

PRESS RELEASE

Royal Academy of Dance Appoints Rebecca Taylor as National Director, Australia



- Former dancer Rebecca Taylor will take on the role of National Director, Australia from June 2019
- Taylor joins the RAD from Sydney Opera House, where she has held senior management roles
- Taylor will lead RAD's operations in Australia, the largest RAD office outside of London

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) has appointed Rebecca Taylor as National Director in Australia.

Taylor, who is currently Head of Strategy and Projects, Performing Arts at Sydney Opera House, will take up the new post on **Monday 17 June**. She brings over 15 years' experience in the performing arts, government and tertiary sectors where she has honed a wide range of strategic, business planning and leadership skills, as well as more hands-on project and event management roles.

As National Director of RAD Australia, she will be responsible for the management and development of the RAD in Australia, ensuring the impact of its diverse work is felt across the national dance sector. This appointment comes at a key time for the RAD as it approaches its centenary year in 2020, with celebrations triggered in Australia by a special conference in Melbourne.

Luke Rittner, Chief Executive, Royal Academy of Dance said:

"I am delighted that Rebecca Taylor has accepted our invitation to become National Director of RAD Australia. Her extensive experience as a leading arts administrator in Australia makes her an ideal choice to lead the Royal Academy of Dance at an important time in its 100 year history."

Taylor's professional experience in dance started as a ballet and contemporary dancer in Australia, London and the USA, accompanied by experience of RAD teaching in Australia. In addition to her management roles at Sydney Opera House, Taylor is currently the Chair of Ausdance New South Wales.



Rebecca Taylor, newly appointed National Director of the RAD in Australia said:

"As one of the world's leaders in dance education and training, the Royal Academy of Dance is synonymous with quality and excellence. Throughout my career I have been committed to building engagement and participation with dance as an integral and valuable part of our culture, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to join an organisation that represents the best in dance education. I look forward to working with the RAD staff, members and stakeholders, and contribute towards the RAD's continued development and growth in Australia."

Australia is a key market for the Royal Academy of Dance; it is the second largest office after RAD's headquarters in London. There are nearly 3,000 members in Australia with 25,000 students taking RAD exams in the country each year.

For more information on the Royal Academy of Dance please visit www.royalacademyofdance.org

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Notes to Editors

Royal Academy of Dance

With 14,000 members in 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 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 around a quarter of a million pupils per year going on to take RAD exams.