

# NewStatesman

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## diary

**DEBORAH BULL**

Dancing isn't all about theatres, God-given talent and hard training. It's fun and everyone can do it

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While my colleagues in the ballet company are waltzing away to Adolphe Adam on Thursday evening, I will be dancing on a barge on the Thames. No, not one of those drunken, end-of-season parties, but the first performance of *Fleeting Opera*, a collaborative venture between the sculptor Max Couper, the composer Trevor Wishart, the choreographer Tom Sapsford and the textile artist Sasha Kingston. Dame Judi Dench will also be on board, as narrator, and we will perform along the stretch of the Thames adjacent to the Houses of Parliament. Dame Judi will then alight from the barge and become the first person to use the river steps leading to parliament in more than 100 years. Nor is this the most astonishing fact: *Fleeting Opera* is the first piece of music commissioned for the River Thames since 1717, when Handel wrote his *Water Music* for King George I.

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