

ROYAL
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OF
DANCE

Focus on Exams

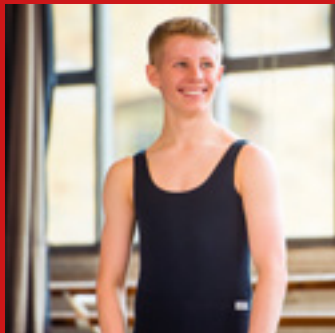
Issue 1 2023

Filmed exams updates

Eco packaging for
certificates

Special Consideration
applications





Summer Events

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- *Sleeping Beauty* Repertoire Weekend Intensive

Silver Swans

(recommend for age 55+)

- Silver Swans Summer School
- Silver Swans: Focus on Classical

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Welcome

Focus on Exams Issue 1 2023

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Welcome to Focus on Exams

In this edition, we include our usual updates and reminders for filmed and face-to-face exams, as well as focusing on an RAD teacher's case study involving teaching an older student for their Intermediate exam.

In this edition:

- **Updates and reminders** – specifications, reminders for filmed exams, update on the free enchaînement music download.
- A reminder for the process for applying for a Special Consideration
- Green certificate packaging – well, brown certificate packaging, but now eco-friendly!
- RAD teacher Effie Sotira talks about preparing her student Phoebe for her Intermediate exam – at 50 years old.
- More inspirational exam hair (email exams@rad.org.uk if you wish to share your examples!)

Stay safe and best wishes

James Stockdale
Director of Examinations





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Reminders and updates

Specifications

The 2023 specifications are now **online**. These contain the adaptation information circulated in Edition 3 2022 of Focus on Exams. The new copy is highlighted for ease.

Grade 6 and 7 Solo Performance Awards – Révérence

For grades 6 and 7 Solo Performance Awards, candidates can use the set character, the old set classical, or can choreograph a new *révérence* to the classical *révérence* piece of music.

Filmed exams – reminders and updates

- When teachers are recording filmed exams, and an incident occurs, which means that special consideration may apply, teachers should complete a special consideration form and attach it to their entry – e.g. if a student falls or faints during the exam and needs a few minutes to recover.
- Please ensure that numbers for students are clear, pinned front and back, and are in contrast to what the candidates are wearing – e.g. avoid using white numbers on a pale leotard, as they will not stand out.
- Short rest breaks may be given to candidates in filmed exams. These typically occur between

the technique sections. Single candidates in vocational exams, particularly at the Advanced levels, may require additional rest time between exercises. This can be facilitated if exams occur during extreme heatwaves, where candidates may need more rest and water breaks. The filming should not be turned off for any additional breaks.

- Where offices facilitate face-to-face and filmed examinations, they may manage session dates to enable them to administer both of these services. This may mean that the session dates for filmed exams fall outside session dates for face-to-face exams.

Free Enchaînement download

Please find the link to the Free Enchaînement music download now available from RAD Enterprises:

Free Enchaînement Music Download – Royal Academy Of Dance Enterprises Ltd
(radenterprises.co.uk)

Where teachers choose to perform their Intermediate Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced Foundation exams to recorded music, they will need a copy of these tracks for the examiner to facilitate the free enchaînement section of the exam.

Reminders and updates

Exam dates

Please give multiple date choices for organisers wherever possible so that they are best able to give you a date choice that suits.

Eco packaging for certificates

The examinations results team have been working with our distributor and we have introduced more eco-friendly packaging for certificate deliveries. The new packaging is recyclable, light-weight, re-useable, and manufactured in the UK, resulting in a reduced carbon footprint. Furthermore, it is made from paper with no single-use plastic and can be placed whole into your household paper recycling. We have also been assured that it is as durable as the previous packaging, and as such will continue to protect certificates in transit to you.

Vocational examination syllabus gender

If a candidate is choosing to present an exam syllabus which differs from the gender with which they are listed in the exam entry, teachers should state this in the exam entry notes section. This is so that examiners are aware of which format to follow.

RAVs – music with an adjustment to tempo

In the previous edition of *Focus on Exams*, it was noted that:

Reasonable adjustment to music speed is permitted for recorded music. The speed should be appropriate for the dynamics of the settings. Adjustment to the speed should not affect the pitch of the music and no more or less than 5% slower or faster is recommended.

