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Royal Winnipeg Ballet School seeks next generation of professional dancers

Aug 26, 2018



A RWB School Professional Division Student

Photo: Kristen Sawatzky

From October 10 to January 25, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) School Professional Division will hold auditions across Canada and into the U.S. in search of new talent. Auditions are the first step for students hoping to join one of the RWB School's three full-time professional programs: Ballet Academic (Grade 5 and up), Aspirant (post-secondary), and Teacher Training (post-secondary).

Auditions include a Q & A session as well as a master class in some cities. Students who are unable to attend an audition may submit a video application online, which will be accepted until May 1, 2019.

"The audition tour is an amazing opportunity to witness the incredible work that teachers of dance are doing across the country", says Stéphane Léonard, RWB School interim director and aspirant program director. "We want to honour their amazing work, and help their pupils reach their highest potential. Aside from recruiting talented artists, the audition tour is a wonderful chance to connect with local dance communities through holding master classes for both auditioning and non-auditioning ballet students."

Currently, an average of 70 percent of the RWB Company dancers are graduates of the RWB School, with over half of the RWB's artistic school leadership being RWB School alumni.

"The teachers at the RWB School are part of my tapestry as an artist," says Tara Birtwhistle, RWB School graduate, former RWB principal dancer and current associate artistic director. "They laid a solid foundation and gave me the confidence to push forward; their training allows dancers to become the artists they're meant to be."

Students who are identified as having potential for professional training during their audition are invited to attend Summer Session, which acts as the second phase of the audition process. Running throughout the month of July 2019 in Winnipeg, Summer Session allows students to experience life at

the RWB first hand. After this month of intensive training, students who are deemed to be a fit for one of the RWB School's professional programs will be accepted into Regular Session, running from September 2019 to June 2020.

The RWB School Professional Division Audition Tour has been made possible in part by the Government of Canada and the Manitoba Arts Council. The RWB School also gratefully acknowledges the support of our 2018/19 Audition Tour Presenting Sponsor: Investors Group.

A proud supporter of the RWB, Investors Group National Scholarship Program provides a scholarship to aspiring dancers across Canada. The scholarships enable recipients to attend the second phase of the audition process, four weeks of training at the RWB School, and a chance to earn a place in the full-time Professional Division program in Winnipeg.

"We are proud to continue our valued relationship with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, by recognizing the importance of the Audition Tour," says Trevor Krahn, Director, Sponsorship & Community Engagement at Investors Group. "Our scholarship is an investment in the future of Canada's aspiring dancers, who should be afforded every opportunity to pursue their dreams with confidence."

The 2018/19 Audition Tour comes to Montreal on Monday, Jan. 21, 2019 at Les Studios, 1435 rue de Bleury, suite 400, Montréal, QC H3A 2H7



Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Professional Division is well-known across the country and around the world for delivering excellence in dance education. Our state-of-the-art facility, located in the heart of historic downtown Winnipeg, is home to between 90 and 110 students enrolled annually in our full-time programs. We provide classical ballet training based on the Russian system and supported with a full program of study in complementary dance forms and health, wellness, and life skills. Our approach produces artists who have the flexibility to perform and teach a wide variety of dance styles and are capable of enjoying long and fulfilling careers; it also produces responsible young adults who are well-rounded and creative, and who possess strong work ethics and leadership skills. The connection to the RWB Company and exposure to the Company's artistic staff are among the RWB School's many competitive advantages. Alumni have gone on to exciting careers in all facets of the dance industry around the world and currently make up 70% of the RWB Company and over half of the RWB School's artistic faculty.

Follow the tour with #RWBSAuditions.

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An advertisement for Académie Marie-Claire. On the left, a white circle contains the text 'ACADÉMIE MARIE-CLAIRE HOME OF MANY AWARD WINNING STUDENTS'. To the right, the school's name 'ACADÉMIE MARIE-CLAIRE' is written in white, followed by 'Enriched Bilingual Primary School' in yellow. Below this, it says 'Information on Pre-School & Kindergarten Available - Click HERE!' and 'www.amcca.ca | 514.697.9995'. On the right side of the advertisement is a photograph of two young children, a girl and a boy, smiling.