

Joan & Monica Halliday  
and  
Isobel Anderson Awards



25th & 26th  
March 2023

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# Welcome

to the Royal Academy of Dance

## Joan & Monica Halliday and Isobel Anderson Awards 2023



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2023 Joan & Monica Halliday and Isobel Anderson Awards Finals, in conjunction with the NSW Regional Advisory Panel. These Awards are a celebration of the talented and dedicated students within the New South Wales dance community. It is wonderful to be able to witness the dedication and enthusiasm of our wonderful community of dance. We are thrilled to announce that this year there were over 500 entrants in the Awards.

On behalf of the RAD I congratulate all dancers and teachers participating in the Awards and acknowledge the extraordinary dedication and effort that has gone in to preparing for today.

A warm welcome and thank you to all our generous exclusive event sponsor, Bloch Dance Australia. We appreciate your support of the RAD and the young dancers of New South Wales. To all audience members, we thank you for being here and we hope you enjoy the performances.

Aaron Bloomfield, National Director, Royal Academy of Dance Australia

# Joan & Monica Halliday OAM FRAD



Melbourne-born, Joan and Monica Halliday commenced their early ballet training with Phyllis Danaher in Brisbane. They relocated to Sydney to train at the Kirsova School of Ballet and danced with the Kirsova Ballet Company. Joan and Monica then joined the Borovansky Ballet and later Ballet Rambert for its Australian and New Zealand tour.

They established the Halliday Dance Centre in Sydney and many 'Halliday' students went on to careers with The Royal Ballet, The Australian Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and with Madrid's Nacho Duato.

In 1960 Joan and Monica sat their RAD Advanced Teacher's Diploma becoming RAD Examiners - Joan a Major examiner and Monica a Grades examiner; and they examined internationally and throughout Australia. RAD Life Members, they were awarded Fellowships of the Royal Academy of Dance in 1991, and in 1993 Joan and Monica were awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's birthday list, for services to classical dance.

In 1998 they received an Australian Dance Award for outstanding achievement in dance education.

Joan survived her beloved twin for a number of years and was Patron of the RAD New South Wales Regional Advisory Panel until 2019.

*"Isobel, Joan & Monica were so dedicated and passionate about giving students the opportunity to express their love of dance. They would be thrilled to see that their legacy is continuing today."*

Sonja Dene, Director SDDS

# Isobel Anderson FRAD



*"Students need to listen to and hear the music, and let it become part of them, because the art of being creative is so important to a dancer"*

Isobel Anderson FRAD

Isobel Anderson's early ballet training was at the Osborn School of Dance in Sydney before she commenced her RAD training at age 18 at the Frances Scully School of Dancing. In 1935 she sat all her student examinations in the Academy's first Australian examinations tour and in 1939 she achieved her RAD Advanced Teacher's Diploma.

Isobel's dance performances included a charity matinee at Sydney's Theatre Royal in December 1939 where she danced a principal role with Tamara Tchinarova, Valentin Zeglovsky and Audrae Swayne in a performance of Les Sylphides staged by Helene Kirsova, who danced with Col. De Basil's Ballet Russe.

Isobel went on to teach at the Frances Scully School of Dancing before opening her own ballet school from 1946 until 1967.

Appointed an RAD Children's Examiner in 1952 and RAD Life Member in 1980, Isobel was examiner, tutor and mentor to students and teachers alike. She chaired the RAD New South Wales Regional Advisory Panel for 25 years and was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Dance in 1986.

Isobel also had a long association with Rockdale Musical Society, appointed choreographer from 1957 until 1980.

The Isobel Anderson Awards began in her honour in 1987. Sadly Isobel passed away in 2016 aged 102.

