

# ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE

## Mikhail Baryshnikov presented with the RAD's prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award by Her Majesty The Queen Consort



Image by David Tett

- The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) awards legendary dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov with the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award (QEII), the RAD's highest honour
- The award was presented to Baryshnikov by Her Majesty The Queen Consort, long standing supporter of RAD, at a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace today, Wednesday 16 November
- Baryshnikov joins a list of some of the most eminent names in dance who have received the QEII award, including: Rudolf Nureyev, Sir Frederick Ashton, Karen Kain, Carlos Acosta and Sir Kenneth MacMillan
- Images of the ceremony are available to download [here](#), password 'qe2'. All images by David Tett.
- To find out more visit: [royalacademyofdance.org](http://royalacademyofdance.org)

**16 November 2022:** The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) today presented its highest honour, the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award, to Mikhail Baryshnikov. The award was bestowed by Her Majesty The Queen Consort at a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace, it was the first solo presentation Her Majesty has undertaken at the palace since succession.

Widely celebrated as one of the greatest dancers of our time, Baryshnikov has been presented with the QEII award in recognition of his immense contribution to ballet and the wider world of dance. His landmark career as a dancer saw him perform with leading

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companies around the world, including the Bolshoi Ballet, The Royal Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, the New York City Ballet and National Ballet of Canada, before expanding into the world of film, theatre and television. He continues to invigorate the arts landscape as Founder and Artistic Director of Baryshnikov Arts Center, a creative space for artists around the world.

The Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award, the RAD's highest accolade, was instituted in 1953, to celebrate the year of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Dame Adeline Genée, founding President of the RAD, created the award to be presented annually in recognition of outstanding services to the art of dance. The first recipient in 1954 was Dame Ninette de Valois. Since then, it has been awarded to many of the greatest names in dance, in recognition of outstanding services to the art form. Former recipients include Dame Marie Rambert, Sir Frederick Ashton, Dame Monica Mason, Rudolf Nureyev and Carlos Acosta CBE. It was most recently awarded to David McAllister AM in 2021.

1953 also marked the year Queen Elizabeth II became Patron of the RAD, succeeding her grandmother Queen Mary. The RAD will forever be grateful for the long and unwavering support HM Queen Elizabeth offered during her patronage, and is honoured to be presenting this award in her name. Furthermore, the RAD is delighted that Her Majesty The Queen Consort presented the QEII award this year. Her Majesty has a long-standing relationship with the RAD and in her former role as The Duchess of Cornwall, opened the new Royal Academy of Dance global headquarters in March 2022.

**Mikhail Baryshnikov said:** "I am deeply humbled to accept the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award from the Royal Academy of Dance and Her Majesty The Queen Consort. It is a true honour to be added to such an impressive roster of recipients, many of whom I am proud to have worked with, and call friends."

**Dame Darcey Bussell DBE, President of the RAD said:** "Mikhail Baryshnikov is one of the most famous male ballet dancers in history. He has been an inspiration to so many young, aspiring dancers across the world. Fearless in his pursuit of artistic expression, he has transferred his many talents into other genres, from acting, film, television, documentaries and more. It is a privilege to award him the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award, the highest honour that the Royal Academy of Dance can bestow."

**Tim Arthur, Chief Executive of the RAD said:** "It is such an honour for us to present Mikhail Baryshnikov with the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award. The Royal Academy of Dance's mission is to inspire the world to dance and I think there are few people who have achieved this in a way that he has, through his incredible career as a dancer and now Artistic Director."

To read more about the Royal Academy of Dance's Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award and previous recipients visit [www.royalacademyofdance.org](http://www.royalacademyofdance.org)

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## Notes to Editors

### About the 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.

### About Mikhail Baryshnikov

Born 1948 in Riga, Latvia, Mikhail Baryshnikov is considered one of the greatest dancers of our time. After commencing a spectacular career with the Kirov Ballet in Leningrad, he came to the West in 1974, settling in New York City as principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre (ABT). In 1978 he joined New York City Ballet, where he worked with George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. A year later he was appointed artistic director of ABT where, for the next decade, he introduced a new generation of dancers and choreographers. From 1990-2002, Mr. Baryshnikov was director and dancer of the White Oak Dance Project, which he and choreographer Mark Morris co-founded to expand the repertoire and visibility of American modern dance. As an actor he has performed widely on- and off-Broadway, as well as in television and film, receiving a Tony Award nomination and a Drama Desk Award nomination for *Metamorphosis*, and an Academy Award nomination for *The Turning Point*. Other theatrical productions include *Forbidden Christmas or The Doctor and the Patient*, *Beckett Shorts*, *In Paris*, *Man in a Case*, *The Old Woman*, *Letter to a Man*, and *Brodsky/Baryshnikov*. Recent projects include *NOT ONCE*, a cinematic installation developed in collaboration with Jan Fabre and Phil Griffin, and a second theatrical production directed by Latvian director Alvis Hermanis entitled *The White Helicopter*. He is currently working with director Igor Golyak and the Arlekin Players Theatre on a new adaptation of Chekhov's masterpiece *The Cherry Orchard*, which premiered off-broadway in June 2022. In 2005, he launched Baryshnikov Arts

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Center (BAC) in New York City, a creative space designed to support multidisciplinary artists from around the globe. Among Mr. Baryshnikov's many awards are the Kennedy Center Honors, the National Medal of Arts, the Commonwealth Award, the Chubb Fellowship, the Jerome Robbins Award, and the Vilcek Award. In 2010, he was given the rank of Officer of the French Legion of Honor, and in 2017 he received Japan's prestigious Praemium Imperiale International Arts Award in Theatre/Film.