

For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

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Young people from London and Essex participate in Battle: Break-It-Down at Royal Academy of Dance



Image of Step into Dance's youth company SYNC. Image by Marble & Sky.

Last weekend, the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) hosted Battle: Break-It-Down, a hip-hop event produced by RAD's Step into Dance programme, the UK's largest inclusive dance programme for secondary school students, in partnership with Jack Petchey Foundation.

Designed for young people aged 11-18 (up to 25 for SEND students) who attend a school in London or Essex, the event at RAD's headquarters in Wandsworth saw young people learn all about about hip-hop culture and how this informed its sub-genre, battling.

Schools from across London and Essex took part including groups from:

- Bacon's College

- City Heights E-ACT Academy
- Capital City College (formerly City & Islington College)

The event featured workshops including Krumping, Voguing, Locking and more, freestyling opportunities, plus talks by industry professionals including **Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy MBE**, Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director/Choreographer of Boy Blue, **Emma Houston (Shortbread the Breaker)** and **Caine Harrison**.

Established in 2006, Step into Dance enables young people to develop their passion, skills and understanding of dance. Working with mainstream and SEND schools across London and Essex, Step into Dance reaches around 4,000 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.

Larry, a member of the Youth Consultation Panel at Jack Petchey Foundation said: *"These young dancers brought incredible energy to the workshops. What a brilliant day of learning about different forms of dance."*

To find out more about the Step into Dance programme visit:
<https://www.royalacademyofdance.org/dance-classes/step-into-dance/>

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For further information, please contact: Katie Hagan, Press and Communications Manager at press@rad.org.uk

Notes to Editors

About the Royal Academy of Dance

The RAD is one of the world's most influential dance education and training organisations. With its global headquarters in London, the RAD works locally and around the world to bring dance to diverse communities, widen access to dance and share the benefits and wellbeing that dance brings.

With a strong global membership presence in over 85 countries, each year around 250,000 dancers learn the RAD syllabus and take exams. Over 1,000 students are enrolled in in-person and distance-learning dance teacher training programmes.

**ROYAL ACADEMY
OF DANCE**



The RAD empowers people through dance education and enjoyment and believes that 'every body' should have the opportunity to learn to dance.

www.royalacademyofdance.org/

Jack Petchey Foundation

The Jack Petchey Foundation was established in 1999 by Sir Jack Petchey CBE with the mission to provide opportunities for young people across London and Essex to build their skills, their confidence and their voice, so they can fulfil their potential and have a positive impact on society. The Foundation's flagship programme, the Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme, runs in almost 1,500 youth organisations, state secondary schools and colleges. It recognises young people aged 11-25 across London and Essex for their achievements. Since it has 1999, the Foundation has invested over £180million into programmes and partnerships that have directly benefitted over 1.3 million young people, with thousands more benefitting indirectly from its work.

www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk