashton. Includes clip of him in 'Cinderella'
14.7.97	The Farwell Gala 168'27"	A gala to mark the Royal Opera House's closure for rebuilding work. Includes various performances including 'La Valse' and 'The Dream' pas de deux;
11.12.04	Ashton Triple Bill 138'22"	To celebrate centenary of Ashton, Deborah Bull presents performances of his ballets at the Royal Opera House. Interviews with Monica Mason, Lesley Collier, Julie Kavanagh, Jonathan Cope, Darcey Bussell, Antoinette Sibley, Anthony Dowell, Frederick Franklin, Merle Park. Extracts from: 'Scènes de Ballet'; Awakening pas de deux from 'The Sleeping Beauty'; pas de deux from 'Thais'; 'Devil's Holiday' variation; 'Five Brahms Waltzes in the style of Isadora Duncan'; Devil's Holiday' pas de deux; 'Voices of Spring' pas

		de deux; 'Daphnis and Chloe'.
19.02.05	La Fille mal gardée 113'48"	Performance with Carlos Acosta and Marianela Nunez
25.12.05	Sylvia 102'40"	Performance starring Darcey Bussell and Roberto Bolle. Lost since the mid-sixties, this three act ballet has been restored by Christopher Newton. Interval film of Christopher Newton talking about how he revived it.
25.12.07	Darcey Bussell's Grand Finale 143'40"	In her final performance with the Royal Ballet, Darcey Bussell presents a triple bill. The evening includes 'Symphonic Variations'
31.12.07	The Tales of Beatrix Potter 72'23"	Presented by Rolf Harris, The Royal Ballet perform 'The Tales of Beatrix Potter' from the Royal Opera House.
30.11.09	Marguerite and Armand 32'20"	Repeat of performance by Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev

Jill McLoughlin
April 2015