

ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE

INSTEP

Issue 11 - November 2024



INSPIRE

Life and
Career of
Anne Rowse

A Night at
the Fonteyn

INSPIRE
Awards 2024



Welcome to the new look Instep magazine.

We hope you'll like this easy to read and turn the page magazine format. In addition to the usual regional news, we are including items of national RAD news and profiles of and reflections from several dancers – from competition winners to Silver Swans; from dancers with many years of experience behind them to those at the beginning of their careers. Thank you to Andrea for her work in redesigning and compiling the magazine.

As always, it is wonderful to see so many of our young dancers achieving on the international stage – India Shackel, now with the Paris Opera Junior Company, Samara Greig, finalist at the Fonteyn, Miguel Herrera, who is off to become an apprentice with Singapore Ballet, April Langstraat, winner of the Junior Classical at the Sydney, YAGP, Hamish Giddens, who has won preselection for the Prix de Lausanne and several more. Congratulations to you all.

Particularly moving in this Instep for me, are the stories about our more mature teachers and dancers – Glenys Scandrett, who has been awarded the QSM, Christine Gunn, who has celebrated 45 years as tutor at NZSD, Silver Swans dancers whose wellbeing has improved through ballet, and above all the wonderful Anne Rowse. Anne's story includes fascinating details about her childhood, her time with Festival Ballet and her career as a dance teacher and director of NZSD. It makes riveting reading and I'm sure you will enjoy.

Bronwyn Will

**National Director- New Zealand
Royal Academy of Dance**

IN THIS EDITION

RAD NZ News	3-4
Life and Career - Anne Rowse	5-7
Inspire Awards 2024	8-9
A night at the Fonteyn	10-11
The Fonteyn - Samara Greig	12
NZ Dancer on the world stage - India Shackel	13
Dancer Spotlight - April Langstraat - Hamish Giddens	14-15
RAD Summer School	16-17
From the Archives - Summer School	18
Train to Teach	19
Silver Swans	20-21
Regional Roundup - Auckland/Northland - Waikato/ Bay of Plenty - Manawatu/Whanganui - Wellington - Christchurch/Canterbury - Hawkes Bay - Southland/Otago	22-24 24-25 26 27 28-30 30 31

Front Cover: INSPIRE 2024 winners
From Left: Phoebe Ewington, Tamison Soppet, Amos Wards
Photo: Evan Li

RAD FACULTY OF EDUCATION NEWS



From Left, Sue Nicholls, Carole Speirs, Christine Gunn

We extend our warmest congratulations and gratitude to Sue Nicholls, Christine Gunn, Carryne Algie, Helen Calman and Tracey Theiler and Carole Speirs for their dedication and service as tutors and supervisors for the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Certificate in Ballet Teaching Studies (CBTS) programme.

As CBTS transitions to the new Certificate in Dance Teaching (CDT) programme, we were delighted to present those present at the INSPIRE Awards with a bouquet of flowers, a small gesture to acknowledge the invaluable support, knowledge, and inspiration they have offered RAD students over the years.

The transition brings exciting new developments, we are thrilled that Sue, Carryne and Tracey will continue sharing their expertise as CDT tutors, carrying forward the same passion and commitment that has inspired so many aspiring dance teachers.

Thank you, Sue, Christine, Carryne, Helen, Tracey, and Carole, for your years of dedication. Your contributions have left a lasting impact on the RAD community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTINE GUNN

In September Bronwyn Williams attended a special occasion at the New Zealand School of Dance to celebrate Christine Gunn's 45 years as a Classical Ballet Tutor and Head of Associates. Christine is also an RAD Registered Teacher and Life member.

We would like to congratulate Christine on her remarkable career at the School and also as a treasured RAD teacher.



GLENYS SCANDRETT, QSM

Life RAD Member Glenys Scandrett received a Queens Service Medal earlier this year for Services to Dance.

Glenys has been a member of the RAD for 73 years. She gained her Solo Seal examination in 1957 and was elected Associate of the Royal Academy of Dance in 1978.

Congratulations Glenys

MIGUEL HERRERA JOINING SINGAPORE BALLET 2025

Congratulations to RAD Member Miguel Herrera on His New Role with Singapore Ballet!

RAD Member Miguel Herrera, will be joining Singapore Ballet as an Apprentice in January 2025! Miguel, currently a third-year classical major at the New Zealand School of Dance, has shown exceptional talent and dedication throughout his journey, and we are thrilled to celebrate this exciting next step in his career.

In 2020, Miguel won the Alexander Grant Award at the RAD 14+ Dance Scholarship, and he has also successfully gained RAD Solo Seal.

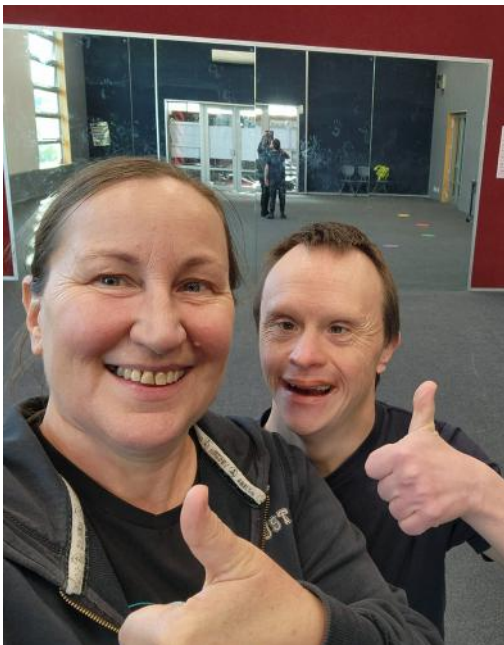
We are immensely proud of Miguel's accomplishments and wish him all the best as he embarks on this new chapter with Singapore Ballet. We can't wait to see all that his future holds!



Photo: Stephen A'Court

EXCITING COLLABORATION

RAD National Director Bronwyn Williams and WIDance Artistic Director Sumara Fraser met earlier this year to sign an MOU, marking the beginning of an inspiring partnership. Together, RAD and WIDance will present "Tiaho," a pilot project offering dance workshops in schools for students with disabilities and differ-abilities.



WIDance's mission is to foster connections, opportunities, and growth for all abilities through the power of dance. With this partnership, we're committed to providing an enjoyable and enriching creative and educational experience that enhances the wellbeing of students with disabilities and differ-abilities.

Tiaho (to shine) is the New Zealand version of the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) RADiate programme. RADiate provides subsidised, inclusive dance classes with specialised dance tutors, to children with additional learning needs. The highly successful and sought after project works with children and young people with a wide range of different abilities and takes place in both mainstream and Special Education settings in London.

In NZ, Tiaho aims to provide an enjoyable and enriching creative and educational experience that contributes to the wellbeing of students with additional learning needs.

Photo: WIDance Artistic Director Sumara Fraser with Tiaho assistant Tutor Duncan Armstrong

ABOUT

ANNE ROWSE



LIFE & CAREER

Anne Rowse, ONZM

Today we are celebrating one of our RAD nonagenarian Life Members, Anne Rowse, and her life in dance. RAD Area Organiser, Fiona Arbuckle has been chatting with Anne about her incredibly full and productive life as a dancer, teacher, director, writer, and patron of dance.