# Adjudicators



## Susan Hill Henning LRAD ARAD

### Joan & Monica Halliday Awards

Susan's dance teaching training was at the Royal Academy of Dance in London graduating with the College Graduation Certificate and Diploma for Licentiate. An experienced teacher of 35 years teaching classical ballet to all levels from the very young beginner in the RAD Grades levels to the dedicated male and female students at the

Vocational levels. Susan is a former RAD Grades Examiner examining in Australia and internationally. In 2006 she was appointed as a RAD Faculty of Education Classical Ballet Teaching Studies CBTS tutor – Practical Teaching Supervisor and at the same time a Freelance Faculty member class teacher of RAD student courses. Susan freelance teaches in Melbourne Victoria and nationally and is also a qualified Pilates Mat Instructor specializing in the strength training of ballet technique through the Pilates method for young dancers.



## Brooke Lockett

### Isobel Anderson Awards

Growing up in country Victoria, Brooke moved to Melbourne at the age of 14 to attend the Australian Ballet School and completed her Advanced Diploma in Dance. After graduating, she was offered a contract with the Australian Ballet, where she spent 12 years as a company member and toured the world with the company.

Brooke's career highlights include performing in Graeme Murphy's "Swan Lake," where she was remembered for her role as the Duchess and the four little swans, and as Clara in Sir Peter Wright's Nutcracker. Throughout her career, she had the privilege of working with world-renowned choreographers and dancing in most of the classics, sharing the stage with some of the world's greatest artists. In addition to her successful career as a ballerina, Brooke was awarded two scholarships to further her career development abroad in Europe and America.

Throughout her dance career and beyond, Brooke has always been passionate about giving back and nurturing up-and-coming talent. She regularly mentors young aspiring dancers, showcasing her dedication to the art of ballet and her desire to pass on her knowledge and experience to future generations.



# Class Teachers



## Samantha Leeman

### Joan & Monica Halliday Awards

Samantha trained in Canberra with former RAD Examiner Ms Betty Laws and in Sydney with former Dual Examiner for the RAD Ms Prudence Bowen before traveling to London to complete her training at the Royal Ballet School. After dancing in Europe, and upon her return to Australia

Samantha commenced teaching ballet, and qualified as a RAD Registered Teacher. After several years acquiring practical teaching experience Samantha became Artistic Director of a ballet school in Perth, Western Australia. Samantha was also engaged as a Lecturer at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, teaching classical ballet, pointe, variations and pas de deux to pre-professional students. In addition to examining for the RAD Samantha is also a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Tutor. Samantha is also a tutor for the Royal Ballet School's 'Inspire' Seminars for teachers. Samantha is passionate about the development of thinking dancers who understand the 'how and why' of their artform, and the intrinsic links between technique, musicality and artistry.



## Vanessa Weyland-Smith

### Isobel Anderson Awards

Vanessa is one of the sisters in the Langshaw family. Vanessa worked as a professional dancer from 1981 to 1991 dancing in shows such as the Mo Awards, Moulin Rouge (Japan) and several major cruise lines including Princess Cruises USA and P&O Australia. She toured Australia and New

Zealand, and choreographed for numerous companies including Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Canberra Youth Ballet and Classical Ballet Centre Canberra; as well as shows including Cinderella and tours of the USA, UK, Japan and South Asia. Vanessa holds RTS with RAD; as well as Tap and Modern (Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing) and Progressing Ballet Technique qualifications. She has taught at numerous dance schools worldwide; as well as summer schools and intensives in Boston, Fort Lauderdale and Houston. Vanessa has also been a member of the RAD Regional Advisory Panel from 2008-2011; a guest teacher for RAD Awards in Western Australia; and adjudicated for several eisteddfods and competitions throughout Australia.

# Pianist



## Grant Kennedy

Grant Kennedy studied piano and pipe organ with a variety of teachers in the Hunter Valley, where he grew up in the town of Scone, and in Sydney, where he now resides. Grant has pursued dance accompaniment professionally since 2005. Since that time he has worked widely for many leading ballet teachers, local and international ballet

companies and dance associations. He has been employed as pianist on the staff of RAD Australia since 2008; a role which has seen him accompany Vocational Graded examinations including interstate tours, student and teacher workshops, scholarships and competitions. His role has also involved tutoring on music for RAD Faculty of Education programmes. His administrative responsibilities include contribution to formulation of Academy music policy, pianist recruitment, training and standardisation and collaboration on syllabus development projects. Grant works widely as a freelance accompanist for dance educators, and local and international ballet companies. He has composed music for various dance-related projects including the various levels of Marie Walton-Mahon's Progressing Ballet Technique programme.

