

# THE FONTEYN

## The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition 2026 in collaboration with The Frederick Ashton Foundation

### Candidate Information Pack

#### **Mission statement**

The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition (The Fonteyn) is dedicated to promoting and rewarding standards of excellence in young ballet dancers internationally. This is achieved by offering aspiring dancers the unique opportunity to work with world-renowned professionals, as well as the chance to perform on an international stage.

#### **The competition**

The Fonteyn represents the pinnacle of achievement for young people trained in the Royal Academy of Dance ballet syllabus. The competition identifies talented young dancers and often launches them into a professional career.

The competition originated in 1931 as the Adeline Genée Gold Medal and was introduced as an additional incentive for candidates who had passed the Solo Seal examination.

The award continued to develop into a competition format and remarkably it has taken place almost every year since 1931, even during the Second World War. In 2002, the RAD took the landmark decision to hold the competition outside London to embrace its international spirit, taking it to Australia where Sydney Opera House played host to a record number of candidates.

Since 2002, the competition has been held in cities across the world including Sydney, Birmingham, Athens, London, Hong Kong, Toronto, Singapore, Cape Town, Wellington, Glasgow, Antwerp, Lisbon and Sao Paulo. In 2026, The Fonteyn has returned to London. You can learn more about The Fonteyn and its history at [www.royalacademyofdance.org/the-fonteyn/](http://www.royalacademyofdance.org/the-fonteyn/)

## **In collaboration with The Frederick Ashton Foundation – new for the 2026 competition!**

For the first time in its near 100-year history, The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition is collaborating with The Frederick Ashton Foundation. The Foundation exists to enrich and preserve the legacy of Frederick Ashton (1904–1988) and his catalogue of over 100 ballets. Its wide range of programmes and initiatives includes collaborations with educational institutions that increase awareness of and access to Ashton's work for future generations. For the 2026 Fonteyn competition, The Frederick Ashton Foundation has partnered with the RAD, with the competition programme being revised to introduce an exciting new element: the Frederick Ashton variation.

All candidates will have the opportunity to study one of six Ashton variations, as appropriate, in their own practice studios before attending the competition. During the competition, candidates will receive coaching on their chosen variation from a Foundation-appointed répétiteur. Finalists will then perform their chosen variation in front of the judging panel, which will include a representative of The Frederick Ashton Foundation. For more information on the Foundation, please see [www.frederickashton.org.uk](http://www.frederickashton.org.uk).

### **Section 1: General information**

#### **1.1 Venues and schedule**

The Fonteyn competition will take place from **Saturday 31 October to Sunday 8 November**. Candidates will be provided with a timetable at the Welcome Reception on **Saturday 31 October**. Coaching and classes will take place from **Sunday 1 November to Sunday 8 November** at the RAD headquarters in Battersea; candidates will be needed all day every day unless otherwise notified.

The semi-finals will be held during the daytime at the RAD headquarters from **Wednesday 4 November to Friday 6 November**.

The final will be held at the London Coliseum, on the evening of **Sunday 8 November**.

#### **1.2 Judges and faculty**

To be announced later

### 1.3 Entry qualifications

The competition is open to dancers who are current members of the Royal Academy of Dance and have achieved Advanced 2 (with Distinction). Evidence is required.

Candidates must be aged between **15 and under 19** by 1 June 2026, and be of **non-professional status**. They **must not** have been employed on a professional contract prior to taking part in the competition. Students who have been offered a professional engagement that begins after the competition will still be eligible to enter.

**Candidates who are waiting for their Advanced 2 exam result must still complete an application form to be submitted by the closing date. If you have not already taken your Advanced 2 exam, this must have been completed in person by 18:00 on 22 June 2026, and any filmed RAD Advanced 2 exams submitted by 18:00 on 22 June 2026.**

Should applications exceed capacity we will undertake a selection process based on the mark attained for your Advanced 2 examination. Candidates will be notified on **Tuesday 30 June by 18.00** (UK time) whether they have a place at The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition 2026.