Anne started ballet in Wellington at age two and a half with Dorothy Daniels. As an only child, this was a chance to meet other children, and her mother wanted to give Anne the opportunity to dance. Anne sat her RAD Grade 1 exam in 1937 with the first ever RAD exam session held in New Zealand.

Anne states it was the magic of ballet performances which influenced her to pursue a career in dance.

Ballet Russes came to Wellington and Anne was taken to a performance in which Aurora's Wedding was on the programme. Anne was learning the Red

Riding Hood solo and saw Red Riding Hood and the Wolf perform. Anne still has this programme.

The years of studying for the major RAD exams were not all plain sailing. After failing Intermediate, it meant a two year wait before re sitting as major exams were every two years at that time. While preparing for the Advanced exam Anne's father was transferred to Nelson for two years. There was no teacher for her level so Anne's mother hired a hall where Anne could practice twice a day, sometimes with a pianist. While in Nelson, Anne played Peter Pan in a Nelson Repertory production, and there were times when Anne thought acting could be her future.

Continued over

On her return to Wellington Anne went to Victoria University, however ballet was her focus and she went to the studio for classes and practice daily. Anne's sights were set on travelling to London to study there, but the proviso was to attain Solo Seal first. Once that was achieved Anne's mother was prepared to fund her for two years overseas to achieve her goal of getting into a ballet company. If not successful Anne decided she would return home to teach ballet.

At 19 years of age Anne travelled to London and was accepted into the Sadlers Wells Ballet School on the understanding that there was no likelihood of being accepted into either of Sadlers Wells companies. She was told it was her physique which was the problem and her teachers were keen for Anne to focus on teaching.

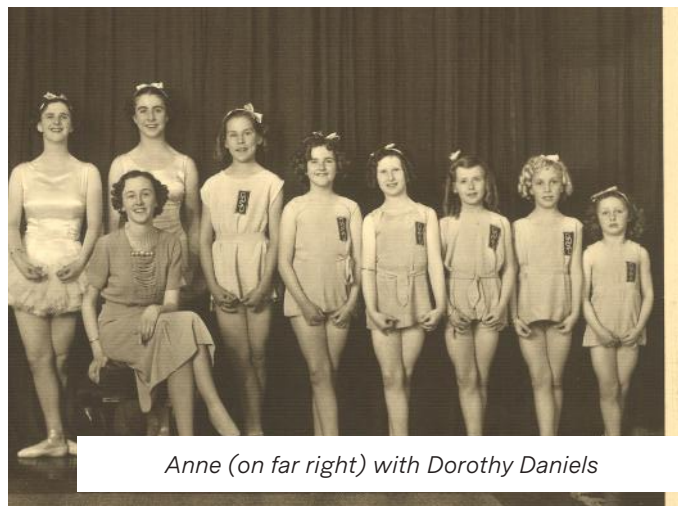
After a year at Sadlers Wells school and having refined her technique, Anne was encouraged by Kathleen Gordon and Muriel Lehmann (Director and General Secretary of the RAD) to write to and audition for Festival Ballet (Now the English National Ballet). Fortunately, Anne attended the audition and several weeks later received an invitation from the director, Julian Braunschweig, to immediately join the company which was on tour in Manchester. This was a great thrill for Anne and the start of her professional career in dance.

For the first two years with Festival Ballet, Anne toured mainly on provincial tours in England, Scotland, and Ireland. The company then began to tour more often to Europe and to Canada at the time of the Coronation of Elizabeth II. In 1954 Festival Ballet toured the United States for several months and Anne also travelled to Israel and South America on tour.

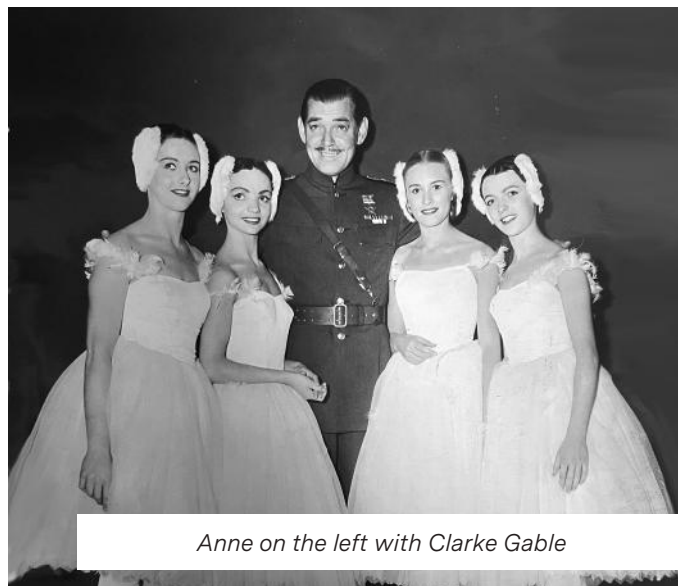
In 1955 Anne married a fellow company dancer, Ken Sudell, who specialised in character roles. Anne was promoted to soloist after 5 years and states modestly that it was really a recognition of her seniority in the company. Anne's favourite ballets were Les Sylphides and Giselle and being given the opportunity to be one of the white girls in Harald Lander's Etudes was a highlight.

Another highlight in Anne's first year with Festival Ballet was being involved in the film, Never Let me Go, starring Gene Tierney and Clark Gable. The story was about the love between a Russian Ballerina and an American. Excerpts from Swan Lake Act 11 were filmed and one of the soloists, Daphne Dale, was the stand-in for Tierney in the performance scenes.

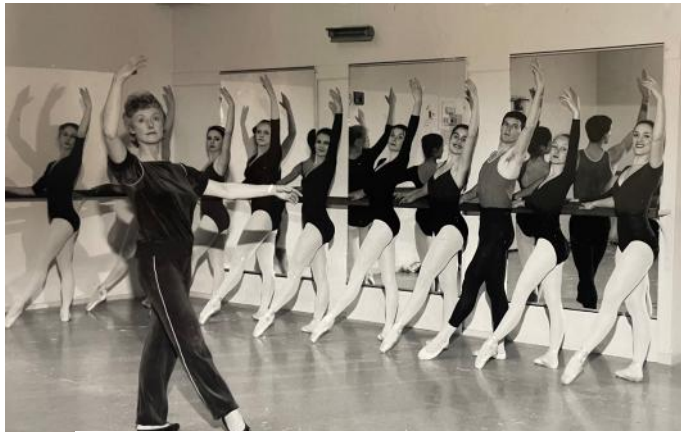
After 8 years with Festival Ballet, Anne returned to Wellington to take up a ballet teaching position with her former teacher Dorothy Daniels, and Ken joined her the following year.



Anne (on far right) with Dorothy Daniels



Anne on the left with Clarke Gable



Anne teaching at the New Zealand School of Dance



Anne receiving her RAD Presidents Award in 2021

During this period Anne achieved the RAD Advanced Teachers Certificate and prepared many students for their RAD exams. Anne became National Director of The National Ballet School from 1978 until 1993. Under Anne's leadership in 1982 the national training institute introduced a contemporary dance programme which included a change of name to The New Zealand School of Dance.

Highlights from this position included seeing graduates from the school go on to have successful careers in their chosen field. For some that would be the dance world but for others, they may have taken a different path. Anne always believed that dance training provided students with skills invaluable outside of dance.