This program is available for digital download in both original format, and in plain text enhanced for the visually impaired. Scan below to download for free.



Digital program



Plain text program



# Commissioned Choreographer



## Francesco Ventriglia

Artistic Director Sydney Choreographic Centre

Francesco is an Italian former ballet dancer with Teatro la Scala in Milan, a choreographer, and Artistic Director. In 2010 he was appointed as Europe's youngest Artistic Director, at the age of 32, by the Florence Opera House where he held

the role of Artistic Director and Principal Choreographer for MaggioDanza until 2013. In 2014 he was named Artistic Director of Royal New Zealand Ballet. He held that appointment until June 2017. From January 2018 he was Adjunct Artistic Director of the National Ballet of Uruguay.

Francesco is also a choreographer of classical and contemporary ballet, having works performed internationally by companies such as La Scala Ballet, Arena di Verona, Bolshoi Theatre, the Mariinsky Ballet, Grande Théâtre du Genève, Royal New Zealand Ballet, the National Ballet of Uruguay, and at the Venice Biennale. In 2021 Francesco established himself in Sydney and co-founded the Sydney Choreographic Centre with Neil Christopher. Sydney Choreographic Ensemble is the resident performing group of the Centre, and made its debut with the world premiere of GRIMM at Parramatta Riverside Theatres.

*"My intention during the choreographic process with the students was to open an opportunity for them to experiment with the purpose of every single movement, to find the inspiration behind the gesture and the reason that led the technique toward the recognition of themselves on stage as an artist."*

*In the work with the dancers for the Joan and Monica Halliday award, we created a solo investigating the movement in the water, or against it.*

*In the Isobel Anderson award for the Intermediate Foundation and Intermediate students we created a solo to explore the power of the 'off balance' in relation with the space and the rhythm.*

*With the students of the Advanced Foundation and Advanced 1 we worked on the velocity of the choreography combined with the use of the space, including the floor, lots of changes of directions, pushing them to find their own personal interpretation of the original material."*

# Musical Theatre Choreographers



## BJ Rorke

BJ is one of the most well known and respected choreographers/dance teachers in Australia. During his professional dance career he performed in theatre productions including: FAME the musical (Australian tour), CATS the musical (Asian tour) and several productions with Opera Australia. He was part of the TOP 6

on So You Think You Can Dance and has also danced on other TV shows including X Factor The Voice, Australia's Got Talent, Dance Boss, Dancing With The Stars and choreographed on Dance Academy.

BJ has appeared as a featured dancer in "Mao's Last Dancer" and "Goddess". He has performed with the 'Tap Dogs' as well as events such as the MTV Music Awards and the ARIA's. BJ performed with Rita Ora, Guy Sebastian, Natalie Bassingthwaite, Stan Walker, Fergie, Jessica Moubooy, Zoe Badwi, Timomatic, Ricky Martin, Tones and I and has choreographed for Anja Nissen. BJ owns 'NXTGEN Project' through which he produces theatre shows and creates exciting opportunities for some of the top young dancers across Australia and New Zealand.



## Aeysha Rorke

Aeysha Rorke trained extensively in Jazz, Ballet, Lyrical Contemporary, Tap and Hip Hop over 17 years. She then started her professional career in 2008, performing for artists such as Timomatic, Cassie Davis, Anja Nissen and Tee Telford. Aeysha has also performed at various functions and events for different entertainment companies.

Focusing on her passion for teaching and choreography, she has gained a reputation for her powerful, emotion evoking routines. Aeysha was the owner/director at A-Live Performing Arts Centre from 2012-2022 and now is the co-owner, assistant director and co-choreographer for the NXTGEN Project through which she creates theatre productions and holiday programs for kids across every state and New Zealand all year round.