**It is only on receipt of this confirmation that you will know whether you will be competing at The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition 2026.**

### 1.4 Closing date

The closing date for applications is **Monday 1 June at 18:00** (UK time). Applications should be completed [via the online application form](#).

Please complete the form with as much detail as possible. If there are any areas you are uncertain of on application, please enter 'to be confirmed' and you will be contacted to confirm outstanding information.

Upon application, we will need:

- a short biography (no more than 60 words),
- a high-resolution colour headshot – supplied as a JPG only, At least 1000 pixels wide and 1500 pixels high and a minimum resolution of 300 dpi (see example below), and
- music for your Dancer's Own Variation – supplied as .WAV file.

**Please note:** the head shot provided will be included in the official Fonteyn souvenir programme. If you are unsure of what to provide, please send us any digital portrait of yourself in a large file size – we will crop and resize it for you.

E.g.



## 1.5 Insurance

Applicants are advised to take out insurance, to guard against withdrawal due to injury or sickness, and for the cost of medical treatment throughout the competition. It is your responsibility to act on our advice. We do not endorse any providers, but we are aware of one provider and there may be others which we encourage you to research: [www.dancesurance.com/](http://www.dancesurance.com/)

## 1.6 Visa to travel

You may need a visa to travel to London. Please ensure you check with your local government or authority. Please also check any stipulations regarding passport expiry date.

## Section 2: Content of the competition

The content of the competition has been revised for the 2026 iteration. The three major strands for this year are the Frederick Ashton Variation, the Dancer's Own Variation, and the Classical Repertoire Variation. Please be aware that the Commissioned Variation is not part of this year's competition.

### 2.1 Frederick Ashton Variation

For 2026, the RAD has partnered with The Frederick Ashton Foundation to integrate Ashton's choreography into the Fonteyn competition. Candidates will be given access to the Foundation's new mixed-media resource, *Ashton in Competition: A Resource for Young Dancers*, which will provide them with a curated list of variations, alongside contextual information about the ballets from which they are drawn. The resource will also provide a pre-recorded demonstration of the variations as they should be studied and performed in the competition, each with a detailed coaching session. Candidates should learn and perform the variations

exactly as shown in this official resource. Versions taken from YouTube or any other source are not permitted and will not be accepted. Instructions for candidates with a preference for turning to the left will be identified in the resource pack.

Candidates should familiarise themselves with *Ashton in Competition: A Resource for Young Dancers* and RAD-approved guidance ahead of their arrival to the competition. They should select and rehearse **ONE** variation from the approved list below and will receive coaching on their chosen variation over the competition week. Selected finalists will perform this variation for the judging panel, which will include a representative of The Frederick Ashton Foundation.

All Frederick Ashton variations will be accompanied live by a pianist. Practice ballet wear should be worn, and the leotard may be of any colour. Tights should be regulation exam colour. For variations performed en pointe, pointe shoes with ribbons are required.

### **Variations performed en pointe**

- *La Fille mal gardée*, Act I: Lise variation from the 'Fanny Elssler' pas de deux. Music: Ferdinand Hérold, adapted and arranged by John Lanchbery.
- *Birthday Offering*: Rowena Jackson variation. Music: Alexander Glazunov.
- *Birthday Offering*: Violetta Elvin variation. Music: Alexander Glazunov.

### **Variations performed not en pointe**

- *La Fille mal gardée*, Act I: Colas variation from the 'Fanny Elssler' pas de deux. Music: Ferdinand Hérold, adapted and arranged by John Lanchbery.
- *Sylvia*, Act III: Aminta variation. Music: Léo Delibes.
- *The Sleeping Beauty*, Act II: Prince Florimund variation. Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

## **2.2 Dancer's Own Variation**

Candidates must prepare a newly choreographed solo no shorter than one minute in length and no longer than one minute and thirty seconds, created by themselves, their teacher or a peer to a piece of music of their choice. **Candidates are requested to use copyright-free music for their**

**Dancer's Own Variation.** If you do not select music that is out of copyright, RAD retains the right to insist that you change your music. Failure to do so could compromise your place in the competition.

More information on copyright is listed below.