After retiring from the NZ School of Dance Anne was appointed the RAD Overseas Representative for Australasia. Anne felt privileged to attend the RAD Annual General Meeting in London during this period.

In the 2001 Queens Birthday Honours, Anne was appointed an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit, for services to ballet and dance. Anne became the Patron of the RAD 14+ Dance Scholarship Foundation in 2012. In 2021 Anne was presented with the RAD Presidents Award. This is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the RAD and the wider community.

In 2013 Anne and Jennifer Shennan co-edited an account of the history of the Royal NZ Ballet titled the RNZB at 60. Currently, Anne is assisting Jennifer Shennan with research into dance teachers in New Zealand. Together with Peter Boyes, the team are also hoping to edit a book on Russell Kerr's memoirs.

Intrigued at how Anne stays so spritely, Fiona asked what her secret is. Anne is active and involved in many interests. Feldenkrais movement sessions and walking keep Anne physically fit. Anne is in a writing group, a French speaking group and went back to Victoria University to complete her unfinished degree from all those years ago, even using the credits earned in her late teens. She completed a BA Honours in French in 2001.

Congratulations to Anne on an accomplished career and ongoing interest in the dance world. We are privileged to have your involvement in the RAD and you are an inspiration to all generations.

Fiona Arbuckle



NZSD guest performers Miguel Herrera and Lyn Lin



INSPIRE AWARDS finalists



14+ Dance Scholarship Trustees (absent John Linkhorn)



INSPIRE winners from L Phoebe Ewington, Tamison Soppet, Amos Wards



INSPIRE candidates with Judges Ty King-Wall and Mayu Tanigaito

INSPIRE

AWARDS 2025

On Sunday 8 September, the 14+ Dance Scholarship Foundation's biennial event, INSPIRE, celebrated the exceptional talent of 33 dancers from across the country. With over \$21,000 in scholarships awarded, the event was a vibrant display of dedication and artistry in dance.

Distinguished judges, Ty King-Wall, Artistic Director of the Royal New Zealand Ballet, and Mayu Tanigaito, Principal Dancer with the Royal New Zealand Ballet, lent their expertise and discerning eye to identify the standout performers from an impressive group of candidates.

Following a series of captivating performances, 11 finalists were selected, each showcasing remarkable skill and passion. The top awards went to:

INSPIRE Award: Tamison Soppet from Convergence Dance Studios, was awarded \$8,000 and a beautiful necklace donated by Wellington Jewellers Tory and Ko

Elvira Macrae Award: Phoebe Ewington from Chilton Ballet Academy, was awarded \$6,000

Sir Jon Trimmer Award: Amos Wards from Chilton Ballet Academy, was awarded \$4,000

Additionally, each of the remaining finalists were awarded the Gloria Macrae Finalists Award of \$500 in recognition of their outstanding performances and commitment.

Hamish Giddens - Convergence Dance Studio
Benji Groen - Mainly Dance Studios
Tallulah Palmer-O'Brien - Mt Eden Ballet Academy
Sabrina Lui - Mt Eden Ballet Academy
Harriet Ensor - Convergence Dance Studios
Wendy Tian - Mt Eden Ballet Academy
April Langstraat - Mary Rodgers Dance Academy
Amelia Maguire - Chilton Ballet Academy

INSPIRE was not just a showcase of talent, but also a testament to the supportive and encouraging spirit of the dance community. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the participants and awardees for making this event truly memorable and inspiring.

It was such a pleasure to welcome back Miguel Herrera and Lyn Lin as guest performers. Both Miguel and Lyn have been award winners at previous INSPIRE (14+) events—Miguel receiving the Alexander Grant Award in 2020, and Lyn winning the 14+ Dance Scholarship in 2022. They performed the stunning Spanish divertissement from Swan Lake, Act III, and it was truly a joy to watch!

We would also like to express our gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their support:

Guest Tutor: Amber Scott

Judges: Ty King-Wall and Mayu Tanigaito

Sponsors and Supporters:

The Royal Academy of Dance, Pub Charity, Whittakers, Dance Stop, Royal New Zealand Ballet, New Zealand School of Dance, Tory and Ko

Teachers, Coaches, Parents, and Support Crews

Without the generous contributions of our donors, this event would not be possible. If you would like to support the foundation and help us continue to foster talent in the dance community, please email us at office@rad.org.nz.

A NIGHT AT THE FONTEYN

The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition Final, His Majesty's Theatre, London

Earlier this year, TORY & KO. Jewellers, co-founded by Victoria Taylor (designer, jeweller, and gemologist) and Kirstin O'Brien (a second-generation jeweller), had the honor of collaborating with the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) to design a bespoke jewellery piece for the winner of the prestigious Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition. Held at His Majesty's Theatre in London on 8 September 2024, this event was a celebration of ballet's finest young talents.

Reflecting on this special occasion, Kirstin O'Brien shares her London ballet experience...

"Our collaboration with the RAD stemmed from my deep love of ballet, having been a dancer and ballet teacher myself, and our earlier work with the Royal Academy of Dance in 2012, when we created a stunning tiara for the Genée International Ballet Competition in Wellington. Victoria designed that piece, which was awarded on stage to Ariana Hond, winner of the Silver Medal and Audience Award Prize.

Over the years, I developed a connection with Luke Rittner, the former CEO of RAD, who visited our boutique in New Zealand to view our jewellery. More recently, we rekindled talks with Tim Arthur, the current CEO of RAD, and former Artistic Director Gerard Charles. Our discussions led to the idea of creating a unique Gold Medal Award for the winner of The Fonteyn, a piece that needed to embody elegance, tradition, and inclusivity.

Victoria's design was inspired by the 'étoile' and the circular pearls of the RAD's official crest. After thoughtful collaboration via Zoom and email, we crafted a pendant/brooch featuring a sparkling moissanite set within a star motif, surrounded by a circular emblem.

The result is a timeless piece that can be worn by both male and female recipients, reflecting the spirit of excellence in dance.

On the eve of the Final, I personally delivered the completed award to the RAD headquarters. It was a privilege to see the finalists rehearsing and to reunite with former Artistic Director Lynn Wallis OBE. A tour of the RAD's stunning new studio spaces, adorned with archival images of Dame Margot Fonteyn and a glimpse of her pointe shoes, was a fitting prelude to the night ahead.

The evening of the Final was truly magical. Stepping out of a black London cab outside His Majesty's Theatre, I felt a rush of excitement. The elegant crowd mingled in anticipation as we entered the grand venue. Inside, I had the pleasure of meeting fellow sponsors, including Georgina Robbins, over a celebratory glass of champagne before taking our seats in the Dress Circle.