Aeysha has also adjudicated at multiple competitions, in stage management for events including the Allianz Stadium opening and as an assistant director/choreographer on theatre shows including 'Machismo' and 'Music In Motion'. Her teaching specialties are Contemporary, Lyrical, Ballet and Jazz.

# Musical Theatre Performance

## About 'Trends'

A piece about 'trends'. Highlighting our habit of following what ever is new and popular. Some trends take a while to catch on, others are instant hits. We can only truly be happy once we feel the confidence to own our own individuality and embrace what we are naturally drawn to.

Choreographed and taught by BJ and Aeysha Rorke from the 'NXTGEN Project' over 2 days.

## Students Participating in Musical Theatre Group

Abbey Moore  
Alice Piccinelli  
Anna Duffy  
Cameron Lloyd  
Charlotte  
Burkinshaw  
Charlotte Tyson  
Elena Hoe  
Eliana Lee  
Eloise Jones  
Indienna Evans

Isabella Mobley  
Jessica Nunes  
Julieanne Alquiza  
Kiara Jackson  
Lexi Keall  
Lucy Earl  
Lucy Hough  
Madeleine Cammack  
Matilda Casey  
Mia Inthavong  
Miranda Danswan

Sabella Bates  
Simona  
Preshaw  
Skye Spiden  
Sophia Moriarty  
Sophie Van Eyk  
Tomas Piccinelli  
Victoria Castillo  
Willow McLeod  
Zara Iqbal



# Programme

Joan & Monica Halliday Awards  
Saturday 25th March 2023 (5.30pm)

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Grade 3 Finalists

Grade 4 Finalists

Interval (20 minutes)

Grade 5 Finalists

Guest Performances & Adjudicator Deliberation

Interval (15 minutes)

Presentation of Awards

Concluding approx. 8.30pm

Guest Performers:

Holly Robinson, The Academy and The McDonald College

Mahalia Adamson, Andrea Rowsell Academy of Dance

Ella Brownlow-Ziirsen, Alegria Dance Studios



# Programme

Isobel Anderson Awards  
Sunday 26th March 2023 (2.15pm)

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Intermediate Foundation Finalists

Intermediate Finalists

Interval (20 minutes)

Advanced Foundation Finalists

Advanced 1 Finalists

Musical Theatre Performance: Trends

Interval (15 minutes)

Presentation of Awards

Concluding approx 7.00pm



# Awards

## Joan & Monica Halliday Awards

### Grade 3

Winner: \$300, plus \$200 Bloch Voucher

Runner Up: \$150

Grade 3 Encouragement Award sponsored by Bloch: \$100

### Grade 4

Winner: \$400, plus \$200 Bloch Voucher

Runner Up: \$200

Grade 4 Encouragement Award sponsored by Bloch: \$100

### Grade 5

Winner: \$500, plus \$200 Bloch Voucher

Runner Up: \$250

Grade 5 Encouragement Award sponsored by Bloch: \$100

## Joan & Monica Halliday Award Most Outstanding Dancer

\$500

## Joan & Monica Halliday Award Commissioned Choreography Prize Winner

Sponsored by Sydney Dance Company:

A 3-day school holiday workshops for the 8-12 year old age group (valued at \$270.00), for use by end of 2024.



# Awards

## Isobel Anderson Awards

### Intermediate Foundation

Winner: \$700, plus \$200 Bloch Voucher

Runner Up: \$350

Intermediate Foundation Encouragement Award Sponsored by Bloch: \$125

### Intermediate

Winner: \$800, plus \$200 Bloch Voucher

Runner Up: \$400

Intermediate Encouragement Award sponsored by Bloch: \$150

### Advanced Foundation

Winner: \$900, plus \$200 Bloch Voucher

Runner Up: \$450

Advanced Foundation Encouragement Award sponsored by Bloch: \$175

### Advanced 1

Winner: \$1000, plus \$200 Bloch Voucher

Runner Up: \$500

Advanced 1 Encouragement Award sponsored by Bloch: \$200

### Isobel Anderson Award Most Outstanding Dancer

\$1300

### Isobel Anderson Award Commissioned Choreography Prize Winner

Sponsored by Sydney Dance Company:

A one-week Youth Intensive Placement for 12-18 years age group (valued at \$495.00) for use by end of 2024.

