

Rowena Chatfield MBE (Jackson)



1938-1939

Rowena Jackson was a prima ballerina at one of the most prestigious ballet companies in the world, the Royal Ballet. She considers her greatest successes winning the first Royal Academy of Dancing Scholarship to be awarded in New Zealand, becoming a Prima Ballerina with the Royal Ballet and meeting Her Majesty, the Queen after she had watched one of her performances.

Her advice for current EGGS students is to have faith in yourself and work hard and get inspiration from those who have succeeded. At one stage of her career, she felt she was being selfish having so much pleasure, she thought she could do more good being a nurse. However her Artistic Director of the time, Ninette de Valois, convinced her of how much pleasure she was giving to those people in the audience after a rather dreary day for them.

“Have faith in yourself; work hard; and get inspiration from those who have succeeded.”

