

The Genée International Ballet Competition to be held in Lisbon for the first time



Dates: Thursday 7 September – Saturday 16 September 2017

Who can attend: The Semi-Finals and Final are open to everyone

Booking: www.rad.org.uk/genee2017

Prices: €25 (each day) for the Semi Finals, €15-€40 for the Final

Venue: The Semi-finals will be held at Teatro Tivoli BBVA on 13 and 14 September, with the Final taking place at Teatro Camões on 16 September.

Candidates: Applications open Saturday 1 July- Monday 31 July

The Genée International Ballet Competition is to take place in Lisbon, Portugal this year for the first time in the competition's 86 year history. As part of the RAD'S commitment to widening access globally to the highest standard of dance training, the RAD's flagship event takes place in a different location each year. With such a culturally vibrant host city, Genée 2017 is sure to be an unforgettable experience for both candidates and audiences.

In addition to competing on a global stage, participants will work closely with a leading choreographer, playing a vital role in the creation of a new piece. This year's Commissioned Choreographer, **César Augusto Moniz**, will create two variations specifically for the Genée, to be premiered at the competition final.

Lisbon-born César gained recognition as a dancer, choreographer, and teacher through his extensive international work with Ballet Gulbenkian, Companhia Nacional de Bailado, Lisbon Dance Company, Compañía Nacional de Danza of Madrid, and Dance School of the National Conservatoire. He is also Artistic Director of Kamusuna Ballet Company, which he formed in 2006. César's television work includes appearing as a judge on the Portuguese 'So You Think You Can Dance' and 'Let's Dance'.

César looks forward to working with this year's Candidates: *"The RAD's Genée International Ballet Competition is such a prestigious event, and I am so excited to be involved as it takes place in Portugal for the first time. I am very much looking forward to working with talented young dancers and hope that my choreography will both challenge and inspire them."*

Candidates will also receive intensive training from professional faculty and judges. The judging panel comprises of prominent figures in ballet; former Director of The Royal Ballet **Dame Monica Mason**, Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet **Christopher Hampson** and a third judge to be announced shortly.

For this year's competition, the RAD will be working in partnership with Companhia Nacional de Bailado. Candidates will be able to train in the same studios used by the company and dancers from CNB will perform at the Final on 16 September. The repertory and cast will be announced shortly.

The Genée attracts the finest RAD trained dancers from around the world, with many going on to perform in the world's best companies. In-keeping with that tradition, **Valentino Zucchetti**, former Genée gold medallist (Hong Kong, 2006) and First Soloist with The Royal Ballet, and Portugal-native **Brígida Pereira Neves**, dancer with Tiroler Landestheater and Genée alumni (Birmingham, 2003), have been named Ambassadors for this year's competition.

Valentino said: *“I am truly honoured to be an Ambassador for Genée 2017, as I have cherished being a part of the Royal Academy of Dance from a young age. I have very fond memories of competing in the Genée. The training was invaluable, and the advice provided always felt constructive. There was such a friendly atmosphere too; we were encouraged to enjoy the week together and support one another.”*

Brígida is delighted that the Genée will take place in Portugal for the first time: *“Taking part in the Genée came at a crucial moment of my career, where students often find themselves faced with the daunting task of entering the professional world. Meeting, sharing, training and rehearsing with fellow dancers from all over the world, gave me the chance to broaden my horizons and introduce me to the international dance scene. I created bonds with fellow dancers that stay with me and keep very fond memories of camaraderie, fun and learning together. The Genée is such a landmark event and I am so excited that it will take place in my home country this year. As a proud Portuguese and long-time member of the RAD, I am thrilled to be an Ambassador for Genée 2017.”*

Since its inception in 1931, when the Adeline Genée Gold Medal was awarded to Felicity Garratt, the competition has taken place almost every year. Since 2002, the Genée has taken place in locations around the world, including Sydney, London, Toronto, Hong Kong and Cape Town.

Tickets to the Semi-Finals and Final for Genée 2017 are on sale now.

- 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 almost 14,000 members spread across 85 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.

About The Genée

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.

Press Contacts

Celia Moran | Press & Communications Manager | 020 7326 8002 | cmoran@rad.org.uk
Nima Naik | Press & Social Media Officer | 020 7326 8000 | nnaik@rad.org.uk