# Participating Studios Finalists

## Joan & Monica Halliday Awards

Ablaze Dance Academy  
Andrea Rowsell Academy of Dance  
Ballet Classique  
Dynamite Premiere Academy  
GY Dance  
Honeybrook School of Dancing  
JWDA  
L'Academie  
Lake Macquaire Dance Academy  
Performance Art Western Sydney  
Robyn Kirkland School of Dance

Serenade Ballet Academy  
Sonja Dene Dance Studios  
Stockton's Bella Ballerinas  
Studi-O Dance School  
Tanya Pearson Academy  
The Academy  
The Conlan College  
The Dance Spot  
The McDonald College  
The National College of Dance  
The Teresa Johnson Ballet School

## Isobel Anderson Awards

Ablaze Dance Academy  
Andrea Rowsell Academy of Dance  
Bergen Lavelle Classical Coaching  
Dance North Academy  
Dance Works Sydney  
Dynamite Premiere  
Extreme Dance Studios  
Joanne Grace School of Dance  
L'Academie  
Mosman Dance Academy  
National College of Dance  
Newcastle Dance Academy

Redlands Ballet & Dance Academy  
Sonja Dene Dance Studios  
Tanya Pearson Academy  
The Academy  
The Academy Australia  
The Conlon College  
The Dance Spot  
The McDonald College  
The Teresa Johnson Ballet School  
TJS Dance Academy  
Vanessa Lee Dance Academy

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# Finalists

## Joan & Monica Halliday Awards

### Grade 3

1. Annalyse Macgonigal
2. Sienna Lamb
3. Lucy Miller
4. Claire Basford
5. Lacey Dotti
6. Ava Windeisen
7. Olivia Lowry
8. Grace Thomas
9. Elsie Bolte
10. Clara Micallef
11. Liam Forsyth

### Grade 4

12. Keira Dignam
13. Wahta Handy
14. Milania Franklin
15. Jennifer Lewis
16. Olivia Van Heeswyk
17. Macey Moore
18. Orli Dureau-McMillan
19. Livinia Hamilton
20. Imogen Stephens
21. Jada Mostyn
22. Matthew Mortimer

### Grade 5

23. Florence Hanks -Ruttyn
24. Lily Tynan
25. Abigael Richards
26. Harriet Rouse
27. Audrey Baker
28. Anna Stephensen
29. Alice Gully
30. Ruby Bernardine
31. Alexandra Pupovac
32. Jaxon Hunt
33. Elih Egan



# Finalists

## Isobel Anderson Awards

### Intermediate Foundation

1. Thea Mellis
2. Mackenzie Murphy
3. Fern Cleary
4. Milly Platt
5. Madeleine Konstantakos
6. Ivy Maughan
7. Scarlett Weaver
8. Mia Cohen
9. Holly Robinson
10. Summer Hurdwell
11. Charlie Duwner

### Advanced Foundation

23. Aurelia Beal-Attwood
24. Ruby Corrie
25. Charlize Portes-Green
26. Charlotte Blow
27. Mia Perez
28. Genevieve Richmond
29. Oriel Santoso
30. Freya Wild
31. Coco Solomon
32. Aidan Brady
33. Dante Minassian

### Intermediate

12. Claudia Radojevic
13. Ella Hodgson
14. Ava Micallef
15. Tallulah Calvert
16. Rachel Collings
17. Chloe Sullivan-Harvey
18. Sophie Wilson
19. Kate Connelly
20. Bonni Bolam
21. Chelsea Morris
22. Louis Alexiou

