

## CARLOS ACOSTA CBE TO RECEIVE THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II CORONATION AWARD



Photo by Johan Persson.

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) today announced that **Carlos Acosta CBE** is to be awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award, in recognition of his standing as one of the most influential figures in dance today. Throughout his extraordinary career as a renowned dancer, and now choreographer and artistic director, Carlos Acosta has been a source of inspiration to dancers around the world. Through the work of the Carlos Acosta International Dance Foundation, he helps young people to have access to dance- an ambition which is also at the heart of the RAD's mission.

The QEII Coronation Award, the Academy's most prestigious accolade, was instituted in 1953 to commemorate the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The first recipient in 1954 was **Dame Ninette de Valois**. Since then it has been awarded to many of the greatest names in dance, in recognition of outstanding services to the art form. Former recipients include **Dame Marie Rambert DBE, Sir Frederick Ashton** and **Rudolf Nureyev**. It was most recently awarded to **Sir Matthew Bourne** in 2016.

On being selected to receive the award, **Carlos Acosta** said: *"I am delighted to receive the Royal Academy of Dance's QEII Coronation Award. It is an honour to join this prestigious list of dance leaders, many of whom I have drawn inspiration from and had the opportunity to work with during my career."*

**Darcey Bussell**, President of the RAD said: *“It was wonderful to have worked and danced with Carlos at The Royal Ballet. I have seen first-hand how his presence, charisma and skill have inspired a generation of dancers around the world. I am thrilled that he is receiving the Royal Academy of Dance’s QEII Coronation Award.”*

**Luke Rittner** Chief Executive of the RAD said: *“Carlos Acosta’s career – both as a dancer and now as choreographer and artistic director – really does speak for itself. As a recipient of the QEII Coronation Award, Carlos Acosta will take his place in a glittering roll call of outstanding performers, directors, choreographers and teachers.*

*The Royal Academy of Dance and Carlos Acosta share a common goal: to inspire and nurture young dancers around the world, and to make dance as accessible as possible. The decision to honour Carlos Acosta with our most prestigious award was unanimous.”*

Carlos Acosta will receive the award at a special ceremony at the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park in London, on Monday 15 October 2018. The Royal Academy of Dance is pleased to be working with both the Mandarin Oriental London and English winemakers Nyetimber to stage this unique event. Further details will be released in the summer.

**– ENDS –**

#### **Notes to Editors**

**Website:** [www.rad.org.uk](http://www.rad.org.uk)

**Facebook:** @RoyalAcademyofDance

**Twitter:** @RADheadquarters

**Instagram:** @RoyalAcademyofDance

#### **Royal Academy of Dance**

With approximately 14,000 members in 84 countries, the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) is one of the largest and most influential dance education and training organisations in the world. Established in 1920 to improve standards and re-invigorate dance training, the Academy helps and encourages its teachers to perfect their teaching skills and pass on this knowledge to their students. There are currently over 1,000 students in full-time or part-time teacher training programmes with the Academy and each year the examination syllabus is taught to thousands of young people worldwide, with approaching a quarter of a million pupils per year going on to take RAD exams.

#### **Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award**

The QEII Coronation Award is the RAD’s most prestigious accolade, bestowed for the first time 60 years ago in 1954 to Dame Ninette De Valois, at a lunch attended by - amongst others - the presidents of the four Royal Academies (Arts, Music, Dramatic Art and Dance). Since then it has been awarded to many personalities in recognition of outstanding services to the art of ballet. For more information on the QEII Award and past recipients, visit: <http://www.rad.org.uk/about/about-the-rad/awards-and-nominations>.

#### **Carlos Acosta CBE**

Read Carlos Acosta’s full biography: <http://www.carlosacosta.com/biography.php>

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