As the lights dimmed, RAD Artistic Director, Alexander Campbell set the stage for an unforgettable showcase of talent and creativity. The performances were a testament to the dancers' musicality, technique, and artistry, making the judges' task particularly challenging. Esteemed members of the panel included RAD President Dame Darcey Bussell DBE; Alessandra Ferri OMRI (former principal dancer of the Royal Ballet, The American Ballet Company and Artistic Director Designate of the Wiener Staatsballett); and Director of the Royal Ballet Kevin O'Hare CBE

When the winners were announced, it was a moment of joy and pride. Double Bronze Medalists Alfie-Lee Hall (UK) and Ernesto Young (Australia) received their honors, with Young also taking



Kirstin with RAD Artistic Director Alexander Campbell



Fonteyn Gold Medal winner Antonia Maria Cramb



Gold Medal Pendant designed by Tory & Ko

home the Dancer's Own Choreographic Award. Silver Medalist Lydia Hough (UK) won the Audience Choice Award, while the Musicality Award was presented to Christie Anderson (UK). Finally, Antonia Maria Cramb (UK) was named the Gold Medal winner. She was visibly elated as she received the TORY & KO. Gold Medal Pendant/Brooch from Dame Darcey Bussell.

Tim Arthur's closing remarks were both heartfelt and inspiring. He expressed gratitude to all those involved in making the event a success and surprised me with a special mention of TORY & KO's contribution.

Following the Final, the judges, sponsors, and RAD guests gathered outside the theatre, where I had the pleasure of meeting last year's Gold Medalist, Jakob Wheway-Hughes, and congratulated him on his continued success. Later, we headed to 116 Pall Mall for the Post-Final Reception. The stunning Georgian venue, with its magnificent staircase and historic chandelier donated by King George IV, provided a grand setting to celebrate the evening's achievements.

Meeting Antonia Maria Cramb in person, as she proudly displayed her Gold Medal Pendant/Brooch, was a highlight of the reception. I also had the honor of meeting Alexander Campbell, who suggested we commemorate the evening with a photo: TORY & KO., the New Zealand jewellers, alongside the Gold Medalist.

It was a night of spectacular performances, rekindled connections, and new friendships—a dream come true for a ballet lover. “

Footnote: Gold Medal winner Antonia Maria Cramb has been accepted as an Artist with the Scottish Ballet and will be performing with the Royal New Zealand Ballet in Wellington next March. Kirstin and Victoria eagerly look forward to welcoming her to their Wellington boutique.

Inspired by the 'étoile' and the circular pearls on the RAD's crest, TORY & KO. Jewellers created a stunning Gold Medal Pendant/Brooch, symbolizing excellence and artistry in ballet.

Samara Greig

RAMBERT SCHOOL

Samara Greig is a second year student at Rambert School, London and formally a student at Mount Eden Ballet Academy. Samara was a finalist at the 2022 14+ Dance Scholarship Awards.

In September 2024, she was one of the 12 dancers who made it to the finals of The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition. She recently spoke about her training at Rambert School for their social media, reaching the finals of one of the world's most prestigious dance events, and her goals for the future...

Tell us about yourself and your background?

I am from Auckland, New Zealand and dance has always been my passion. I have been lucky to train and perform regularly in solos and troupes for ballet, jazz and contemporary through my dance school, Mount Eden Ballet Academy. In January 2024, I moved to London to start my pre-professional training at Rambert School.

How do you feel about reaching the finals of The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition 2024?

I was so thrilled to reach the finals of the Fonteyn 2024. It was such an honour to dance for the prestigious Dame Darcey Bussell, Alessandra Ferri and Jose Alves in the semi-finals. It was even more of an honour to have been selected by them from 63 competitors as a finalist. It was an incredible experience. The coaching I received from the tutors throughout the week was invaluable. The highlight would have to be performing at His Majesty's Theatre in the West End in front of a fantastic and supportive audience. As finalists, we were given the opportunity to perform a commissioned variation by Andrew McNicol. This was a great insight into professional life and how company dancers learn choreography. Another highlight was how much support I received from students at Rambert School. Many of them tuned into the livestream and cheered me on with supportive messages, which motivated me to dance even better. It was a true testament to how much Rambert School is like a family.



Photos: Supplied

[Click here to read the full article](#)

India Shackel

PARIS OPERA BALLET

Wellington, RAD Dancer, India Shackel is currently experiencing a once in a lifetime experience after signing a two year contract with the newly created Junior Ballet company with Paris Opera Ballet.

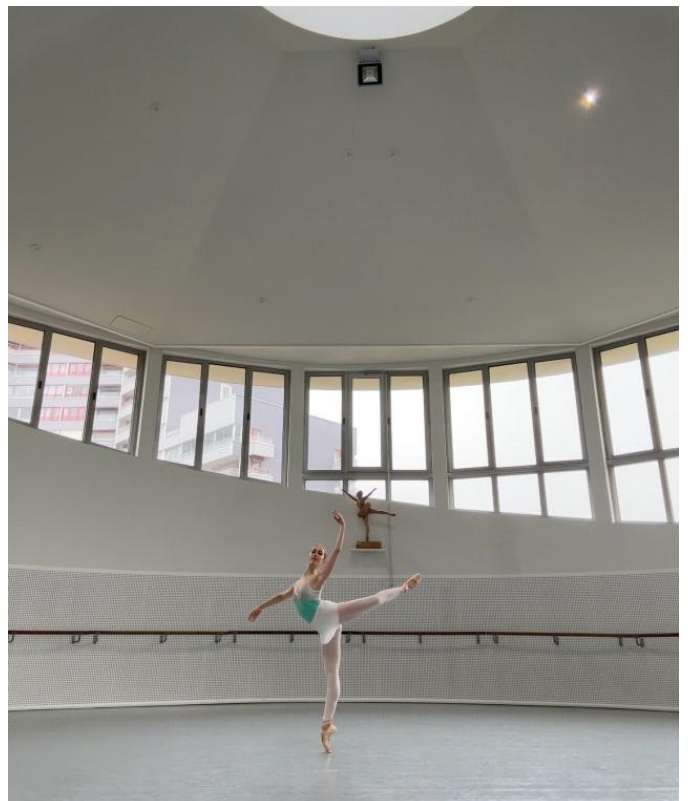
Successfully auditioning against 170+ dancers from across the globe, this is an incredible achievement and very much deserved. India has been with Fiona Haines Dance Academy training in the RAD syllabus since the age of 3 all the way to achieving Distinction in Advanced 2; going on to full time training at the NZ School of Dance and Australian Ballet School.

We reached out to India to ask how things are going for her in Paris.

My first two months here at the Paris Opera Ballet have been incredibly surreal and exciting, and have gone so fast! We got straight to work after beginning our season at the end of August, and since then, have learnt many different pieces of repertoire including Balanchine, Nureyev, Bejart, to name a few. Dancing in the beautiful studios of the Opera Garnier is incredible and I have been relishing the opportunities that we get to take class with the main company and be surrounded by so many of the worlds ballet stars of today.

One of the many highlights for me so far, would definitely have to be my first performance with the Paris Opera and first time on the stage of the beautiful Opera Garnier, for the iconic défilé du ballet, which the Paris Opera does every year to open the season. I am loving soaking up everything that the ballet masters and tutors here have to give, as well as adjusting to life as a professional ballet dancer.

There is a lot to look forward to this coming season, including multiple overseas tours and getting to be a part of La Belle au Bois Dormant (Sleeping Beauty) with the main company beginning in January. Every day here brings exciting new opportunities as well as challenges to push me in different ways, and I feel so grateful to be here at the Paris Opera Ballet doing what I love every day and living my dream.



