

# Prix de Lausanne 2018

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Registration is now open for the 2018 Prix de Lausanne, the annual competition for young ballet dancers aged 14 to 19. Candidates have until September 30 to register, and until October 22 to submit a video of themselves. The 2018 competition will be held in Lausanne, Switzerland from January 28 to February 4, 2018

The aim of the Prix de Lausanne is to help talented young dancers as they prepare to start their professional careers. Winners receive scholarships that allow them to train for one year in one of the competition's 68 partner schools or dance companies, which include The Royal Ballet, the Vaganova Ballet Academy, the San Francisco Ballet School and the Australian Ballet.

To take part, young dancers from around the world send their videos to Lausanne. The artistic committee selects up to 75 candidates to take part in the competition. During the week-long contest in Lausanne, candidates are judged on their performance both in class and individually on stage.

20 candidates reach the finals, and between six and eight will receive a scholarship. The Prix de Lausanne organises each winner's transfer to one of its partner schools or companies, and monitors their development during the grant year (paying attention to settling in, health, education, career prospects and so on).

Candidates not selected for the finals will take part in an audition class, viewed by school and company directors. All participants thus have an opportunity to be seen by and to come into contact with key personalities of the dancer world.

This year, the rules of the competition allow younger dancers (aged 14 years and six months) to apply. “We have moved the age requirement to include a slightly younger student,” said Shelly Power, artistic director and CEO of the competition, “giving them the proper entry age for most professional schools during the same competition year.”

The Prix de Lausanne also holds a preselection, choosing some candidates who will be invited to the competition free of charge. This year’s preselection will be held in Uruguay from October 4 to 5, at Auditorio Nacional del Sodre Dra. Adela Reta, Montevideo.

“We are circling South America by visiting Uruguay this year, while 2017 was in Argentina and 2019 will be in Brazil,” Power explained. “Julio Bocca, former American Ballet Theatre star and artistic director of Ballet Nacional Sodre is our host and on the jury this year. We always find exceptional talent in South America and are looking forward to another successful year.”

To register for the 2018 Prix de Lausanne, and for more information, visit [prixdelausanne.org](http://prixdelausanne.org).

Picture: Candidates at the 2017 Prix de Lausanne. Photograph: Gregory Batardon

## Zoe Anderson



Zoë was born in Edinburgh, and saw her first dance performances at the Festival there. She is the dance critic of The Independent, and has also written for The Independent on Sunday, The Scotsman and Dancing Times. In 2002, she received her doctorate from the University of York for a thesis on “Nationhood and epic romance: Ariosto, Sidney, Spenser”. She is the author of The Royal Ballet: 75 Years and The Ballet Lover’s Companion.