

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Celebrity judging panel Darcey Bussell, John Partridge and Michael Nunn search for Dance Proms Young Choreographer 2017

- Dance Proms Young Choreographer to benefit from one-to-one mentoring session with acclaimed choreographer **Akram Khan** and performance of their work at the Royal Albert Hall.
- Dance Proms Young Choreographer announced as a new category for 2017, to provide a platform for the next generation of choreographers.

Darcey Bussell CBE, West End actor **John Partridge** and co-founder and choreographer for BalletBoyz **Michael Nunn OBE**, are on the search for the most talented young choreographers to have their work performed at Dance Proms at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday 5 November 2017. The news follows the introduction of a new 'Dance Proms Young Choreographer' category for the 2017 show.

Supported by top choreographers and Dance Proms patrons, **Sir Matthew Bourne OBE** and **Akram Khan MBE**, Dance Proms Young Choreographer aims to give special recognition to aspiring young choreographers for the first time.

Those aged between 10-21 years from across the world are invited to submit videos of their best choreographic works at www.danceproms.co.uk. One choreographer will be given the opportunity for their work to be performed live on the world-famous stage and will receive a one-to-one mentoring session with Dance Proms Patron and one of the most exciting choreographers today, Akram Khan. Unlike the main event, choreographers do not have to be associated with the ISTD or RAD to enter; anyone can enter as long as they are within the age range.

Dance Proms is a spectacular international youth dance production organised by Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) and the Royal Academy of Dance and the event is the biggest of its kind in the UK and brings together over 500 young talented dancers from a multitude of genres.

The celebrity panel will be looking for originality, creativity, use of space, floor patterning, movement, use of costume and choice of music.

Darcey Bussell said: *"I am delighted to be joining the judging panel that will select the first ever Dance Proms Young Choreographer. It is always exciting to see young dancers take to the stage at Dance Proms each year and experience a performance that will stay with them forever. I am so pleased that Dance Proms is now extending further opportunities for the next generation of choreographers to see their work performed at the Royal Albert Hall, and be exposed to the inputs of experienced industry professionals."*

Michael Nunn said: *"Seeing young choreographers develop is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job. We must remember that they are the future of our industry"*.

Matthew Bourne said: *"Dance Proms Young Choreographer is a great opportunity for budding young choreographers. The opportunity to have your work performed in front of a large audience is invaluable when you're developing your choreographic skills and style...and there aren't many arenas larger or more iconic than the Royal Albert Hall. Good luck to everyone who puts themselves forward for this exciting new addition to Dance Proms."*

Entries open on 27 April and close on 16 June. For more information including T&Cs, visit www.danceproms.co.uk

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Notes to Editors:

About Dance Proms

Dance Proms, now in its 7th year, is a collaborative partnership between two of the world's leading dance organisations, the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD), and the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) along with the Royal Albert Hall, working together in celebration of multi-genre dance and inspiring creativity. To view footage of last year's dazzling evening of dance, [click here](#). For more information, visit www.danceproms.co.uk.

About the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD)

With about 14,000 members spread across 83 countries, the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) is one of the largest and most influential dance education and training organisations in the world. Established in the 1920s, to improve standards and re-invigorate dance training initially within the UK, 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 our exams.

For more information about the RAD, visit www.rad.org.uk

About the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD)

The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing is one of the world's leading dance examination boards. The ISTD has 12 dance faculties from ballet to ballroom, modern to tap and classical Indian to national dance. Formed in 1904, today it is a registered educational charity and covers the full spectrum of dance examinations on a truly global scale; 200,000 examinations in a variety of dance forms are taken each year. With over 7,000 members in more than 50 countries, the ISTD provides a range of syllabi, courses and events across the world. The ISTD's mission is to educate the public in the art of dancing in all its forms, to promote knowledge of dance, to provide up-to-date techniques for our members, and to maintain and improve teaching standards. For more information about the ISTD, visit www.istd.org.

About the Royal Albert Hall

The Royal Albert Hall is the world's most famous stage. Last year, its breathtaking auditorium hosted 397 shows by the world's greatest artists. The magical atmosphere combined with inspired artists creates legendary events. Opened in 1871 as part of Prince Albert's vision for a centre for the Arts and Sciences, the Hall is a registered charity which operates without any public revenue funding, remaining true to his founding ambitions within a modern context. Extending the brand with almost 400 events outside the auditorium, the Hall has broadened its appeal to younger, diverse audiences whilst still engaging its existing customers. It also works with schools, young people, disadvantaged groups and partners such as Music for Youth through its Education & Outreach programme, reaching over 100,000 participants each year as part of its extensive public benefit remit. For more information, visit www.royalalberthall.com.