Photos: Supplied

April Langstraat

MARY RODGERS DANCE ACADEMY



This October, I had the privilege of participating in YAGP Sydney, Australia. During the week, I had the opportunity to perform on stage and take classes with a wonderful variety of world class teachers. In the first Classical class of the week, we were taught by the YAGP Assistant Artistic Director, Natalia Bashkatova, former Principal Dancer with the Bolshoi Ballet.

I very much enjoyed the style of her class and appreciated all the wisdom she was able to share with us. I found her incredibly inspiring and took away so much knowledge for the future. This was definitely one of the highlights from my week. All of the different teachers at YAGP had such a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. I felt challenged, but encouraged all at the same time. As the week progressed, I was also lucky enough to be selected to attend the Scholarship Masterclass, where students are given the opportunity to receive scholarships from ballet schools all around the world.

Of course, the most exciting part of the week was being able to perform my two Classical variations and Contemporary solo on stage in front of the panel of judges. From there I was selected to go through to the Final round where I had the opportunity to perform one of my Classical variations chosen by the Judges. In the Final Awards Ceremony, I was so incredibly grateful to be awarded 1st place in the Sydney YAGP Junior Women's Classical and 3rd place in the Junior Women's Contemporary.

Thank you to YAGP for such a wonderful week of classes and the opportunity to perform in Sydney. It was an experience I will never forget. Thank you so much to Medhi Ballet Coach for all the coaching leading up to this event, and preparing me so well. Also a huge thank you to my dance school Mary Rodgers Dance Academy for all my ballet training over the last 10 years and your amazing support of me as a dancer.

April Langstraat

Hamish Giddens

CONVERGENCE DANCE STUDIOS



Hamish Giddens from Convergence Dance Studios in Christchurch has had an extremely busy and successful 2024 packed with remarkable achievements. Alongside balancing school and swimming, which he holds many national titles for, Hamish is pursuing his dream of becoming a dancer - proving hard work, perseverance and dedication really do pay off.

Hamish competed at INSPIRE 2024 in September gaining a Gloria Macrae Finalists Award. In late September Hamish won the South Pacific preselection for the prestigious Prix de Lausanne in Macau where he will now compete in 2025. Hamish then flew directly to Australia to compete in the Sydney YAGP Semi Finals where he claimed 1st place in the Senior Men's Division.

Recently Hamish traveled to Palmerston North to represent Convergence Dance Studios in the National Young Performer Award, both in the troupe and Classical Ballet solo categories.

The troupe placed 4th and received a Presidential Award, while Hamish took home the top spot in the Classical Ballet Solo Division.

This year also brought him to the Royal Ballet Summer Intensive, where he trained under some of the industry's finest, enhancing both his technique and passion for dance. His commitment and growth earned him direct entry into the 2025 Royal Ballet Summer Intensive—a testament to his talent and potential.

Hamish's incredible journey so far has not only highlighted his abilities but also opened new doors and expanded his horizons.

We are excited to watch his inspiring journey unfold and see where his dedication to dance will lead him!

Hayley Watts

MEET THE TUTORS



Ty King-Wall
RNZB Artistic Director
Vocational (adv) Master Class



Alexander Campbell
RAD Artistic Director
Vocational/Grades 4-5 Master Class



Julie Fleming
Vocational / Grades
Syllabus Insights, Exam prep



Tanemahuta Gray
Vocational
Creative



Sarah Fitzsimons
Vocational
Ballet / Dance Conditioning



Emma Maddock
Vocational
Contemporary/Jazz



Chantelle Scoon
Grades
Musical Theatre



Vivencio (Jun) Samblaceno
Vocational
Dance Conditioning



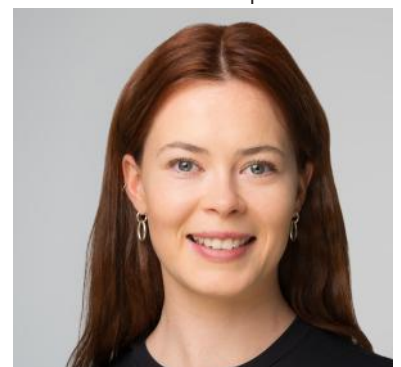
Kathryn Crawford
Grades - Ballet
Vocational - Répertoire



Braedyn Togi
Grades
Hip Hop



Jordana Arnold (RNZB)
Grades
Repertoire/Creative



Neve Pierce (RNZB)
Grades
Repertoire/Creative

SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

We have a range of dance styles on offer and our tutors are highly qualified and experienced. All our tutors have had distinguished professional careers either as dancers, teachers or both. Summer Schools are a great opportunity to learn new things, make new friends and to learn from each other while having fun. We look forward to welcoming you to Wellington in January.



GRADES

13 - 17 January 2025

For students 8-12 in RAD grades 3-5 or equivalent. Students sitting Grade 2 in 2024 are eligible.

Classes include:

Ballet, Répertoire, Musical Theatre, Hip Hop, Creative with RNZB, Exam preparation*, Ballet class with Alexander Campbell*, Visit to RNZB

* Grade 4 -5 Class



VOCATIONAL

13 - 18 January 2025

For students 11+ in RAD Intermediate Foundation – Advanced 2 or equivalent

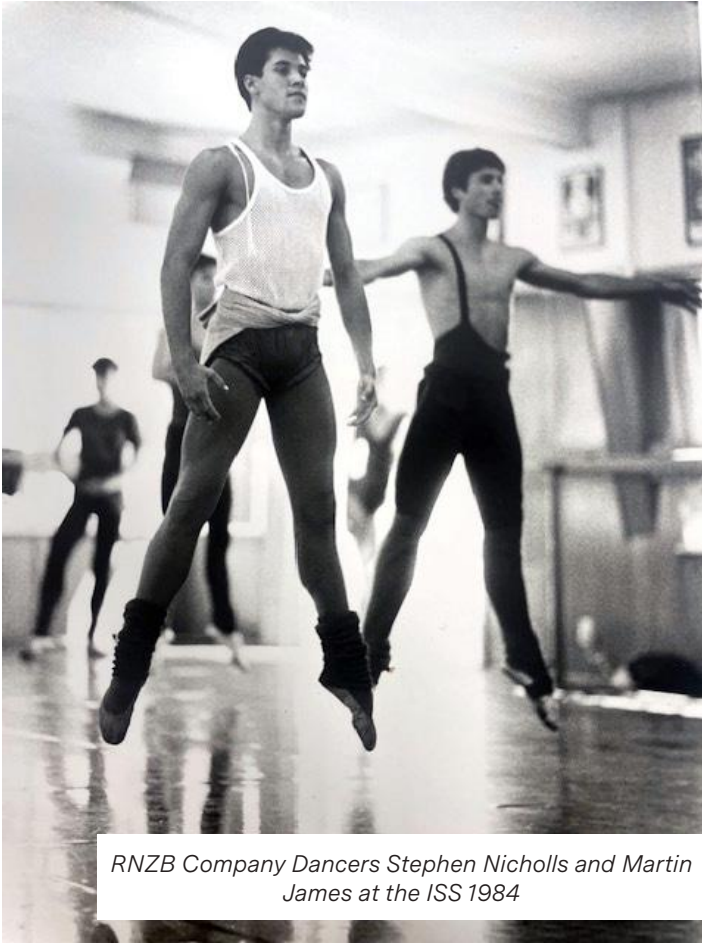
Classes include:

Ballet, Répertoire, Jazz, Contemporary, Creative, Ballet Masterclass with Ty-King Wall, Ballet Masterclass with Alexander Campbell, Syllabus Insights, Dance Conditioning

[Click here to register](#)

Registration forms and draft timetables and more information can be found at our website

FROM THE ARCHIVES - Summer School



RNZB Company Dancers Stephen Nicholls and Martin James at the ISS 1984



ISS 1994 students dancing in Civic Square, Wellington



ISS 1989 visit from Jayne Torville and Christopher Dean



Teachers at the ISS 2004 Wellington

Meet Evita Anderson who has been accepted into the RAD Certificate in Dance Teaching (Ballet) programme in 2025 and Amanda Williams who is reaching the end of her CBTS training. Both have agreed to share their RAD journeys, inspirations and dreams for themselves and their future students.



