

PRESS RELEASE

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Gifted young dancers battle it out in competition organised by Step into Dance

Battle is an annual event by Step into Dance, a Royal Academy of Dance programme in partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation.



Image credit: Hannah Brandon

- Young dancers from London **aged 11-18** came together and battled to victory in competition hosted by street dance icon **Yami Löfvenberg**
- Winners included **House of Rebels**, who were named All Styles Crew winners
- All prizes were presented by **RAD's Artistic Director, Gerard Charles** and **Riana Morrison-Kirnon**, Step Into Dance Alumnus and member of the Jack Petchey Foundation's Youth Consultation Panel.

Press Contacts

Katie Hagan | Press & Communications Manager | 020 7326 8002 | khagan@rad.org.uk

On Saturday 28 January 2023, young dancers from London were crowned champions at ‘Battle’, a unique and high-energy hip hop dance event organised by Step into Dance.

Young people from across London and Essex took part in this year’s event, which featured a full day of workshops, solo, duo and crew battles, and took place at Conway Hall in central London.

‘Battle’ is an annual celebration of hip hop dance organised by Step into Dance, the UK’s largest inclusive dance programme run by the Royal Academy of Dance and funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation. The event provides the opportunity for young dancers to come together and share their passion for dance, all the while battling it out in front of their friends and a rapturous audience.

Young dancers are able to put their skills to the test in solo, duo, and crew battles for the chance to be named champions, and can also take part in workshops in commercial and breaking, rounds of knock out battles, and showcases.

An event that celebrates the joy of dance and bringing everyone together, ‘Battle’ further enables young dancers to develop skills such as collaboration, creativity, discipline and expressing their individuality, which they can take forward in every direction life takes them.

This year’s ‘Battle’ was hosted by hip-hop choreographer, dancer and teacher **Yami Löfvenberg** and featured live music from **DJ Rosie Riot**. The judging panel who selected this year’s winners included **Gavin Vincent**, **Shannelle ‘Tali’ Fergus**, and **Roxanne Milliner** all of whom are professional dancers currently working in the industry.

To bring Battle to a triumphant finish, a range of awards were announced and presented to the young dancers by RAD’s Artistic Director **Gerard Charles** and **Riana Morrison-Kirnon**, Step into Dance Alumnus and member of the Jack Petchey Foundation’s Youth Consultation Panel.

The winners were:

- All Styles Crew: **House of Rebels**, a dance group from I Got Soul Performing Arts in Ruislip
- 1v1 Beginner: **Leandrah** from Harris Girls Academy in Bromley
- 1v1 Experienced: **Emma**, House of Rebels

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• 2v2
Walworth
Dance Youth Company



Beginner: **Aliyah and Feran** from Ark Academy in Southwark & Step into (SYNC)

- 2v2 Experienced: **Ava-Flav and Missy**, House of Rebels

Gerard Charles, Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Dance, commented: *The infectious attraction of attending the Battle is the positive energy that you get from seeing dancers from so many places coming together to put all they have on the dance floor. Although it is a competition the atmosphere is incredibly supportive of all - from the least experienced dancer to the most highly regarded professionals, all are equally valued.*

- ENDS -

For further enquiries please contact Katie Hagan, Press and Communications Manager at Royal Academy of Dance: khagan@rad.org.uk

Notes to Editors

Step into Dance

Delivered by professional dance practitioners and artists, Step into Dance supports the general wellbeing and healthy development of young people, and enables them to develop knowledge, techniques, and experiences in dance, as well as acquiring personal skills that transfer to being successful in whatever their future lives may hold.

The main objective of the Step into Dance programme continues to be to reach as many young people as possible in the London and Essex regions through regular dance sessions in schools, creating opportunities for youth to connect to dance, and reaching young people that might not otherwise have this possibility.

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Step into Dance is a Royal Academy
with the Jack Petchey Foundation

www.royalacademyofdance.org/step-into-dance

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.

www.royalacademyofdance.org

Jack Petchey Foundation

Established in 1999, The Jack Petchey Foundation gives grants to programmes and projects that benefit young people aged 11-25, focusing on London and Essex. The Foundation exists to raise the aspirations of young people, to help them take advantage of opportunities and play a full part in society. Since it has been established, the Foundation has awarded grants totalling over £150 million.

www.jackpetchyfoundation.org.uk



of Dance programme in partnership

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