

**Royal Academy of Dance announces Finalists of Genée International Ballet Competition 2017**



Photo by Bruno Simao.

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**The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) announces the Finalists of the Genée International Ballet Competition 2017, held in Lisbon, Portugal.** 52 candidates from 14 countries, have been whittled down to 11 Finalists, all set to compete in the first Genée Final to be held in Portugal.

**2017 Genée International Ballet Competition Finalists:**

**Lucy Christodoulou**, Australian dancer aged 17 trained by Annette Roselli, Annette Roselli Dance Academy

**Ellis Derrick**, British dancer aged 16 trained by Linda Lowry, The Linda Lowry School of Ballet

**Janice Felices**, British dancer aged 18 trained by Denise Whiteman, Elmhurst Ballet School

**Lin Fujimoto**, Japanese dancer aged 18 trained by Denise Whiteman, Elmhurst Ballet School

**My Le**, Australian dancer aged 15 trained by Janine McGrath, Classical Coaching Australia

**Jemima Scott**, New Zealander dancer aged 15 trained by Allison Pond, Wellington Dance and Performing Arts

**Kayla Van Den Bogert**, Australian dancer aged 15 trained by Karen Ireland, Karen Ireland Dance Centre

**Harris Beattie**, British dancer aged 18 trained by Karen Berry and Resmi Malko, Danscentre

**Ryan Felix**, British dancer aged 17 trained by Sarah Dickinson, Elmhurst Ballet School

**Matthew Maxwell**, Australian dancer aged 15 trained by Annette Roselli, Annette Roselli Dance Academy

**Isaac Shaw**, Australian dancer aged 17 trained by Marie Walton-Mahon, Tanya Pearson Classical Coaching Academy

The Choreographic Award was won by **Harris Beattie**. In addition to being selected as a Finalist, the judges felt that his solo *Torn* (which he choreographed with his teacher Karen Berry) demonstrated the highest standard of choreography within the *Dancer's Own* category.

After two days of semi-finals, judged by former Director of The Royal Ballet **Dame Monica Mason**, former Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Dance **Lynn Wallis OBE** and Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet **Christopher Hampson**, the Finalists now compete for gold, silver and bronze medals. In addition to the three medals, which come with prize money of up to €5,000 for a gold medal; the Margot Fonteyn Audience Choice Award will also be given. The Final will be held at Teatro Camões on Saturday 16 September 2017.

- Ends -  
**Notes to Editors**

**Website:** [www.rad.org.uk/genee2017](http://www.rad.org.uk/genee2017)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/GeneeInternationalBalletCompetition](http://www.facebook.com/GeneeInternationalBalletCompetition)  
**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/RADheadquarters](http://www.twitter.com/RADheadquarters)  
**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/RoyalAcademyofDance](http://www.instagram.com/RoyalAcademyofDance)  
**Vimeo:** [www.vimeo.com/radheadquarters](http://www.vimeo.com/radheadquarters)  
**Press Office:** [www.rad.org.uk/press](http://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 medallists 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>

**For press information, contact:**

**Celia Moran**

Press & Communications Manager  
Royal Academy of Dance  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7326 8002  
E-mail: [cmoran@rad.org.uk](mailto:cmoran@rad.org.uk)

**Nima Naik**

Press & Social Media Officer  
Royal Academy of Dance  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7326 8047  
E-mail: [nnaik@rad.org.uk](mailto:nnaik@rad.org.uk)