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dance professionals. Students and graduates will be able to benefit from their informed knowledge of the dance industry.

Sessions will cover a wide variety of subjects, including finance for dancers, workshops on how to work as a choreographer, teacher or performer, and what to expect after graduation. Speakers are scheduled to include Zoe Thomson, director of CarpeDiemDance, Helen Laws, One Dance UK's head of Industry and Artist Support/National Institute for Dance Medicine and Science, Ian West, dancer, choreographer and movement director, and Carolyn Lappin, executive director of YDance. For further information or to book, visit onedanceuk.org/event/launch-edinburgh-2018.

News from the RAD

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) has announced that, for reasons of ill health, Paula Hunt has decided to step down as artistic director in May of this year.

Hunt underwent a major operation on her foot, due to an accident, which unfortunately has caused subsequent complications

that have slowed her recovery. She feels strongly that the physical limitations imposed by her injury have compromised her ability to deliver to the full extent of her talents in the role, and has therefore decided to step down. The RAD's Executive Board will now embark upon a new recruitment process, with plans in place to ensure a smooth transition during the interim period.

In other news, the RAD has recently launched *Discovering Repertoire*, a classical ballet performance programme for students aged 12 upwards, and adults of all ages, that draws on works from the classical ballet repertoire, including *Coppélia*, *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Swan Lake*.

Comprising three levels, the programme is designed to stand alone or allow students to progress from the barre to the variation with ease, using development exercises to build up to a well-known work from the classical repertoire. For more information, visit rad.org.uk/learn-to-dance/discovering-repertoire.

Prix de Lausanne 2018

The Finals of the 46th edition of the Prix de

Lausanne, one of the world's most prestigious ballet competitions, were held at the Théâtre de Beaulieu, Lausanne, on February 3. In addition to the audience in the theatre that night, the Finals could also be watched online. Eight young dancers were awarded a scholarship to enter one of the 72 partner schools or companies of the Prix, and non-awarded candidates also had the opportunity to take part in the Prix's Networking Forum the following day.

Participating in the Prix this year were more than 70 promising young dancers, 21 of whom were selected to compete in the Finals. During the Finals, the nine jury members – led by Ted Brandsen, artistic director of Dutch National Ballet – observed the candidates performing classical and contemporary variations, and they chose the winners as follows:

Shale Wagman (Canada), **Hanna Park** (South Korea), **Wenjin Guo** (China), **Junsu Lee** (South Korea), **Xinyue Zhao** (China), **Miguel Aranda Maidana** (Paraguay), **Carolyne Galvao** (Brazil) and **Aviva Gelfer-Mündl** (US). The Prix's gold medal was

awarded to Shale Wagman (a pupil of the Princess Grace Academy in Monaco), with the Contemporary Dance Prize going to Junsu Lee, Audience Favourite Prize to Carolyne Galvao, and the Rudolf Nureyev Foundation Prize also going to Shale Wagman. The Best Swiss Candidate prize was taken by **Lukas Bareman**.

Whilst the jury deliberated, the audience enjoyed a performance that included 50 young dancers from Partner Schools in Goyo Montero's (*Pulse*), the result of the Prix's Choreographic Project, and then the Maryinsky Ballet's Kristina Shapran and Xander Parish. In addition, the Prix presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to the choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot, who is also director of Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo.

During competition week, daily live-streamed sessions were viewed online more than 634,000 times worldwide, and the live-streaming of the Finals were watched by more than 1.6 million. ■

Below left: The finalists of the 2018 Prix de Lausanne on stage awaiting the announcement of the names of the winners. Below right: Shale Wagman dancing a solo from *Don Quixote*.