Evita Anderson **Valerie Lissette School of Dance** **Hamilton**

Dancing has been a major part of my life for the past 15 years. I started off focusing mainly on ballet, but over the years I have also trained in contemporary, jazz, lyrical and musical theatre. I've been trained under many well known teachers across NZ, including RAD RTS and CBTS graduate Sinead Sambells, RAD Life registered teacher Valerie Lissette and Ex RNZB principal dancer Katie Hurst-Saxton.

In 2016, I was presented with the opportunity to serve as an assistant teacher. This year, I embraced the challenge of teaching independently for the first time. At times, it has been somewhat nerve racking; however I have discovered it to be an immensely rewarding experience. The opportunity to impart my extensive

knowledge and to develop choreography for my students has been immensely fulfilling.

Witnessing their progress and growth as dancers has brought me great joy. Ultimately my goal as a dance teacher is to create a supportive and nurturing environment where students feel empowered to express themselves creatively and push themselves to achieve their goals.

I want to instill in them a love and appreciation for dance that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. I hope to inspire the next generation of dancers to find the intense joy and extreme passion in dance, just as I did.

Photo: Evita Anderson, by Keith Maynard of Shifting Light Photography

Amanda Williams **The Academy Dance Studios** **Papamoa**

My journey in dance began at 4 years old, rooted in a passion for movement and self-expression. Over the years, I have developed my skills through proficient training from numerous teachers and professionals including dance conventions and New Zealand School of Dance's Winter Schools. I was able to get lots of performance experience at our annual end of year shows gaining a good understanding of the behind the scenes of big productions.

I had considered teaching many times throughout my dancing career, but made the decision at the end of my last year of schooling when I realized I couldn't leave the dance world behind. I then enrolled in the RAD Certificate in Ballet Teaching Studies (CBTS) program. This qualification has broadened my understanding of pedagogy and given me the tools to teach with both precision and creativity. Through the program, I've gained valuable insight into how to nurture students' technical skills while fostering their love for the art form.

My time in RAD Registered Teacher Hannah Robson's classes and the mentorship of Life-Registered teacher Gillian Moore has further strengthened my teaching abilities greatly. Gillian's mentorship has helped me refine my technical teaching and build confidence in my professional growth. Combining the RAD's teachings with the mentorship I've received, I've become more equipped to inspire and guide students on their own dance journeys. Looking ahead, I am excited to continue evolving as both a dancer and an instructor, aiming to contribute to the dance community by sharing knowledge, passion, and the joy of movement.



SILVER SWANS

During the Covid lockdown of 2020 I found myself scrolling through the internet - like millions of others around the world. I logged onto the RAD website and discovered Silver Swans. What a revelation. I had no idea there was even a concept that older people could dance.

I found the idea of being able to dance again intriguing but it took me a year to pluck up the courage to contact my local teacher, Dianne Wallace. As I had studied Ballet in my childhood until the age of 19 she suggested that I would feel more comfortable if I joined the Adult Class rather than the Silver Swans Class.

Accordingly, it was with great trepidation that I arrived at a Ballet class for the first time in 50 years. I instantly feel in love with the challenging syllabus of Discovering Repertoire Level 3. The joy of dancing again washed over me, but the body acted differently to that which I had left behind in my childhood. Tendons that did not want to stretch, feet that preferred to cramp up for the first 6 months, my balance was appalling, my core strength was non-existent, posture was sloppy after half a century of using a keyboard and computer and my level of fitness was minimal. What a basket case – but I loved it.

With careful, gentle teaching, Dianne was able to coax my old bones and muscles into life. It was so exhilarating. We are a small class and come in all ages, shapes, sizes and weights, but the one thing we all have in common is the enjoyment of dancing and we can often be found laughing at our own mistakes. While each one of us strives to improve our work, it is a relaxed atmosphere with no pressure – a lovely bunch of ladies.

Due to my age, I have always ensured that I warm up before class and cool down again slowly afterwards. By listening to my own body and under Dianne's careful instructions I have suffered no injuries over the last 3 years – just sore muscles as my body rediscovered their existence.

A bonus to my new passion has been an improvement in my health. Tendons now stretch, feet seldom cramp up, balance is vastly improved, fitness is much, much better and I now walk taller in my day to day life.

Remembering a completely new style of syllabus has been mentally challenging and taken a lot of effort but as a result I am now more mentally alert than I was. So not only have I rediscovered my passion for Ballet but I have the bonus of improved health in my retirement. Age is no longer a barrier. I enjoy challenging myself, so when it was suggested to me that I could sit the class award I took a big breath and said yes. Well, what did I have to lose?

Silver Swans and Adult Ballet has been a revelation; it just makes my heart sing. For anyone considering Ballet in their later years, thanks to the RAD you too can do it. It is so much fun and well worth every ache and pain and the bonus appears to be improved physical and mental health. Win, win.

Donna Gainsford



Donna with other participants at the RAD Silver Swans workshop in Auckland in September

COMING FULL CIRCLE AT AGED 71 YEARS

On Sunday 6 October 2024 I joined with several keen Silver Swans and ex dancers in Christchurch in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD). My Pilates teacher and ex RAD ballet dancer Juliet Saunders who facilitated the day had suggested I may like participating.

I then reflected on my two years of ballet dancing in Invercargill as a ten old in 1963/4. I googled my teacher, Lily Stevens (1909 – 1992), and was surprised to read about her stunning career. In 1923, then aged 14 years and with no classical ballet training, she began teaching dances she made up. In 1926 she watched Anna Pavlova perform and subsequently moved to Wellington, then Sydney to train as a RAD teacher.

'Miss Stevens' as I knew her, choreographed large productions annually for which she often wrote both words and music. In 1932 (aged 23 years) she produced "Wings" to celebrate Kingsford Smith crossing of the Tasman.

In 1937 Miss Stevens advertised that she was preparing students for the first RAD examinations in NZ. For the next 50 years she taught thousands of girls in Otago and Southland, travelling weekly to Invercargill. Miss Stevens retired in 1980 (aged 71) and in 1982 she was awarded the QSM for her contribution to dance.

I didn't pursue dance as a child but when living back in NZ in 1978 I attended a weekly jazz ballet class with Deidre Tarrant in Cuba Street, Wellington. Later moving to Christchurch, I attended classes at the Canterbury Ballet with owner Taisia Missevitch and in 1984 passed Grade

1 and 2 NZ Association of Modern Dance (with honours!).