### Advanced 1

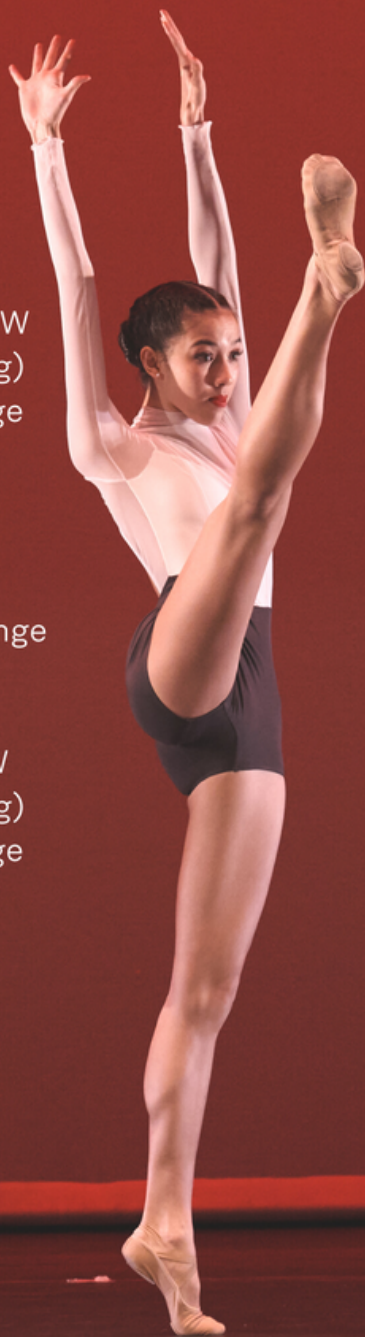
34. Taylea Rend
35. Sarah Wheatley
36. Lili Barr
37. Aliya Bernardo
38. Ashlyn McKenzie
39. Pria Lawrence
40. Pelagia Karakontis
41. Nina Lowe
43. Lucy Hu
44. Henry Burgess
45. Charlie Carberry



# ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS NSW

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 18 - 21 Apr  | Autumn Intensive NSW<br>(incl. Teacher Viewing)<br>The McDonald College |
| 21 May       | Australian Advanced<br>1 Bursary Finals                                 |
| 4 - 5 Jul    | Winter Intensive Orange<br>Colour City Dance                            |
| 25 - 28 Sept | Spring Intensive NSW<br>(incl. Teacher Viewing)<br>The McDonald College |
| TBA          | Solo Seal   |





# Acknowledgements

RAD Australia is grateful for the support of the Gold Sponsor of National Student Activities Programme, and exclusive Sponsor for the Joan & Monica Halliday and Isobel Anderson Awards in 2023

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## Donations

The Ballet Class Rose Bay, The Dance Spot, Hayley Chesser, Dannielle Vogel

## Raffle and Prize Donations

Raffle tickets are available in the foyer.

Sally Derby Pilates

THE BALLET SOCIETY

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## With special thanks to the New South Wales Regional Advisory Panel

Chairperson: Felicity Knight

Panel Members: Kylie Ann Aliferis, Sonja Dene, Shelley Sinclair, Keirstin Long, Emma-Jane Morton, Corinne Urqhart, Christine Atkinson, Klarissa Gennusa, Amelia Aliferis, Karen Rogers, Nyree Alexander, Hannah Fowler