### **Choreographic guidelines:**

- Consider your choreographic intention and aim to express it consistently throughout your entire solo.
- Candidates may wear simple costumes and use hand-held props but not include scenery or masks. Costumes must be tasteful, family-friendly, and avoid copyrighted characters.
- As the event is broadcast globally to all ages, performances should reflect our diverse audience's values.

### **Music guidelines:**

- Pieces should be no shorter than one minute in length and no longer than one minute and thirty seconds in duration.
- They should be taken from a recording which has been bought legitimately or recorded for, and licensed to, the candidate.
- The quality of the track you provide must be of professional standard as it will be played for a live audience.
- If desired, pieces can be an original composition by the student or the result of a collaboration.
- **There should contain no internal cuts to the music.**
- You must upload a copy of your music in .WAV format when you apply. If you do not have the file at the time of application, you will be asked to send the file by the closing date of application – 1 June 2026. This must be the final version that you wish to dance to with, and any fades or cuts at the end of the music already edited. Such adjustments cannot be made at the competition.

### **Copyright Guidelines**

- According to UK Law, copyright is a legal right that automatically protects original works of authorship, such as literature, music, art, and film. It allows creators to control how their work is used, copied, or shared without permission.
- This table below, taken from the UK government website, details more clearly how long copyright lasts for, and it is important to check whether the music you want to use is under copyright at the time of the competition. If your music is under copyright, we cannot use it in any livestreams or recordings.

Type of work	How long copyright usually lasts
Written, dramatic, musical and artistic work	70 years after the author's death
Sound and music recording	70 years from when it's first published
Films	70 years after the death of the director, screenplay author and composer
Broadcasts	50 years from when it's first broadcast
Layout of published editions of written, dramatic or musical works	25 years from when it's first published

- If you would like further information on UK copyright laws, and whether they might apply to your music for Dancer's Own, please see the government websites below:
  - [How copyright protects your work: How long copyright lasts - GOV.UK](#)
  - [Copyright notice: duration of copyright \(term\) - GOV.UK](#)

Please be aware that if your music is unsuitable for copyright reasons, you will **not** be able to use this during performance.

This means that you will be asked to change your music, potentially at the last minute. In turn, it might impact your rehearsal and preparation time.

We strongly advise that you are confident that your music is copyright free before you submit it to us or have a backup piece of music you would be happy to use.

### Things to think about:

- Please choose music carefully, as some tracks have restrictions for livestreaming:
  - Do not use popular songs, movie/TV soundtracks, e.g. Disney, video game music, or Broadway tunes.
  - Be cautious with certain classical recordings, as modern arrangements may still be copyrighted.
  - Ensure lyrics are appropriate and free of offensive language.
  - To ensure the performance can be included on any live stream or broadcast, consider royalty-free or public domain music.

### Choreography declaration:

If you declare that you have choreographed your own piece, it's essential that the work is solely your creation, without input from teachers, peers, or

others. Any outside help received will make you ineligible for the Choreographic Award.

Similarly, if you initially indicate that you are **not** choreographing your piece but later state that you are after the closing date, we will not be able to consider you for the award due to programming, scheduling, and printing deadlines.

Please decide carefully and inform us accurately.

## 2.2 Classical Repertoire Variation

Candidates should select and rehearse **ONE** variation provided from the list of approved Classical Repertoire Variations shown below.

As there are sometimes differences in the way that 19<sup>th</sup> century variations are titled in different productions, YouTube links to help you identify the **music** for each variation are provided for your information only and are not recommended sources, tempi, or choreography for the variations.

Classical Variations must be taken from a traditional production and must be rooted in classical vocabulary - contemporary interpretations using 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century vocabulary will not be accepted. **Candidates must identify which company and production their chosen classical variation is from. This will need to be stated on the application form.**

**All Classical Repertoire Variations will be accompanied live by a pianist.**

The faculty reserve the right to alter the Classical Repertoire Variation if necessary.

