

# ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE

For immediate release

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **RAD announces guest performance at The Fonteyn 2024 final**

Northern Ballet dancers Harris Beattie & Saeka Shirai to perform an iconic pas de deux from *Romeo & Juliet*

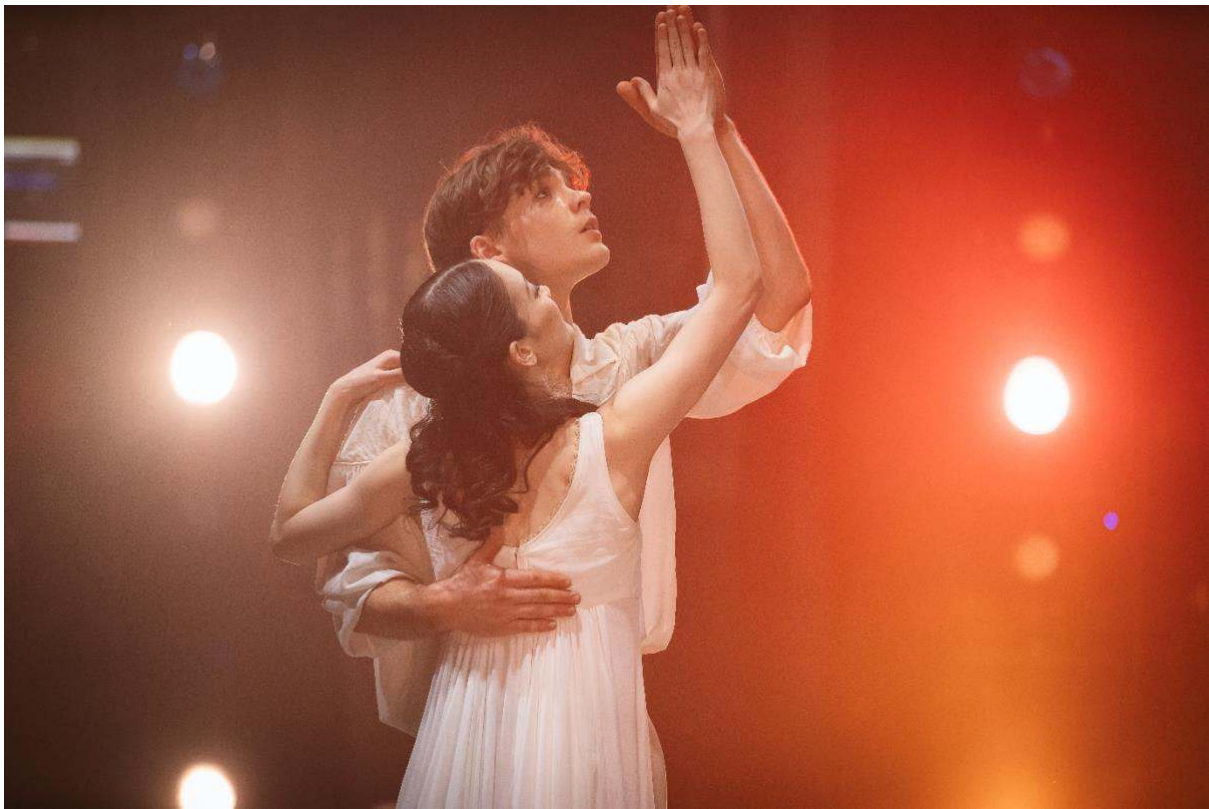


Image by Emily Nuttall.

**The Royal Academy of Dance is delighted to announce that Northern Ballet company dancers Harris Beattie and Saeka Shirai will perform a pas de deux from Northern Ballet's *Romeo & Juliet* at The Fonteyn 2024 final on Sunday 8 September.**

Harris Beattie and Saeka Shirai will perform the iconic balcony scene where Romeo (Harris) declares his eternal love for Juliet (Saeka). Adapted by Christopher Gable CBE and Massimo Moricone, *Romeo & Juliet* is one of Northern Ballet's most beloved and critically acclaimed productions, which is currently touring the UK.

Harris Beattie is an RAD alumni and previously took part and won gold medal plus the choreographic and audience choice award at the Genée International Ballet Competition in 2017. He was the first person in the history of the competition to win all three. Harris Beattie also won the Royal Academy

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of Dance Phyllis Bedells Bursary in 2015. Last month, he was promoted to Junior Soloist at Northern Ballet.

Saeka Shirai is from Osaka, Japan, with extensive training and performance experience. She trained at the Yuki Ballet Studio in Japan and further honed her skills at Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. Her professional career includes four years with Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet and two years with Poznan Opera Ballet. In 2016, she won a silver medal at the prestigious Varna International Ballet Competition.

The Fonteyn (previously known as The Genée) is one of the oldest and most prestigious ballet competitions in the world, representing the pinnacle of achievement for young dancers trained in the RAD syllabus. Beginning in 1931, The Fonteyn is dedicated to promoting dance, providing educational experiences and recognising excellence in young ballet dancers internationally. Over 70 dancers from countries around the globe will participate in The Fonteyn 2024. Coaching sessions delivered by renowned professionals begin the week, with the semi-finals held on 4-6 September at RAD's stunning Aud Jebson Studio Theatre in its London HQ.

To find out more about The Fonteyn and to secure your place at the final and semi-final events visit: <https://www.thefonteyn.org/tickets>

## TICKET INFORMATION

### The Fonteyn semi-finals

Date: 4-6 September

Location: Royal Academy of Dance 188 York Road London SW11 3JZ

Booking link: <https://www.thefonteyn.org/tickets>

### The Fonteyn final

Date: 8 September

Location: His Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, St. James's, London SW1Y 4QL

Price: Tickets £13 – £97 (includes theatre restoration levy and booking fee).

Booking link: <https://www.thefonteyn.org/tickets>

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For further information, please contact:

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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

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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.