Over the last 15 years doing regular Pilates with 2 ex ballet dancers has helped keep me fit, with a strong core which helped my recovery from breast cancer major surgery 12 months ago. In fact I was told off by a charge nurse for walking up and down the ward corridor too fast and my little walker with 4 drains hanging off it was taken off me!

I really enjoyed the 6 October workshop day, especially learning the Romeo and Juliet Courtiers' dance plus talking with other participants and dance instructors. What the day taught me is that my brain doesn't always coordinate with my arms and legs and vice versa! Also my balance is not great at times due a botched hip replacement nearly 9 years ago leaving me with a leg length discrepancy of around 17mm. Over the last 3 and half years I battled with ACC and finally in August this year won my case in court for 2 surgery treatment injuries. (If interested Google Herald article: 'Woman left with one leg shorter after hip surgery, takes on ACC by herself and wins' by Tracy Neal, 27 August 2024.)

Moving forward I am going to look at joining Silver Swans for both fun, discipline and conditioning benefits. So thank you very much for an enjoyable day Juliet, Shaun, Bronwyn, Sharon, Celia and Amy and others. I look forward to doing it all again next October and am already encouraging others to join.

Susan Peake



RAD Silver Swans workshop in Christchurch in October



Susan Peake with RNZB dancer Shaun James Kelly at the RAD Silver Swans workshop in Christchurch

AUCKLAND CALEDONIAN DANCING SOCIETY 2024



Peacocke Dance Trust Ballet Award winners



Josephine Elizabeth Variation Award winners



Shyla Deegan

2024 saw the Auckland Caledonian Dancing Society (ACDS) celebrate its 75th year with another successful competition.

With a new venue- the Bruce Ritchie Performing Arts Centre (Massey High School), and held over 9 days, a total of approximately 1300 entries were received across tap, jazz and ballet from throughout New Zealand.

Dancers, aged between 4 and 18 years, showcased their skills and passion to the highest level making the job extremely difficult for the international adjudicators- Sam Marks (Tap), Symiko De Van der Schueren (Jazz), Lisa-Marie Callum (Ballet- and a former winner of the ACDS top ballet award). On the final night the competition culminated with a gala showcase, which celebrated many of the winners across the genres and the final round of the coveted ballet award.

ACDS is extremely grateful for all its sponsors who help us deliver on our objective to foster and encourage young dance talent to develop to its full potential. We would especially like to thank our major sponsors and celebrate the 2024 winners: The RAD is pleased to be one of the organisations to offer a Scholarship for its Summer School in 2025

Peacocke Dance Trust Ballet Award

1st place- Sienna Going

2nd Place- Sabrina Liu

3rd Place- Ophelia Grimshaw-Jones

Josephine Elizabeth Variation Award

1st Place- Tallulah Palmer-O'Brien

2nd Place- Jessica Ding

3rd Place- Kieran Fish

Valerie Murray QSM Junior Variation and RAD Scholarship Shyla Deegan

Photos: Beth Maskey Photography

WE DANCE



Annie Li, from WE Dance School on Auckland's North Shore, recently competed in the YAGP Sydney semi-finals. Annie reached the top 12 in both the classical and contemporary divisions in the Pre-Competitive age group and placed 3rd overall in the classical competition. Annie received scholarships to Elmhurst Ballet School and the Australian Ballet School.

HOWICK DANCE



Howick Dance are studying different ballets, Students were given a stage template and backdrops and they went ahead and made their own.

Photo: Sharon Barber

STUDIO 246

We have had some amazing success recently at our school and are very proud of all of our dancers.

Here are some of our recent results at the Auckland Caledonians and the Sydney Youth Grand Prix



Jessica Ding

- Caledonians
- 2nd Place Josephine Elizabeth Award
- MEBA Future Dancer Scholarship
- YGP Sydney
- YGP Finalist
- Alberta Ballet Full Year Scholarship
- San Francisco Short Term Scholarship
- Elmhurst Ballet Summer School Scholarship



Kieran Fish

- Caledonians
- 3rd Place Josephine Elizabeth Award
- Tanya Pearson Memorial Award
- Tanya Pearson Summer & Winter School Scholarship

Photos: Beth Maskery Photography

DEVONPORT SCHOOL OF DANCE



Devonport School of Dance Silver Swans have been enjoying classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Many are also performing in our upcoming show 'Story of the Dancing Toys' on Sunday 10th November at The Bruce Mason Centre.

Photo: Emily Summerville



Kolbie Fraser



Liarah Anderson



Further north in Coromandel township, it is the RAD Silver Swans who are enjoying the benefits of an experienced and committed Life-Registered teacher. Marilyn Swan (Ebbs) relocated from Napier where she ran the Marilyn Swan Academy of Dance from 1992, the first school there for some 30 years. She continued on in Hawkes Bay from 1992 until early 2019. Prior to that Marilyn ran her first school in Motueka from 1976 - 1991.

Thoughts of a quiet retirement in Coromandel quickly flew out the window and Marilyn continued teaching youngsters and an adult student who wanted to sit higher grades and vocational exams. Marilyn is now mentoring a lady who was taught by Val Murray and Valerie Lissette who is wanting to give children the opportunity to learn ballet further north in Colville.

A highlight of her week is the adult ballet class which she started in October 2019 as a way to meet people and look after her own health. She completed her Silver Swans Licensee training earlier this year and feels this keeps a direction for the class and is now offering Silver Swans classes in Coromandel, with ideas to branch out to Whitianga.

Thames, the gateway to the Coromandel Peninsula, has a thriving school, the Thames Hauraki Dance Theatre, blossoming under the directorship of RAD RTS Sarah Fitzsimons.

Continuing Pauline Germon's legacy in the area, Sarah moved from Wellington and has built up student numbers from 30 in March 2023 to over 120 at the end of 2024, this year offering classes from Pre-Primary to Advanced 1. Growing from her first exam entry of 4 students last year, this year Sarah entered enough students from the ages of 5 to 49 to ensure an examiner could travel to Thames during the Waikato AEC tour.

Sarah has secured a wonderful venue for classes at the Thames Racecourse with plans to lay a new dance floor. Sarah has also entered her first dancers into the Rambert Grades Contemporary exams, a new collaboration giving RAD members an opportunity to expand their dance offering by accessing this progressive and inclusive contemporary dance syllabus.

THDT students recently had a visit from the RNZB education unit and had 2 workshops with Neve Pierce. (see opposite page)

The school is now preparing for this year's production, "The Nutcracker". A real Christmas treat, the Nutcracker with a difference will feature Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz and Hip Hop.

Sarah is thrilled that 2 students have been accepted into full time training at the New Zealand School of Dance - Liarah Anderson for Contemporary and Kolbie Fraser for Classical. (see photos above)

Coromandel families are enjoying a resurgence of dance teaching on the Peninsula with two resident registered teachers now raising the profile of the RAD among dancers of all ages and stages.

Post-class cafe catch-ups keep the group connected. The influence of these two Coromandel teachers will be felt at the upcoming Wellington Summer School. Maintaining her connection with Wellington dance, Sarah will be tutoring in Vocational Ballet / Dance Conditioning.

One of Marilyn's first pupils in Motueka, dance physiotherapist Lisa Howell, will be sharing her expertise. The cycle of teachers passing on RAD knowledge and passion continues.



