



Press release

World Ballet School Day

Training a new generation of dance artists

Inaugural edition Tuesday July 7th, 2020 from 1pm Swiss time

Lausanne, June 30th, 2020: the Prix de Lausanne is delighted to announce that it will be participating in the inaugural World Ballet School Day which will be streamed online on Tuesday July 7th, 2020 from 1pm Swiss time.

World Ballet School Day (WBSD) connects the next generation of young professional dance artists with young people from around the world. Created by students for students, this event is a platform for young artists in training to share a message of solidarity through the language of dance and ballet.

Students from participating schools will join together in a round table to provide insights into the world of professional ballet and dance training especially during lockdown, and will introduce segments from each school featuring behind the scenes and performance footage filmed both before and during lockdown.

The event will also feature the world premiere of a new dance work. Six international ballet schools worked with choreographer Didy Veldman to explore the theme of physical restriction in a project led by The Royal Ballet School. The Royal Ballet School invited San Francisco Ballet School, Canada's National Ballet School, Paris Opera Ballet School, The Royal Danish Ballet School and the Dutch National Ballet Academy to join them in a creative choreographic challenge for ballet students in lockdown. The dancers worked in six groups and created and rehearsed with Didy over Zoom. The students then filmed their individual performances and Didy and The BalletBoyz have created a film containing their work.

The founding of WBSD is a collaboration of Boston Ballet School, Canada's National Ballet School, English National Ballet School, New Zealand School of Dance, Palucca University

of Dance Dresden, and the Prix de Lausanne. The idea was originally conceived by Viviana Durante (Director of Dance, English National Ballet School and Prize Winner, Prix de Lausanne 1984).

Twelve schools/institutions from three continents are participating in this inaugural year:

- The Australian Ballet School
- Paris Opera Ballet School
- Boston Ballet School
- Prix de Lausanne
- Dutch National Ballet Academy
- The Royal Ballet School
- English National Ballet School
- Royal Danish Ballet School
- Canada's National Ballet School
- San Francisco Ballet School
- Palucca University of Dance Dresden
- New Zealand School of Dance

Viviana Durante

Director of Dance, English National Ballet School

“World Ballet School Day is about uniting students training at professional ballet and dance schools around the world. We want to showcase their resilience, strength, dedication, talent, intellect and passion, celebrating how their journey begins and why—now more than ever—ballet, dance and art matter so much.”

Press Contacts

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Notes to editors

World Ballet School Day will be streamed on Tuesday July 7th, 2020 from 1pm Swiss time on www.worldballetschoolday.com, on websites and social media pages of schools and will

be available for catch-up for one month.

Created in 1973, the Prix de Lausanne is an annual international competition for young dancers aged 15 to 18 years old. Its goal is to discover, promote and support the finest talents. More than 70 of the world's most prestigious dance schools and companies, such as The Royal Ballet in London, the Paris Opera Ballet School, the Hamburg Ballet School (John Neumeier), the Princess Grace Academy in Monaco, the Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg, the Ballet Nacional Sodre in Montevideo, the Hong Kong Ballet, the San Francisco Ballet School and The Australian Ballet, are associated with the Prix de Lausanne and support its activities.

One of a kind, the Prix de Lausanne offers – for 48 years - an exceptional experience for a yearly selected group of youthful talents to nurture their skills and step towards a professional career. It is also an opportunity for dance professionals who can observe and establish contacts with the candidates