Teachers should remember that if they make such an adjustment to the music for their candidates, and then enter them at an RAV, they will need to provide the adjusted music. Please include this information as a note in your entry if you intend to supply music with adjusted tempo.

Special Consideration applications

Process for Special Consideration applications

‘Special consideration’ is an adjustment to the mark for a candidate who was prepared for and present at an exam, but who may have been disadvantaged by adverse circumstances that arose immediately before or at the time it took place.

Special consideration cannot give the candidate an unfair advantage or cause misunderstanding about a candidate’s achievements. Exams and assessments are a measure of what a candidate can do at one moment in time and therefore, only minor adjustments can be made to the mark, to protect the integrity of the award.

- Please note that all applications should be submitted directly via email to examscustomerservices@rad.org.uk (*Headquarters office staff do not receive notification of documents attached directly to your online entry)
- Special Consideration applications are to be submitted no later than 5 working days from the exam date.
- For filmed exams we can consider applications made within 5 working days of entry submission.
- The full policy can be found [here](#).

Example situations for the consideration of Special Consideration marks:

- A fire alarm goes off during the exam and candidates and staff have to evacuate the premises - due to the interruption one or more candidates’ performance may be affected.
- A candidate is taken ill during the exam, they faint or collapse. A first aider is called and after reviving and resting for some minutes, they wish to continue.
- A candidate suffers a minor injury during the exam, they trip and slightly twist their ankle. After rest and consultation with the first aider, they want to continue with the exam, repeating the exercise which was interrupted.
- Due to transport issues caused by train delays the exam schedule is disrupted and the day starts late by over 15 minutes, the candidates experience additional waiting time and increased pressure of the exams running late.

This list is not exhaustive and is to be used for illustrative purposes only. If in any doubt regarding whether a situation would be eligible for a Special Consideration application, please refer to your session organiser or to RAD headquarters.

No upper age limit

RAD teacher Effie Sotira talks about working with an adult exam candidate...

My name is Effie Sotira and I am a registered teacher of the Royal Academy of Dance based in Athens, Greece. I am delighted to announce an excellent exam result for my student, Phoebe Legakis who, at the end of last year, aged 50, passed her Intermediate exam with Merit.

Phoebe started ballet training for the first time six years ago and we have worked together since 2018. She is a strongly motivated student with incredible will power. In class she works hard to improve, despite physical boundaries, and most importantly, she is responsive to developing her work by listening to, and acting on, corrections.

Together we made the decision to set ourselves a goal: that Phoebe would challenge herself by entering for her Intermediate exam. From the moment that we set this goal, we worked together and designed a program of training. As well as ballet classes, Phoebe worked on gym exercises and stretching in order to strengthen specific muscle groups to prevent any injury or physical stress.



We are both very proud of one another and of Phoebe's achievement, and we are ready to move on to the next level. So when it comes to the famous saying 'Where there's a will there's a way!' the way has to be a carefully planned management of the body and the mind that, in Phoebe's case, allowed her to push her limits gently, to remain focused and to come out of the process as a nurtured happy person!

Effie Sotira
ARAD, Dip RBS TTC.

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Image: A Dancers Lens

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Florrie Sinclair bursary

Florrie Sinclair bursary for Scottish students

The closing date for the annual Florrie Sinclair Memorial Award this year is 17 June, and is open to Scottish students who wish to pursue a career in either dance teaching or performing. Florrie was a well-known teacher and examiner in the RAD community worldwide.

The award provides a bursary up to the value of £1,500 to talented Scottish-born students who have been accepted or are studying at a vocational ballet or contemporary school or course in the UK.

Applications are open between May and June of each year, with funding awarded in September of the applying year. The award should be used to fund travel and dancewear/uniform, travel expenses between home and school, term time travel between lodgings and school, and dancewear/uniform for regular classes.

Last year the trustees gave out awards amounting to £4,000 to recipients in Orkney and Glasgow.

Visit [here](#) for more information and application criteria.

Exploring Repertoire Open House Events

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Join us for our Exploring Repertoire events and explore the world of much-loved classical ballets. Taking place at the RAD headquarters, both days will feature workshops and activities for all ages.