THAMES HAURAKI DANCE THEATRE



Seniors with RNZB educator Neve Pierce



Juniors with RNZB educator Neve Pierce



ANNE SAMSON SCHOOL OF BALLET

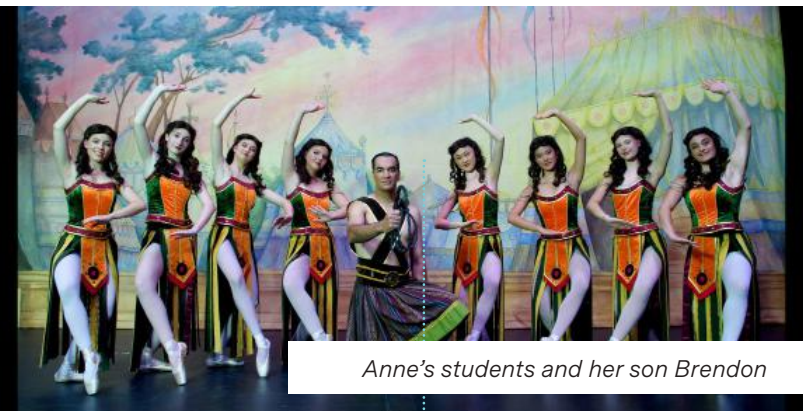


Annes dancers in Phantom

Phantom of the Opera - Rotorua Musical Theatre.

Earlier this year Anne's senior students had the privilege of being involved with live theatre, performing in Rotorua's first ever production of Phantom.

With Anne taking on the role of choreographer, it was a huge workload on top of exam preparation. However the girls certainly made their mark and it resulted in a fabulous all round experience and new found friends.



Anne's students and her son Brendon

Anne's son Brendon had his first time on stage playing the slave Master, an experience he thoroughly enjoyed

Photos: Anne Samson

REGIONAL ROUND UP

MAXIMUM DANCE ZONE



Sapphire Webby in her Czechoslovakian national character costume.



A special visitor to the studio



Pre-primaries getting ready for exams

WHANGANUI BALLET AND DANCE ACADEMY

Whanganui Ballet and Dance Academy was very proud to present 'A Little Princess' at the Whanganui Royal Opera House in April this year. The production was supported with an amazing creative team. Rebecca Pearson produced the scenery, original watercolours of the School building and interior details. They were stunningly beautiful.

Local musicians provided live music for visiting former student and member of Ballet Collective Aotearoa Amelia Chandulal-Mackay. The children were very excited to see her dance! It was a very happy weekend for all WBDA's students who enjoyed performing on the Opera House stage.



CHILTON BALLET ACADEMY

Term 3 was a busy one for Chilton Ballet Academy students with International Summer Schools, exam preparation, RAD 14+ Inspire and the YAGP Sydney.

Catja and Peyton had amazing experiences at International Summer Schools; Catja attended the Royal Ballet School and the Finnish National Ballet Summer Intensives, and Peyton spent 3 weeks at the John Cranko Summer Intensive in Connecticut USA.

We were incredibly proud of our students performances at the RAD's INSPIRE, 14+ Dance Scholarship Foundation Awards. Three of the students progressed to the finals with Phoebe Ewington receiving the Elvira Macrae Award, and Amos Wards the Sir Jon Trimmer Award.

The term finished with a group of the students travelling to Sydney for the YAGP. This was a wonderful experience for the students, and very inspiring with students attending classes with world renown teachers. Amelia, Catja, Kiana, Peyton and Harriet have received scholarships for further training opportunities at San Fransisco Ballet School, European School of Ballet, Alberta Ballet School, Academie des Tanze Mannheim, the Australian Ballet School and the YAGP Nervi Festival.



YAGP participants in Sydney



Inspire awards



Peyton Luamanu



Catja Whitehead

LEVINGS SCHOOL OF DANCE



Avril Levings RAD Life teacher recently went to watch her first ballet teacher Glenys Scandrett receive the Queen Elizabeth's medal for Services to Dance. It was a wonderful investiture ceremony. Avril began learning ballet from Glenys at age 3.

Tave Stuart who achieved at High Distinction in her RAD Adv 2 last year, was a Semi finalist in the recent National Young Performers Awards 2024.



MALVERN SCHOOL OF BALLET

Lisalotte Polderman Charles performed with Ballet Aotearoa Collective earlier in the year in Homemade Jam at the Pōneke Festival of Contemporary Dance. Lisalotte teaches at MSB owned by sister and RAD teacher Saba Polderman Charles.

Lisalotte is at the New Zealand Youth Ballet Co under the under artistic Directorship of Olivia Russell.



AURORA DANCE STUDIO



Aurora Dance Studio: RAD teacher and owner Shannon Nuttall and teacher Laura with senior students performing with at Nyree Huyser in her show Celine!



The studio perform at 'An Evening of Dance' put on by Chch Ballet Society in September.

ANNA LEE SCHOOL OF DANCE



Exam girls Kate Vee, Alice Paterson and Eden Wilson all received Distinction for their recent Intermediate exam.

ANNELIESE GILBERD ACADEMY



AGA's Mia Cohen sat ADV1 in Sept and is off to Ev & Bow in Sydney, Australia in 2025! Mia joined as an Atelier at AGA in 2023, coming from Wānaka where she trained with Centralpoint Dance Studios

Photo: fionafletcherphotography.com

CHRISTCHURCH / CANTERBURY

COUNTERPOINTE



RAD Teacher Monica Brosnahan took 2 of her Fledgling dancers to Sydney for YAGP

CONVERGENCE DANCE ACADEMY



Elite Troupe at PACANZ. The Troupe placed 4th and received the Presidential Award.

Photo: Director Olivia Russell

HAWKES BAY TEACHERS CATCH UP



Hawkes Bay Teachers caught up for coffee with Examiner Samantha Simpson after their Feed Back Seminar in September. They all had such a fun/friendly occasion .

Left Front to Left Back Rochelle Spence, Kerry McKenzie, Samantha Simpson - Examiner
Right Front to Right Back Annette Davis, Janine McCutcheon, Karen Suitor

LA MUSE



La Muse dancers were honored to attend a memorial for Rowena Jackson last month following her passing, presenting their classical dancing to the residents at the Rowena Jackson Retirement Home in Invercargill.

Photos: Hana Skeggs



Grade 1 2024 exams



Lucy T - Advanced 2 exam



Grade 3 2024 exams



Pre-primaries 2024 exams



The past few months saw Brackley and Violet involved as child extras in Swan Lake,

Out and About in the Community

We love seeing our students (and teachers!) getting involved in events all across the region, always able to extend on their dance training and have wonderful experiences.



Teachers Gina and Dominic and students Ivy and Lucy performing with Invercargill Musical Theatre's production of 'Mamma Mia' and our Grade 4 and 5 students performing with the touring cast from 'Bjorn Again'.



Why dance matters

CEO - Tim Arthur

“ I believe with all my heart that dance has the power to change the world. It is more than just an art form - it is an expression of our humanity, an avenue for self discovery, and a force that has the ability to unite people from all walks of life.

At the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD), we recognise this transformative power of dance, and are committed to harnessing it to make the world a better place.”

Royal Academy of Dance
PO Box 11718
Wellington
E: info@rad.org.nz
T: 04 382 8924

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