



THE FONTEYN NUREYEV
YOUNG DANCERS COMPETITION

January 2008

UK Young Dancers to shine again at Dance Competition

Royal Academy of Dance flagship national competition to commence at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre in Woking

Royal Academy of Dance (RAD), in association with the Rudolf Nureyev Foundation, presents the first regional heat of the 2008 *Fonteyn Nureyev Young Dancers Competition* at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre, Woking, on 13 January.

Hundreds of aspiring young dancers (10-13 years) from all over the UK have entered the competition for the chance to work alongside leading dance professionals and experience the thrill of performing in front of live audiences in all four Regional heats scheduled to take place in Woking, Manchester, Birmingham and Weston-super-Mare.

The candidates, who will be performing four exclusively choreographed variations by world renowned choreographer **Gillian Lynne CBE**, will be competing for one of the 20 sought after places in the Final. Four winners, two from each level, will be selected from the heat in Woking to join the Finalists who will be chosen from the Manchester, Birmingham and Weston-super-Mare heats.

The competition, named after two of the greatest dancers ever, was first held in 2006 and is held biennially. Its aim is to increase the popularity of ballet among young people and to identify, encourage and nurture talent for the long-term future of British Ballet.

Dame Antoinette Sibley DBE, President of the Royal Academy of Dance, is very passionate about this year's competition:

"This year, we have an even larger number of candidates, testament to all that the competition represents and endeavours to fulfil. We are honoured to be offering our support and guidance to these aspiring young dancers whose potential is only beginning to unfold and who, hopefully, will be the British dancers of the future."

Eminent dance professionals, including **Christopher Hampson, Agnes Oaks, Pippa Moore, David Nixon, Desmond Kelly, Marion Tait** and **Sarah McIlroy** will be acting as guest judges across the country, expressing their support and commitment to the Competition.

The Final will be held on 13 April 2008 at The Bloomsbury Theatre in London, where two candidates, one from each Level, will be awarded the 'Young Ballet Dancer 2008' title, as well as £1,500. The 2006 Level I winner, Oliver Taylor, went on to secure the title role in the West End hit *Billy Elliot - The Musical*.

The Academy is delighted that it has been granted permission to use extracts of music from, and inspired by, the motion pictures "*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*" and "*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*", composed by John Williams, to accompany these variations.

The competition has been made possible by the funding and support of the Rudolf Nureyev Foundation, the Rudolf Nureyev Dance Foundation and generous, additional contributions from International Dance Supplies and the Musical Opera and Ballet Trust.

-ENDS-

To obtain images / arrange for interviews please contact the RAD Press Office

Vassiliki Spyropoulou / Julieanne Bergmann

tel: +44 (0)20 7326 8044 / 8051

fax: +44 (0)20 7924 2311

Email: pressoffice@rad.org.uk

www.youngdancers.org.uk

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Fonteyn Nureyev Young Dancers Competition Mission Statement

'To focus attention on the popularity of ballet with young people and to identify, encourage and nurture talent for the long-term future of ballet.'

Woking heat time table:

Level 2:

Doors Open: 11.30am

Performance: 12.00pm – 3.15pm

Level 1:

Doors Open: 6.00pm

Performance: 6.30pm – 9.45pm

Regional Heats

*** London, Middlesex and South East England**

Rhoda McGaw Theatre, Woking

Sunday 13 January 2008

*** Northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland**

Dancehouse, Manchester

Saturday 26 (evening performance only) & Sunday 27 January 2008

*** Midlands and East England**

The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham

Saturday 2 (evening performance only) & Sunday 3 February 2008

* **South West and Wales (including Channel Islands)**

The Playhouse, Weston-super-Mare

Sunday 10 February 2008

The Final:

The Final will be held at The Bloomsbury Theatre, London, on Sunday 13 April 2008.

Organisations involved:

Royal Academy of Dance is a global organisation with 13,500 members in 79 countries. Our mission is to promote the knowledge, practice and understanding of dance internationally. We seek to accomplish this through promoting dance, educating and training students and providing examinations to set standards and reward achievement. We are a Registered Charity in England No. 312826

The Rudolf Nureyev Foundation Rudolf Nureyev established the Rudolf Nureyev Foundation in 1975. It was then called The Ballet Promotion Foundation; its goals were to invest and manage the Foundation's endowment fund and any other assets, and to distribute grants to the Foundation's beneficiaries from investment income. The Foundation was also to be concerned with the promotion of ballet, whether through the support of individual dancers or companies and performances. He was careful to emphasise that all activities were to be subject to the restraints of the Foundation's income.

In 1994 the Foundation was renamed The Rudolf Nureyev Foundation. In essence its objects remained as before, with some expanded and defined through instructions from Rudolf Nureyev prior to his death.

Rudolf Nureyev was always keen to help young and talented dancers. He asked that money should be provided to assist promising dancers living in the territory previously referred to as the Soviet Union, to study ballet in the West for one year. This was on the understanding that they returned home at the end of the study year to contribute to the development of dance in their own country.

The Musical Opera and Ballet Trust was founded by Sandor Gorlinsky and his wife Edith to help musicians, singers and dancers with their training. Sandor Gorlinsky was Rudolf Nureyev's agent for many years.

International Dance Supplies has become the UK's largest wholesale supplier of dancewear products operating from its own purpose-built premises in Newton Abbot. IDS aims to provide everything dance teachers and their pupils require for everyday class work through to large scale recitals and shows.