Photography: Winkipop Media

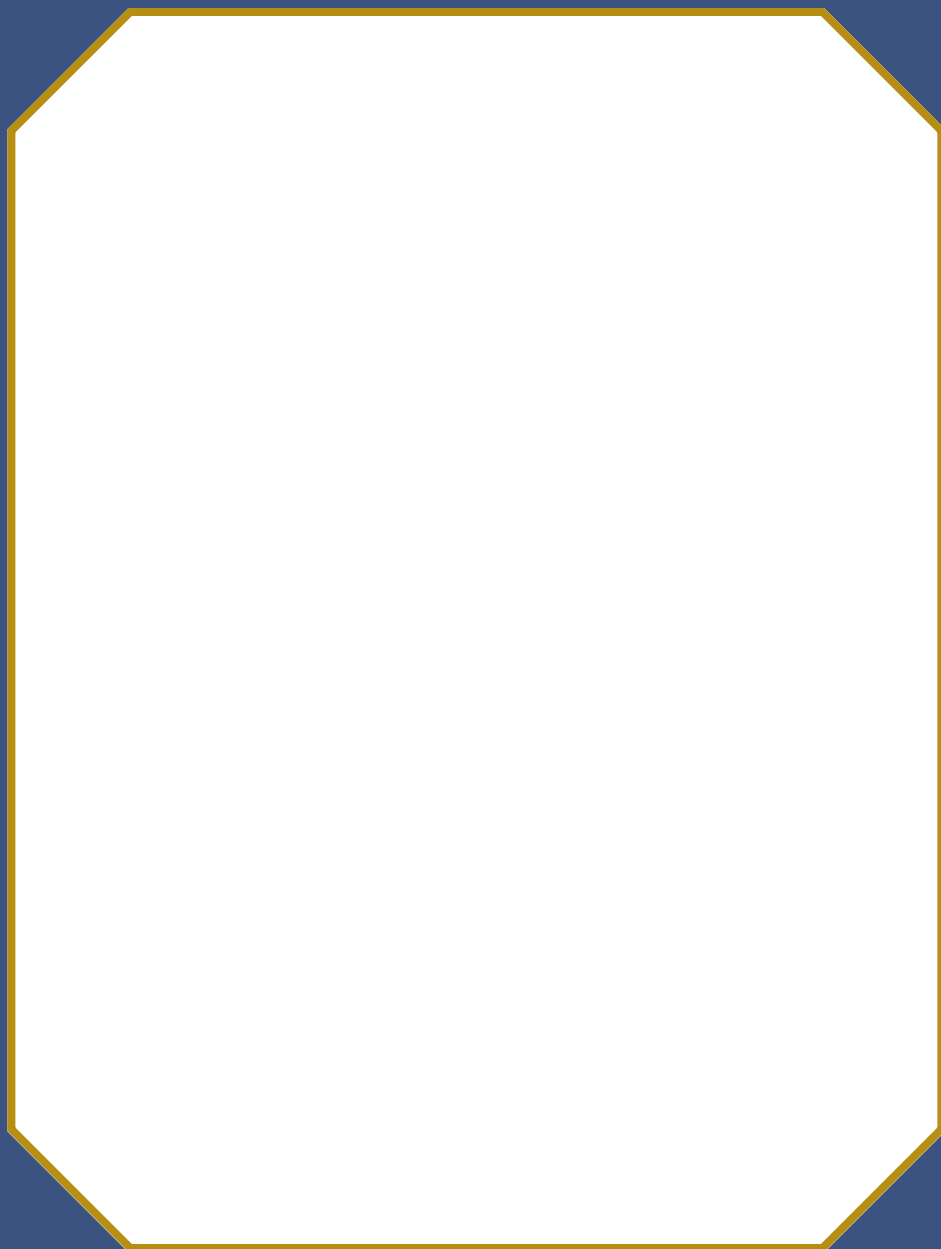
Medals: The Medal Man

Musical Theatre Presentation Venue: Sonja Dene Dance Studios

Volunteers: All who have given generously of their time in support of the Awards

This programme is correct at the time of printing but is subject to change

# Autographs





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DANCE

## RAD Australia contact details

Head of Department - Examinations and Regions

Lia Cox

e: lcox@rad.org.au

t: 0413 382 271

Regional Manager NSW & ACT

Laura Pike

e: lpike@rad.org.au

t: (02) 9380 1906

Regional Coordinator

Caitlin Halmarick

e: chalmarick@rad.org.au

t: 0401 098 106

Royal Academy of Dance

20 Farrell Avenue

Darlinghurst NSW 2010

[au.royalacademyofdance.org.au](http://au.royalacademyofdance.org.au)



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