### Variations performed en pointe

- *La Bayadère*, Shade I
- *La Bayadère*, Shade II
- *La Bayadère*, Gamzatti Act II
- *Le Corsaire*, Odalisque II
- *The Sleeping Beauty*, Fairy Variation III: Woodland Glade
- *Swan Lake*, Pas de Trois Variation I
- *Sleeping Beauty*, Lilac Fairy

- *Giselle*, Act I Variation

### **Variations performed not en pointe**

- *Giselle*, Albrecht Act II
- *The Nutcracker*, Prince Variation Act II
- *Raymonda*, Act III, Jean de Brienne
- *The Sleeping Beauty*, Prince Act III
- *Swan Lake*, Pas de Trois
- *Swan Lake*, Prince Siegfried Act III
- *La Sylphide*, James Act I
- *Don Quixote*, Basilio Act III

For pointe variations pointe shoes with **ribbons** are required.

For all Classical Repertoire Variations, the costume should be appropriate to the variation, and a headdress may be worn. A leotard with tutu of any matching colour may be worn in place of a complete costume.

### **Coaching**

Classes and coaching sessions will take place from **Sunday 1 November to Sunday 8 November** and will be held at RAD headquarters and the London Coliseum. These sessions are compulsory for all candidates.

All candidates must take part in their allocated coaching classes to be considered eligible to take part in the semi-finals.

### **Classwork**

Practice ballet wear should be worn, and the leotard may be of any colour. Tights should be regulation exam colour. For class, candidates should wear soft pointe shoes or flat ballet shoes and for any pointe work section, pointe shoes with ribbons.

### **Semi-finals**

The semi-finals will consist of the following:

- Classwork
- Dancer's Own Variation
- Classical Repertoire Variation

Coaching for Dancer's Own Variation, Classical Repertoire Variation, and Frederick Ashton Variation takes place over the semi-final period but is not watched by an audience.

Candidates must complete all sections of the semi-finals to remain eligible for the finals.

Semi-finalists who have not been selected as finalists are asked to participate in an on-stage défilé during the final. The time will be confirmed in your timetable, which you will receive at registration.

## **Final**

The final will consist of the following:

- The Frederick Ashton Variation
- Dancer's Own Variation
- Classical Repertoire Variation

## **2.3 Criteria for assessment**

Candidates are assessed on the work they show and not on any prediction of future promise. The following criteria are followed across both the classwork and variations:

### **Technique**

Incorporating:

- secure posture and weight placement, use of turnout, articulated, clearly defined footwork,
- coordinated and sensitive use of the arms and hands in balanced harmony with the whole-body showing breadth of movement, use of épaulement, alignment, head and eye line
- rhythmical and controlled pirouettes,
- controlled, sustained and co-ordinated adagio movements creating harmonious lines through the whole body,
- effective use of elevation, accurate batterie, and the ability to reflect the dynamics and artistic qualities of the allegro steps, and
- use of space.

### **Music**

Incorporating:

- rhythmical accuracy and timing, and
- inspired and considerate response to musical atmosphere, dynamics and phrasing.

### **Performance**

Incorporating:

- confident movements performed with ease and control, and an ability to interpret and express the varying artistic qualities and appropriate styles.

### **Dancer's Own Choreographic Award**

Introduced in 2013, this award recognises and promotes choreography in the competition and gives opportunity to explore creativity and imagination.

The judges will adjudicate this at the semi-finals, and the winning choreography will be made public alongside the announcement of the finalists. It will be performed at the final on Sunday November 8, regardless of whether the winning candidate is a finalist or not.

### **Criteria for Choreographic Award**

The recipient of this award is the candidate choreographer who the judges decide demonstrates the highest standard of choreography within the variation based on the following assessments:

- Structure
- Dynamics of movement
- Use of space
- Depiction of theme, story or choreographic intent
- Choice of and response to music/sound.

### **Musicality Award**

Introduced in 2024, this award recognises and promotes musicality in the competition.

The Musicality Award will be judged across the semi-finals, and the winner will be announced alongside the announcement of the finalists.

### **Criteria for Musicality Award**

The recipient of this award is the candidate who in the judge's opinion demonstrates the greatest awareness of and response to:

- dynamics,
- sensitivity to phrasing,
- atmosphere and temperament, and
- aspects of style.

