

PRESS RELEASE

29/6/2022

Young dancers from across London come together to celebrate 15 years of Step into Dance with two special performances



Photo: Foteini Christofilopoulou

- Students from 28 different school groups from across London will perform in the Step Live Festival at Cadogan Hall, for two performances taking place on Tuesday 12 July
- All the students taking part are involved in the Step into Dance programme, the UK's largest inclusive dance programme, which this year celebrates 15 years of making dance accessible to secondary school students
- The participating schools were specially selected to take part in this important event, 49 schools applied to take part in total
- Find out more and buy tickets for Step Live at www.royalacademyofdance.org/step-live-2022/

Young dancers from across London are preparing to take to one of London's most prestigious stages for Step Live Festival, an annual celebration of dance. All of the students involved in the performance are part of Step into Dance, a Royal Academy of Dance programme in partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation, which celebrates 15 years of widening access to dance this year. The dancers have been preparing all year for the chance to mark this anniversary in style, after a forced break from performances due to the pandemic.

Dancers from the selected 28 groups, representing 15 different boroughs will present a varied programme of dance. Audiences will get a taste of hip hop, contemporary, commercial styles and afro across each of the performances.

Step into Dance enables young people to develop their passion, skills and understanding of dance. Working with mainstream and SEN schools across London and Essex, Step into Dance reaches around 6,000 students annually through a diverse and inclusive programme of weekly classes, workshops and performance opportunities, aiming to reach those that might not otherwise connect with dance. Since its inception in 2007 with a pilot of 30 schools, the programme continues to grow and this year, reached 115 schools.

Tim Arthur, Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Dance said: *"Step into Dance is an incredibly important project for the RAD, as it allows us to bring dance to more people and create happier and healthier students. I cannot wait to celebrate 15 years of this incredible programme with what I am sure will be two wonderful performances. We are so grateful to the Jack Petchey Foundation whose support allows us to continue this work."*

Kelly Legrange, Head of Performing Arts at Coombe Wood School said *"The students are very excited to be performing at the evening performance of Step Live. This is an amazing opportunity for them all, especially to perform at such a prestigious venue! Students have been rehearsing the choreography every week, supporting and motivating each other to achieve their very best."*

Hollie Mellor, teacher in charge of dance at Lady Margaret School said: *“Our students are honoured to have been asked to perform at Step Live and are getting more and more excited about the event. They have been working incredibly hard to perfect their routine and are looking forward to sharing it with another live audience. The students are dancing anywhere and everywhere and are using all their free time to get into rehearsal.”*

Members of the public are invited to attend Step Live Festival, with tickets available to buy online> <https://www.royalacademyofdance.org/step-live-2022/>

Event Details

When: Tuesday 12 July, 2pm and 7.30pm

Where: Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, London SW1X 9DQ

Cost: £10

To buy tickets visit <https://www.royalacademyofdance.org/step-live-2022/>

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Images can be downloaded [HERE](#)

Password: step

For further enquiries please contact Celia Moran (cmoran@rad.org.uk), Press and Communications Manager at the Royal Academy of Dance

Notes to Editors

Step Into Dance

Delivered by professional dancers, Step into Dance supports young dancers to progress, excel, and to realise their creative potential.

Step into Dance reaches over 6,000 secondary school students annually across London and Essex offering a broad dance programme. Schools and students benefit from opportunities to get involved in a wider programme of workshops and performances. Since 2007 Step into Dance has reached over 50,000.

Step into Dance is a Royal Academy of Dance programme in partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation.

www.royalacademyofdance.org/step-into-dance

Royal Academy of Dance

Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) is one of the most influential dance education and training organisations in the world with a strong global membership in 85 countries. Established in 1920 to improve standards and re-invigorate dance training, the Academy helps and encourages its teachers to perfect their teaching skills and pass on this knowledge to their students. There are currently over 1,000 students in full-time or part-time teacher training programmes with the Academy and each year the examination syllabus is taught to thousands of young people worldwide, with around a quarter of a million pupils per year going on to take RAD exams.

www.royalacademyofdance.org

Jack Petchey Foundation

Established in 1999, The Jack Petchey Foundation gives grants to programmes and projects that benefit young people aged 11-25, focusing on London and Essex. The Foundation exists to raise the aspirations of young people, to help them take advantage of opportunities and play a full part in society. Since it has been established, the Foundation has awarded grants totalling over £100 million.

www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk