



Exclusive Interview with Donald MacLeary, Former Lead Royal Ballet Dancer

By Ben

The famous lead male Royal Ballet and OBE holder Dancer Donald MacLeary was willing to answer some questions about his career.

As a child Donald wanted to be a film star and to become like Gene Kelly. However he went to a child's dance class when he was a child and he later went to a Royal Ballet school at the age of 13, having had no previous experience in ballet.

When asked who he most enjoyed dancing with, he answered "I enjoyed dancing with many great ballerinas including Margot Fonteyn, Svetlana Beriosova, Natalia Makarova and Lynne Seymour."

While dancing he enjoyed it very much and in his opinion the role he possessed hasn't changed much. His role was also Ballet Master which is the equivalent to a Sergeant Major – the overseer for the bulk of the company.

Donald is most proud of staying Principal Dancer for 20 years and then teaching other Principal Dancers like Dame Darcy Bussell, who has recently become a Dame.

Donald also mentioned that he was expecting to get on the honours list and he thought it actually took longer than he thought because two of his pupils got there before him.

He gave advice to future dancers of, "Listen, concentrate and work"