

Medallists of Royal Academy of Dance's Prestigious Genée International Ballet Competition Announced



Lin Fujimoto, Matthew Maxwell, Harris Beattie, Ryan Felix and Lucy Christodoulou. Photo by Bruno Simao.

- **Final saw 11 dancers from Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom compete at Teatro Camões on 16 September 2017.**
- **Gold, silver and bronze medals awarded.**
- **Harris Beattie first dancer ever to win all three awards; gold medal, Dame Margot Fonteyn Audience Choice Award and the Choreographic Award.**
- **2017 saw the competition take place in Portugal for the first time.**

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) is pleased to confirm the medallists of the Genée International Ballet Competition 2017 held at Teatro Camões in Lisbon on 16 September 2017. The competition attracted 52 of the world's finest young dancers from 14 countries, aged between 15 and 19 years old and culminated in a competitive final that was judged by former Director of The Royal Ballet **Dame Monica Mason**, former Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Dance **Lynn Wallis OBE** and CEO/Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet **Christopher Hampson**.

The prestigious gold medal was awarded to British dancer **Harris Beattie**, aged 18 trained by Karen Berry, Danscentre, and Resmi Malko, Central School of Ballet. Silver medals were awarded to Australian dancers **Lucy Christodoulou**, aged 17 trained by Annette Roselli, Annette Roselli Dance Academy and **Matthew Maxwell**, aged 15 also trained by Annette

Roselli, Annette Roselli Dance Academy. British dancer **Ryan Felix** aged 17 trained by Sarah Dickinson, Elmhurst Ballet School and Japanese dancer **Lin Fujimoto** aged 18, trained by Denise Whiteman, Elmhurst Ballet School were awarded Bronze medals.

Harris Beattie was also presented with the Margot Fonteyn Audience Choice Award and the Choreographic Award for his Dancer's Own variation *Torn*, which he choreographed with his teacher Karen Berry. The judges felt that his choreography demonstrated the highest standard within the *Dancer's Own* category. He is the first Genée candidate to win a gold medal, the Dame Margot Fonteyn Audience Choice Award and the Choreographic Award.

Now in its 86th year, the Genée International Ballet Competition is named after RAD's first president Dame Adeline Genée and is renowned for launching the professional careers of young dancers. Past medallists have gone on to join celebrated companies around the world including: The Australian Ballet, The Mariinsky Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, The National Ballet of Canada, English National Ballet and The Royal Ballet.

The Genée provides pre-professional dancers the opportunity to receive world-class coaching with renowned choreographers and teachers. This year's Commissioned Choreographer, Lisbon-native **César Augusto Moniz**, created choreography specifically for the Genée which was revealed for the first time in the competition final.

As the 2017 competition comes to close, the international ballet community looks forward to the next Genée International Ballet Competition in 2018 which the RAD is pleased to announce will take place in Hong Kong.

- Ends -

Notes to Editors

Website: www.rad.org.uk/genee2017
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GeneeInternationalBalletCompetition
Twitter: www.twitter.com/RADheadquarters
Instagram: www.instagram.com/RoyalAcademyofDance
Vimeo: www.vimeo.com/radheadquarters
Press Office: www.rad.org.uk/press

Royal Academy of Dance

With about 14,000 members spread across 83 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 the 1920s, to improve standards and re-invigorate dance training initially within the UK, 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 around a quarter of a million pupils per year going on to take our exams.

For more information about the RAD, visit <http://www.rad.org.uk>

The Genée International Ballet Competition

The Genée International Ballet Competition, named after RAD's first president Dame Adeline Genée DBE, is our flagship annual event.

Known simply as 'the Genée', it is one of the most prestigious ballet competitions in the world, attracting the finest young dancers trained in the RAD syllabus, from around the globe. Candidates receive a unique opportunity to work with renowned choreographers and teachers for five days before performing at the semi-finals, and then the final, where they compete for a range of medals.

The competition started in 1931 and has taken place almost every year since, and is now a truly global event. In 2002 the RAD took the decision to hold the competition outside London for the first time, taking it to Australia where Sydney Opera House played host to a record number of candidates. Following that success, the Genée has now been hosted around the world. In 2015 the final was live streamed online for the first time.

Past Genée medalists have gone on to work for some of the best ballet companies around the world including The Royal Ballet, Royal Ballet of Flanders, The Mariinsky Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, The National Ballet of Canada, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Estonian National Ballet, The Australian Ballet, English National Ballet, San Francisco Ballet and The Hong Kong Ballet. For more information, visit <http://www.rad.org.uk/genee2017>

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