

# Education

Auditions, performances, funding, summer schools and awards

## Prix de Lausanne

The Prix de Lausanne, the international ballet competition based in Switzerland, has announced that, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 2021 Prix will now be a video edition, to be held from January 31 to February 7, 2021.

The event will require only the nine members of the jury to be present in Switzerland, and every selected candidate will be able to “demonstrate their talent and compete for a scholarship or apprenticeship via video submission and not in person in Switzerland. Classical and contemporary variations, as well as a ballet class, will be evaluated and marked separately.”

Twenty finalists will be selected and judged at the end of the week, before the announcement of the winners during the Finals on February 6. The team at the Prix de Lausanne is also working on coordinating online classes for the candidates before the competition begins. In 2021, 399 applicants from 43 countries will take part in an attempt to win one of the world’s most prestigious ballet competitions.

## ISTD appointment

Chris Hocking, the principal of ArtsEd, has been appointed the new chair to the board of trustees of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance (ISTD). He was elected to the position by the Council after the society’s 2020 AGM on November 18.

Hocking trained at the Nesta Brooking School of Ballet, and had a successful performing and choreographic career in West



End shows such as *Chicago*, *Carousel*, *The King and I*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. He has also directed and choreographed numerous pantomimes, which led to him being awarded an MA in Choreography from Middlesex University. In addition to this, Hocking has been head of Performing Arts at Centro Internazionale de Danza in Cosenza, Italy, and head of Dance at Mountview Academy of Performing Arts from 1993 to 1999. He joined ArtsEd as director of Musical Theatre and head of Dance, and was appointed principal in 2017.

## Elmhurst audition applications move online

With the city of Birmingham moving into Tier 3 of lockdown on December 2, 2020, Elmhurst Ballet School has announced it will not be holding any in-person preliminary auditions for its full-time training programmes to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus infection. This will include all audition locations – Birmingham, London, Dublin and Edinburgh. Instead, the school invites

all applicants to submit a video link as part of their application. This relates to any dancer who might already have applied, or are about to apply, for one of Elmhurst’s full-time programmes. Those who have already submitted an online application form will be contacted directly by the registrar with details of how to send a video link.

To help with this process, the deadline for video submission has been extended until 4pm on Friday, January 8, 2021. Further details of how to submit a video link, as well as the photo requirements, can be found under the apply section on Elmhurst’s website, [elmhurstballetschool.org](http://elmhurstballetschool.org).

## Fonteyn footage discovered

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) has discovered never before seen footage of former president Dame Margot Fonteyn, which is now available to view as part of a free display at London’s Victoria and Albert Museum marking the academy’s centenary. *On Point: Royal*

*Academy of Dance at 100* (see *Dancing Times*, April 2020), will be on display at the museum until September 19.

The footage, filmed in 1972 by Fonteyn’s brother Felix, is a demonstration of a ballet syllabus for children, which Dame Margot helped to create with a group of RAD teachers during her time as president. In the film, she is shown introducing the demonstration and explaining the principles behind the syllabus (pictured above). She is also heard encouraging the children in the video to “dance nicely”.

The footage remained hidden in the RAD’s archives until it was discovered recently by Eleanor Fitzpatrick, archives and records manager. The set of canisters containing reels of 16mm film were simply labelled “Children’s Syllabus”. The film would have been used as a training tool for teachers to prepare their students for the syllabus. However, due to financial reasons at the time, the RAD was never able to release the film, which explains how it remained unseen for so long. ■