Ballet of Opera National Bucharest have joined the Polish National Ballet.

When Gillian Murphy had to pull out of her scheduled performance in Sylvia with ABT on 12 May, the casting for the evening was changed as follows: Act I featured Isabella Boylston as Sylvia and Marcelo Gomes as Aminta; Act II's Sylvia was danced by Maria Kochetkova; and Act III saw Hee Seo and Roberto Bolle as Sylvia and Aminta respectively.

Clinton Luckett, ballet master and former dancer at American Ballet Theatre, has been appointed assistant artistic director of the company, effective from August 2016. English National Ballet has announced Patrick Harrison as the company’s new executive director, commencing on 27 June 2016.

Polina Semionova is on medical leave and has withdrawn from all her performances scheduled during American Ballet Theatre's Spring season at the Metropolitan Opera House. Gillian Murphy will replace Semionova in Swan Lake on 13 June; Isabella Boylston will replace her in the same ballet at the matinee on 18 June, and Hee Seo will replace Semionova in Romeo and Juliet on 24 June.

After over twenty years on the stage, Jayne Smeulders is retiring. Her final performance will be as La Fée Magnifique in West Australian Ballet’s production of David Nixon’s Beauty & the Beast on 28 May.

BalletBoyz founders Michael Nunn and William Trevitt are to become new artistic directors, and Kerry Whelan executive director, of the British Ballet Organisation as the company undergoes a major rebrand. BBBo is being renamed Bbodance, to coincide with its move to new premises in Battersea, London.

Northern Ballet principal dancers Martha Leebolt and Tobias Batley are to take leave of absence in order to pursue new opportunities.

However, they will be returning to the company periodically as resident guest artists. See the interviews on page 22.

Stuttgart Ballet principal dancer Constantine Allen will be making his company debut with English National Ballet during ENB’s season of Swan Lake at the Royal Albert Hall in June.

Nominees in the dance category for this year’s South Bank Sky Arts Awards, celebrating its 20th anniversary, are: Wook Wih Works choreographed by Wayne McGregor for The Royal Ballet; 1984 choreographed by Jonathan Watkins for Northern Ballet and Paradise Lost (lies unopened beside me) performed by Lost Dog. Hosted by Melvyn Bragg, the Awards Ceremony will take place on 5 June 2016.

The Carina Ari Medal for 2016 has been awarded to Ohad Naharin for his invaluable contribution to Swedish dance. There are strong ties between Ohad Naharin and Sweden – dating back from his early collaborations with the Cullberg Ballet and the Jewish Theatre to the present day. The Medal Committee comprises Gunilla Jensen, dance critic and dramaturge, Ana Laguna, professor and Royal Court Dancer and Renne Mirro, dancer and actor.

The Joffrey Ballet, led by artistic director Ashley Wheater and executive director Greg Cameron, have announced that the Joffrey Academy of Dance, Official School of The Joffrey Ballet, is to receive a $200,000 challenge grant from the Reva & David Logan Foundation expressly to support a new initiative enabling annual funding of more than $400,000 in scholarships for talented students at the Joffrey Academy of Dance.

Commissioned by Northern Ballet artistic director David Nixon OBE, Kenneth Tindall will be creating Cassanova for the company. This will be the choreographer's first full-length ballet and the premiere will take place at Leeds Grand Theatre on 11 March 2017.