### **Bursary support for the Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition 2026**

Bursaries will be available in 2026 to support applicants from any country in the world.

Applications for bursaries will open on 13 April and will close on 1 June 2026. Candidates will be notified of the result of their application on 30 June. More information about the bursaries will be made available on [www.royalacademyofdance.org/the-fonteyn/](http://www.royalacademyofdance.org/the-fonteyn/)

### **Scholarship opportunities**

This year we are pleased to announce the continued support of companies and schools that have generously offered scholarships to candidates of The Fonteyn 2026. More information on this will follow.

## **2.4 Awarding of medals**

Medals are awarded to finalists showing the highest levels of competency in the stated criteria. The judges' decision is final.

**The Geneé Gold Medal** is awarded to the finalist who, in the judges' opinion, demonstrates exceptional technical skills, an innate response to music, outstanding performance qualities and charisma.

Only one Geneé Gold Medal will be awarded and one silver medal. The judges may decide to award up to two bronze medals. In this event, the £2,000 will be split, with each winner receiving £1,000.

<b>Gold</b>	<b>£5,000</b>
<b>Silver</b>	<b>£3,000</b>
<b>Bronze</b>	<b>£2,000</b>

In addition to the above medals, the **Choreographic Award** has a monetary prize of £250 generously supported by the Lynn Wallis Bursary Fund established in honour of the RAD's former Artistic Director.

Established in 2024 the **Musicality Award** has a monetary prize of £250 and is generously supported by the Lynn Wallis Bursary Fund.

The **Dame Margot Fonteyn Audience Choice Award** will be awarded on the night of the final following a public vote. This award has a monetary prize of £250 generously supported by the Dame Margot Fonteyn Scholarship Fund.

## **Section 3: Candidate fees, Accommodation & travel to venues**

### **Candidate fees**

The fees for 2026 are:

**GBP £100** registration fee plus **GBP £600** entry fee

**Total: GBP £700.**

**Please make payment by the following links:**

**Candidate registration fee** - £100 (non-refundable) – due at the point of application:

<https://cvent.me/eWG9DL>

**Candidate entry fee - £600 - due by the closing date:**

<https://cvent.me/xEZxAn>

Failure to make payment will result in your application deemed incomplete.

If your application is unsuccessful, your payment will be refunded to you within 28 days after the application closing date, however, please note that your registration fee will not be refunded.

Candidates in receipt of a bursary will be refunded accordingly if payment has already been made.

The fee includes:

- world-class tuition,
- semi-final performance opportunities at the RAD headquarters before a live audience and distinguished judging panel,
- (for finalists) the opportunity to perform before a live audience and distinguished judging panel at the London Coliseum
- (for semi-finalists) a ticket to watch the final,
- access for all candidates to a welcome reception on 31 October 2026,
- lunch provided for all candidates between 1 and 7 November (and for finalists on 8 November)
- administrative costs (for example required permissions for use of Dancer’s Own music related to live performances), and
- pastoral care throughout the competition (provided by RAD staff and chaperones).

### **Accommodation for Candidates**

Candidates should make their own accommodation arrangements. Please see a range of accommodation options below:

