



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Stepping into the Spotlight

Students take centre stage to celebrate their work and the RAD celebrate confirmation of further funding from the Jack Petchey Foundation for *Step into Dance*.

Step into Dance LIVE! will take place at The Bloomsbury Theatre on Saturday 14 July 2007 at 7.00pm. A selection of North London schools that have taken part in the pilot scheme will perform a diverse range of dance styles, including Ballet, Street Dance, Contemporary, Capoeira and Jazz, giving students the opportunity to show off their hard work and new dance skills.,

After the success of the pilot programme, The Jack Petchey Foundation has promised a further **£179,000** for the *Step into Dance* programme to roll out into the additional boroughs of Croydon, Wandsworth and Merton, and Hammersmith and Fulham whilst continuing in Camden, Islington, Enfield and Haringey. Andrew Billington, Director of the Jack Petchey Foundation, stated;

“We believe the opportunity to learn to dance can be life-changing for some young people; for others it can be an important form of exercise and expression. The pilot programme has been popular because Step into Dance is in schools encouraging both girls and boys to take part. We are keen to encourage more schools in London to join this scheme”.

The RAD, in association with The Jack Petchey Foundation, launched the community dance programme in January 2007. The pilot offered a fully inclusive dance programme to all secondary schools in Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington, at

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no financial cost to the school, in order to widen participation in dance. The programme was designed to introduce extra curricular dance classes for 11-16 year old male and female students, regardless of previous dance experience or ability and whether or not they already have existing dance teaching provision. Chrischar Maasdoff, teacher at Broomfield in Camden stated;

“The Step into Dance programme has been well received. The students are keen to start a dance club in school so this pilot has given them a chance to equip themselves with the right skills before introducing this to their peers, hopefully in the new academic year... I will recommend this programme to anyone who is working with young people and want them to learn new skills, have fun and exercise all at the same time!”

Due to popular demand, the RAD increased the number of schools involved in the pilot programme, enabling over 400 students to take dance lessons in their preferred style. The new programme aims to offer sustainable dance provision in 70 secondary schools to 1000 or more students.

To book free tickets to **Step into Dance LIVE!** please us by Friday 29 June 2007:
tel: +44 (0)20 7326 8051

Step into Dance LIVE! will take place on Saturday 14 July, 7pm at The Bloomsbury Theatre, London WC1R 0AH

-ENDS-

For further press information & press tickets please contact the RAD Press Office

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Notes for Editors

The Royal Academy of Dance is one of the world's leading dance education providers and is a prominent contributor to the global dance community. The Royal Academy of Dance promotes knowledge, understanding and practice of dance internationally. It seeks to accomplish its mission through promoting dance, educating and training students and teachers and providing examinations to

monitor and reward achievement. It has approximately 13,500 members in 79 countries, approximately one third of its members are RAD Registered Teachers, training and inspiring young people every day. Although classical ballet is at its core the Academy offers a far wider range of dance and forms and works with renowned teachers and choreographers on a regular basis to ensure that delivery is always of the highest standard.

List of schools participating available on request

The Jack Petchey Foundation, established in 1999, offers grants to programmes and projects that benefit young people aged 11 – 25 in London and Essex. The Foundation is eager to help young people take advantage of a range of opportunities and to play their part in society and to date has donated £30 million to programmes and initiatives in London and Essex.

Grants are given through different programmes including: Achievement Award Scheme, Leader Award Scheme, Projects Grants and Sponsorship

The foundation operates in London, Essex and Portugal. As well as the successful Achievement and Leader Awards Scheme the Foundation is also funding other projects including dance, public speaking, young enterprise, overseas adventures and community schemes, out of school hours learning programmes, the London wide Summer Uni initiative and the London wide JPG Speak Out Challenge. It has also formally joined London Legacy 2020 and allocated £10 million to support programmes related to opportunities created by the Olympics. Part of this sum will be channeled through initiatives supported by the East London Business Alliance (ELBA).

www.stepintodance.org

www.rad.org.uk

www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk