



# P R I X D E L A U S A N N E

Communiqué de presse

## Kathryn Bradney Named Guest of Honor at the New York Swiss Gala: The Prix de Lausanne Celebrated in the United States

A former Principal Dancer with Maurice Béjart's Ballet Lausanne, director of the Prix de Lausanne since 2018, and a citizen of both nations, Kathryn Bradney is the perfect embodiment of the artistic and human ties between Switzerland and the United States.

**Lausanne / New York, March 11, 2026** — On **Saturday, March 14, 2026**, the **Swiss Society of New York** will hold its annual **Swiss Gala** in New York City. For this landmark evening of the Swiss-American community, the Society has named **Kathryn Bradney**, Artistic & Executive Director of the Prix de Lausanne, as its **Guest of Honor**. The Prix de Lausanne will also receive the **Fellowship Prize**, awarded annually to an organization that benefits the community — a double distinction that reflects the reach of Lausanne and Switzerland in the global dance world.

**A career that mirrors the cultural bridge she embodies.** Born in the United States and now also a Swiss citizen based in Lausanne, Kathryn Bradney first forged an exceptional international career as a **Principal Dancer with the Béjart Ballet Lausanne**, working alongside Maurice Béjart himself, before continuing as a performer, teacher, and choreographer on stages worldwide. Since **2018**, she has led the Prix de Lausanne with a mission to discover and nurture young dance talent globally. As the Swiss Society notes, she « embodies the cultural bridge between both nations and the spirit of artistic excellence that the Swiss Gala celebrates. »

**An evening at the heart of the Swiss-American connection.** Among the highlights of the Gala, a **Spotlight Performance** by Prix de Lausanne prize winners and alumni from the **American Ballet Theatre Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School**, an official artistic partner of the Prix de Lausanne — a powerful moment that illustrates the depth

of ties between the Prix and the American ballet world, and the vitality of artistic exchanges between the two countries.

**Over 50 years of ties with the United States.** Since its founding in 1973, the Prix de Lausanne has discovered and launched **more than 85 American dancers** who have gone on to join the world's greatest companies. Among them: **Julie Kent** (former Principal Dancer, ABT; now Artistic Director of Houston Ballet), **Gillian Murphy** and **Ethan Stiefel** (former Principal Dancers, ABT), **Edwaard Liang** (Artistic Director, The Washington Ballet), and **Julian MacKay** (Principal Dancer, Bavarian State Ballet). The Prix's American partner network includes leading institutions such as **American Ballet Theatre** and its **JKO School**, the **School of American Ballet**, **Joffrey Ballet**, **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, **Boston Ballet**, **San Francisco Ballet**, **Pacific Northwest Ballet**, and many more.

To sustain and grow these exchanges, the Prix de Lausanne has established its **American Friends Circle** — a growing community of U.S.-based patrons who support the competition's educational and artistic mission. Join the movement: [www.prixdelausanne.org/american-friends](http://www.prixdelausanne.org/american-friends).

"Receiving this honor from the Swiss Society of New York is a tremendous privilege — for me personally, and for the entire Prix de Lausanne team. It speaks to the strength of the bond between our two countries, and to our shared commitment to artistic excellence and the transmission of dance." — **Kathryn Bradney**, Artistic & Executive Director, Prix de Lausanne.

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*Throughout the year, the Prix de Lausanne supports the development of future dance talent through a wide range of activities, culminating in the world's most prestigious international ballet competition. Created in 1973, the competition is open to pre-professional dancers aged 15 to 18. Since its first edition, it has established itself as an unmissable annual event on the international choreographic scene.*

*Today, the Prix de Lausanne is a global benchmark in its field. Much more than just a competition, the Prix de Lausanne supports the most promising young dancers throughout the year through education, training, and support programmes.*

*A true development partner, the Prix de Lausanne offers a supportive and demanding environment conducive to the artistic and personal development of dancers. It relies on a vast network of partners who share the same ambition: to promote excellence and nurture the future of choreographic art.*

## **About the Swiss Society of New York**

Founded in 1864, the Swiss Society of New York is one of the oldest Swiss-American associations in the United States. Its annual Swiss Gala honors individuals and organizations whose achievements reflect the values of excellence that define the Swiss-American relationship. [www.swissociety.org/gala](http://www.swissociety.org/gala)