<b>Holiday Inn Express London – Wandsworth</b> Riverside West Smugglers Way	Room rate
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<p>Wandsworth London SW18 1EG Reservations + 44 (0) 371 902 1546 <a href="mailto:info@expresswandsworth.co.uk">info@expresswandsworth.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.ihg.com">www.ihg.com</a></p>	<p>Rates from £103 per room per night, inclusive of taxes and fees 0.8 miles from RAD</p>
<p><b>Travel Lodge - Battersea</b> 200 York Road Battersea London SW11 3SA Reservations 0871 984 6189 <a href="http://www.travelodge.co.uk">www.travelodge.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Room rate Rates from £65.99 per room per night, inclusive of VAT Breakfast available at an additional charge 0 miles from RAD</p>
<p><b>The Haydon by Nestor</b> 4 Haydon Way London SW11 1YF For the best price: <a href="https://nestorstay.com/properties/the-haydon/">https://nestorstay.com/properties/the-haydon/</a> For better information about included amenities: <a href="https://www.plumguide.com/homes/1255256/london-moments">https://www.plumguide.com/homes/1255256/london-moments</a></p>	<p>Room rate Rates from £75 per night 0.6 miles from RAD</p>
<p><b>Travel Lodge – Clapham Junction</b> 155 Falcon Road Clapham London SW11 2PD Reservations 0871 984 6370 <a href="http://www.travelodge.co.uk">www.travelodge.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Room rate Rates from £82.99 per room per night, inclusive of VAT Breakfast available at an additional charge 0.9 miles from RAD</p>
<p><b>The Lodge Hotel - Putney</b> 52 – 54 Upper Richmond Road Putney London SW15 2RN + 44 (0) 20 8 874 1598 <a href="mailto:res@thelodgehotellondon.com">res@thelodgehotellondon.com</a> <a href="http://www.thelodgehotellondon.com">www.thelodgehotellondon.com</a></p>	<p>Room rate Rates available upon request 1.6 miles from RAD</p>
<p><b>The Lavender Hotel</b> 18 Lavender Sweep London SW11 1HA + 44 (0) 20 7585 2767</p>	<p>Room rate Rooms from £70 per room per night 1 mile from RAD</p>

<a href="mailto:info@thelavenderguesthouse.com">info@thelavenderguesthouse.com</a> <a href="http://www.thelavenderguesthouse.com">www.thelavenderguesthouse.com</a>	
<b>Premier Inn London Putney Bridge</b> 3 Putney Bridge Approach London SW6 3JD 0333 321 127 <a href="http://www.premierinn.co.uk">www.premierinn.co.uk</a>	Room rate Rooms from £120 per night 2.1 miles from RAD
<b>Doubletree Hilton, Chelsea</b> Imperial Road Imperial Wharf London SW6 2GA +44 (0) 20 7411 2200 <a href="http://www.jurysinns.com">www.jurysinns.com</a>	Room rate Rates available on request 1.4 miles from RAD
<b>Hotel Rafayel, Battersea</b> 34 Lombard Road London SW11 3RF <a href="mailto:reservations@hotelrafayel.com">reservations@hotelrafayel.com</a> +44 (0) 20 7 801 3600 <a href="http://www.hotelrafayel.com">www.hotelrafayel.com</a>	Room rate Rates available on request 0.4 miles from RAD
<b>Duchy House</b> 133 Strand London WC2R 1HG <a href="https://www.universityrooms.com/en-GB/city/london/college/duchyhouselondon">https://www.universityrooms.com/en-GB/city/london/college/duchyhouselondon</a>	Room rate Rates from £83 per room per night 4.7 miles from RAD 0.6 miles from London Waterloo Station

#### Useful accommodation websites:

[www.londontouristboard.com/accommodation](http://www.londontouristboard.com/accommodation)

[www.airbnb.co.uk](http://www.airbnb.co.uk)

[www.booking.com/London-Accommodation](http://www.booking.com/London-Accommodation)

[www.trivago.co.uk/London-Accommodation](http://www.trivago.co.uk/London-Accommodation)

#### International travel

Please check your visa entry requirements for Great Britain. Please also check any stipulations about passport expiry date.

You are advised not to book travel unless you have received written confirmation of a place in the competition, which will be sent to you on 30 June.

### **Currency**

The best currency to take to England is the local currency, the Great British Pound (GBP). Candidates should have enough funds to cover their expenses while there.

All major credit and debit cards are accepted in England, but it is advised that you also bring some cash if you are travelling from abroad.

### **Welfare and wellbeing of candidates**

At this competition, we place the highest importance on your welfare and wellbeing, and we encourage each of you to prioritise it as well. At the RAD, we have a duty of care to provide a safe and supportive environment and promote the health and wellbeing of all participants.

The competition days will be long and demanding; you'll be working intensively, absorbing new material, and focusing on many intricate details. The physical, mental, and emotional demands are considerable, and we're here to help you thrive through them.

### **Medical conditions and allergies**

When applying for the competition, you will be asked to notify us of any medical conditions or allergies. For your own safety, it is important that you give us this information.

### **In the event of an emergency**

In the event of an injury or medical emergency during the competition, a qualified first aider will provide treatment and assistance. If the candidate is under 18, a parent or guardian will be notified of the incident, and an accident report form will be completed.

### **Chaperones**

We provide chaperones who will be responsible for candidates under the age of 18 during the welcome reception, coaching, semi-finals, and final. All chaperones have current criminal record checks (DBS or equivalent) in place and are briefed on the RAD's safeguarding policies and procedures.

Candidates under the age of 18 will not be permitted to leave the coaching or competition venue during the coaching day unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or teacher. We also encourage candidates over the age of 18 to follow this guideline.

### **Taking care of you**

If at any time something or someone is worrying you, please speak to a chaperone or member of staff. Alternatively, you can email [safeguarding@rad.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rad.org.uk), and we will be there to help. If you have a safeguarding concern, whether it relates to yourself or another candidate, please speak to the lead chaperone immediately. You can also speak to the RAD's designated Safeguarding Manager or send any low-level concerns to [safeguarding@rad.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rad.org.uk) at any time.

Our full Safeguarding Policy & Procedures are available online and updated annually [Policies, Procedures, and Regulations - Royal Academy of Dance](#).

Your wellbeing is of the highest importance. There are dedicated staff, chaperones, and teachers available to support you, so please communicate openly with them.

## **Section 4: Further information**

### **Registration and welcome reception – Saturday October 31**

Registration and a welcome reception for all candidates will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 31 October (timings to be confirmed). All candidates may bring **one** guest (parent/guardian/teacher) to this event.

At the welcome reception you will be introduced to your coaches for the week, the RAD staff and other people who will be assisting with the organisation of the competition. The dress code is smart casual.

## **Section 5: Ticketing**

### **Tickets & booking information for parents/teachers of candidates**

The semi-finals will be held at RAD headquarters from Wednesday 4 November to Friday 6 November.

The final will be held at the London Coliseum, on the evening of Sunday 8 November.

**Tickets are not yet on sale, however more information on how to buy them will be available at [www.royalacademyofdance.org/the-fonteyn/](http://www.royalacademyofdance.org/the-fonteyn/)**

## **Section 6: Press, photography, filming images and social media**

The RAD has a lively and engaged worldwide community of over 700,000 followers and fans on our social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, LinkedIn and YouTube. We use our social networks to promote the

competition, raising its profile worldwide, providing you with a platform to be seen by the dance industry and ensuring that we attract an appreciative audience for the semi-finals and the final.

During the competition, our communications team will be taking photos and videos, using a selection to publish regularly on our social media channels, or to share with our sponsors and partners to post on theirs.

We encourage candidates to post about their positive experiences of the event using the official event hashtag **#Fonteyn2026**.

We encourage candidates to post 'behind-the-scenes' content which can include:

- Images or videos of candidates warming up with other candidates. Please make sure you have the other candidate's consent when doing this,
- Images or videos of candidates preparing for each session of the competition i.e. entering the coaching venue or leaving the coaching venue or theatre for the day,
- Images of candidates wearing their attire and Fonteyn merchandise
- Candid images or videos of candidates in the coaching venues during break times and before, not during, classes.

While you are allowed to share your experience of the competition on social media, there are exceptions. You **are not allowed** to film or photograph any of the following:

- Any of the Classical Variations, the Frederick Ashton Variations or any other candidates Dancer's Own Variations. This is due to intellectual copyright and music copyright
- Any of the class work due to intellectual copyright and music copyright.

The communications team monitors this throughout the competition and will ask you to delete anything that is deemed inappropriate or in breach of copyright.

Our social media pages are listed below. Keep a lookout for the official event hashtag **#Fonteyn2026** and please also feel free to repost and share anything that we post on our official channels throughout the competition.

