

## David McAllister AM awarded prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award by the Royal Academy of Dance



Credit: David McAllister is surprised at a special lunch gala in Sydney with the presentation of the QEII Award. Photo by Chris Pavlic

- **David McAllister AM was surprised at a special gala lunch held in Sydney by Friends of The Australian Ballet with the presentation of the QEII award**
- **The award was presented on behalf of the Academy by President of the RAD Dame Darcey Bussell DBE (virtually) and Audrey Nicholls OAM FRAD**
- **You are able to download images [here](#).**
- **For further information visit: [www.royalacademyofdance.org](http://www.royalacademyofdance.org)**

**28 April 2021:** The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) today announced it has awarded its highest honour the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award to David McAllister AM. David, immediate past Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet and a Vice-President of the RAD, was bestowed with this award in recognition of his contribution to The Australian Ballet as a dancer and director, as well as being a vital supporter and advocate for dance.

The QEII Coronation Award, the Academy's most prestigious accolade, was instituted in 1953 to commemorate the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The first recipient in 1954 was Dame Ninette de Valois. Since then it has been awarded to many of the greatest names in dance, in recognition of outstanding services to the art form. Former recipients include Dame Marie Rambert DBE, Sir Frederick Ashton, Rudolf Nureyev and Carlos Acosta CBE. It was most recently awarded to Karen Kain in 2019.

The award was presented to David at a special lunch gala organised by the Friends of The Australian Ballet in Sydney. Unbeknown to David, this event was a special occasion, marking the end of his incredible tenure at the company and the perfect opportunity to surprise him with this coveted award. The QEII medal was presented to David by Dame Darcey Bussell DBE (joining virtually) and Audrey Nicholls OAM FRAD.

**Dame Darcey Bussell DBE, President of the RAD said:** “I am absolutely thrilled that David is receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award, the highest honour the Royal Academy of Dance can bestow, given in recognition of outstanding service to the art of dance.”

**Luke Rittner CBE, Chief Executive of the RAD said:** “ The QEII Award is the Royal Academy of Dance’s most esteemed award, presented to those who have made a significant contribution to the dance industry and the art form we all care for deeply. As we look back at David McAllister’s incredible career at The Australian Ballet and all that he has done to advocate for ballet across the world, I am thrilled that he will join this list of eminent choreographers, dancers, directors and teachers who have shaped the world of dance.”

To read more about the Royal Academy of Dance’s Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award and previous recipients visit [www.royalacademyofdance.org](http://www.royalacademyofdance.org)

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**Notes to Editors**

**About David McAllister**

A graduate of The Australian Ballet School, Perth-born David McAllister joined The Australian Ballet in 1983. He was promoted to Senior Artist in 1986 and to Principal Artist in 1989. In 1985 he won a Bronze Medal at the Fifth International Ballet Competition in Moscow, which saw him invited to return to the USSR as a guest artist where he made numerous appearances with the Bolshoi Ballet, the Kirov Ballet, the Georgian State Ballet and other companies. In 1989 David was guest artist with The National Ballet of Canada, dancing John Cranko’s Romeo and Juliet as well as Etudes and The Four Temperaments. David has worked as a guest teacher with The Australian Ballet School, The Dancers Company, the RAD, the Cecchetti Society, Australian Institute of Classical Dance and various summer schools. David danced for the final time in Giselle on 24 March 2001 at the Sydney Opera House and became Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet in July 2001. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2004.



### **About the Royal Academy of Dance**

Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) is one of the most influential dance education and training organisations in the world with a strong global membership in 85 countries.

Established in 1920 to improve standards and re-invigorate dance training, 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 RAD exams.

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