**Swan Lake – Sunday
5 March 2023**

**Cinderella – Sunday
18 June 2023**

Photos: Elliott Franks, Sian Trenberth

Upcoming RAD events 2023



GCSE and A Level Dance
Photo: Kirsty Hei-Lin Yeung

We have developed an exciting series of informative and entertaining events and opportunities to connect with the RAD community.

All details are subject to change, please check www.royalacademyofdance.org for the latest information.

RAD Members' Day (23 April)

You can expect a vibrant day of opportunities to network, participate in practical sessions, and be part of inspirational conversations. There will also be opportunities to meet people from the RAD and our partner organisations. This is a hybrid event so if you are unable to join in person, please join us online.

GCSE and A Level Dance Open Day (29 April)

Our open days offer prospective students the chance to get a feel for what it is like to attend the course at the RAD. You will meet and speak with course tutors, see our current students in rehearsal and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Connect and Inspire – Learning Disability Week (27 June)

Join us as we mark Learning Disability Week for a conversation led by dance artist, Laura Heywood, around dance practices while working with children and adults with learning disabilities.

Tell your students about RAD membership



Photo: WinkPop Media

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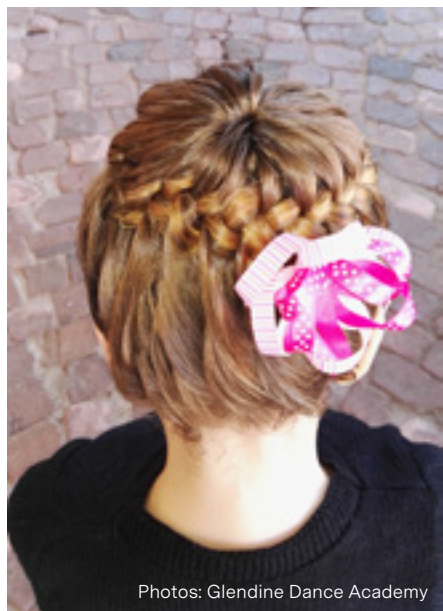
Help us inspire the next generation of dance professionals.

We have created a set of postcards about membership for your students. You can request these [here](#) or use the QR code below, and we will post them out to you.



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Exam hairstyles...



Following our call out to see examples of your exam hairstyles, check out the gorgeous examples below. We can't help thinking that these candidates must have been feeling a million dollars when they entered the exam studio!



Panel of Examiners

Fond farewell

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the best to retiring Canadian examiner, Yvonne Oldaker, who has been on the examining panel for an outstanding 57 years. We wish her all the best for her retirement and thank her for her dedicated service.

In celebration

Congratulations to South African Examiner, Dianne Cheesman, who has recently been awarded the Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Dance (FRAD).

Recruitment and training

A warm welcome to the following examiners who completed their training in 2022 and join the RAD Panel of Examiners:

Sydney, headquarters training programme

Midori Lotz (AUS)

Elissa Mairet (AUS)

Alinta McRae (AUS)

Carol Kettlewell (AUS)

Maria Roselli (AUS)

Samantha Simpson (AUS)

Jacqui Stratton-Smith (AUS)

Jenny Trafford (AUS)

London, headquarters training programme

Blanca Cortés (ESP)

Khushcheher Dallas (IND)

Kim Day (ZAF)

Susana Gonzalez-Castro (ESP)

Adele Grey (ZAF)

Wanarudee Hansomboon (THA)

Mireia Lorente-Moreno (ESP)

Andrea Paris (USA)

Daniele Parlapiano (ITA)

Robert Policarpio (CAN)

A further training programme will be held at our London Headquarters during October/ November 2023. We are currently not accepting any new examiner applications at present and do not anticipate further recruitment until 2024 the earliest. For further information on application guidelines and the training process, please email examinerrecruitment@rad.org.uk

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ERRATA – Apologies to Clarke MacIntosh, Director of RAD Canada, for the incorrect spelling of his name in our last edition.

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RAD
Members'
Day 2023

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Photos: David Tett; Bruce Zinger



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Photo: David Tett, courtesy of
the Royal Academy of Dance

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