<https://www.facebook.com/RoyalAcademyofDance>  
<https://www.instagram.com/royalacademyofdance/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/royalacademydance>  
<https://www.tiktok.com/@royalacademyofdance>

As well as the main RAD accounts that are operated at the RAD's headquarters, most of our international offices have Facebook and

Instagram pages. We encourage you to tag your national office in your posts.

### **Social media filming requests**

A member of the communications team may get in contact to invite you to do some filming for social media, providing an opportunity for you to share your experience and promote yourself as a dancer. You will be supported and briefed on this beforehand.

### **Fonteyn official photography**

We will also commission an official Fonteyn photographer and videographer to capture images of the competition from start to finish. Advanced warning will be given before they go into studios and will be briefed to be as unobtrusive as possible, and they will be always accompanied by an RAD staff member.

### **Media filming/interviews**

Similarly, we may invite news photographers and broadcast crews to report on the competition, they will be accompanied by RAD staff, and no candidate will be asked to do or say anything that they are not comfortable with.

If you have any concerns about press, photography or filming please raise it with Press & Communications Manager, Katie Hagan [press@rad.org.uk](mailto:press@rad.org.uk)

## **Section 7: Contact for further information**

Maria O'Connor, Royal Academy of Dance,  
188 York Road, London SW11 3JZ, UK  
Email: [moconnor@rad.org.uk](mailto:moconnor@rad.org.uk)  
Telephone: + 44 (0)20 7326 8024

## **Section 8: Terms and conditions**

### **Applications**

- a) Acknowledgement of your application is not confirmation of a place at The Fonteyn International Ballet Competition 2026; this will be confirmed on 30 June.
- b) You are advised not to book travel unless you have received written confirmation of a place, which will be sent out to you after the final closing date.
- c) Applications will be considered invalid if candidates do not send all the requested information and full payment by the of 30 June.

## **Cancellation of The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition**

If The Fonteyn has to be cancelled due to a circumstance beyond the reasonable control of the RAD, including but not limited to acts of God, compliance with any law or governmental order rule regulation, direction or travel advice, war, riot, strike, terrorist acts or the threat of terrorist acts, civil commotion or insurrection, royal demise, malicious damage, fire, flood, accident, storm, breakdown earthquake, subsidence or failure of the plant, machinery and associated property of the RAD or any public utility, health epidemic, pandemic, infectious disease or any other unforeseen event, we will do our best to reschedule the activity where possible, but this cannot be guaranteed.

The RAD will offer candidates the opportunity to transfer their booking to the next event or offer a full refund of fees.

## **Withdrawals and refunds**

Candidates who withdraw will be subject to the clauses below:

- a) Candidates who withdraw from The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition **after submitting an application** will not have the registration fee of £100 refunded.
- b) Candidates who withdraw from The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition **after the closing date**, but before 30 June 2026 who have paid the entry fee and registration fee (£700 in total) and have been accepted into the competition will not receive a refund unless a medical certificate is provided. In such cases, the candidate is eligible for a £350 refund.
- c) There will be **no refund for withdrawals under any circumstance** on or after 30 June 2026. It is for this reason that we strongly advise you to get your own insurance.

## **Insurance**

Candidates are advised to consider taking out insurance against withdrawal due to medical reasons, or due to personal reasons which might prevent them completing the competition. Candidates with an existing injury attend The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition at their own risk.

## **Waiver**

Physical contact may be necessary by members of the teaching faculty. If you would like to discuss this matter, contact Maria O'Connor, Royal Academy of Dance, 188 York Road, London, SW11 3JZ, by e-mail: [moconnor@rad.org.uk](mailto:moconnor@rad.org.uk), or tel: + 44 (0)20 7326 8024.

## **Content**

The RAD reserves the right to alter the advertised programme, judging panel and Faculty without prior notice. The information in this and other

printed or electronic brochures/notices was correct at the time of publication.

### **Section 9: Data protection statement**

The RAD holds information and contact details requested at the time of your booking that enable them to provide you with information relating to a candidate registration for the competition. We will not disclose your information to a third party except where legally required to do so.

In addition, our new Privacy Statement and Company Privacy Policy are available to view and download: The full RAD Privacy statement is available to view online [here](#).