



P R I X  
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L A U S A N N E

Press release

## Prix de Lausanne 2025 Opening of the 53rd edition

International ballet competition – Beaulieu Theatre, Lausanne

**Lausanne, 3 February 2025: the 53<sup>rd</sup> edition of the international dance competition starts today at the Beaulieu Theatre in Lausanne. This year, 85 young dancers of 23 different nationalities are taking part in the competition. The Finals, which will coronate 9 Laureates will take place on Saturday, 8 February 2025. To celebrate the future of dance, the Prix de Lausanne will extend its event for a whole day of celebrations, on Sunday, 9 February 2025, with the unique *Rising Stars* event.**

85 candidates (44 girls and 41 boys) arrived yesterday at Beaulieu Lausanne to compete in the Prix de Lausanne 2025. All week long, they will be under the careful supervision of our artistic team composed of renowned international dance teachers and coaches to work on their classical and contemporary variation. On Friday, they will present them to the Jury presided by **Laurent Hilaire** to try and be selected for the Finals.

Once again, this year, the competition will be livestreamed on **ARTE Concert** and the Prix de Lausanne website, with nearly 8 hours of live coverage per day. The Selections and Finals will be broadcast in their entirety, enabling viewers all over the world to follow every stage of this exceptional competition.

The public will once again support a young dancer of their choice by donating via our crowdfunding campaign and voting for their favourite finalist. Voting will open after the Selections, by SMS or online on the Prix de Lausanne website. The funds raised will be shared between the winner of the Audience Award (voted on site) and the winner of the Web Audience Award (voted online) to support their integration into the school or partner company of their choice.

### **Finals Interlude and Lifetime Achievement Award**

During the Jury's deliberations for the Finals, the public will have the opportunity to attend an interlude during which the Prix de Lausanne choreographic and educational projects will be presented. Two *pas de deux* presented by guest stars Margarita Fernandes and António Casalinho will also be danced on stage.

The event will conclude with the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award 2025 to Li Cunxin AO. Born into extreme poverty in China during the Mao regime, Li was selected at

an early age to train at the Beijing Dance Academy. Years of rigorous training have made him one of the world's finest dancers. The Prix de Lausanne is proud to honour this immense artist, whose life is a testimony to his ability to overcome hardship through discipline and perseverance.

### **Sunday, 9 February: Closing Day**

As part of its drive to extend the influence of dance beyond the circles of the initiated, the Prix de Lausanne is expanding its program to include a special day alongside the competition. On Sunday, 9 February 2025, at 3pm, the eagerly awaited *Rising Stars* show will bring together the greatest talents of this year's competition. Designed to sparkle in the eyes of dance novices and specialists alike, *Rising Stars* will allow the public to (re)discover the best of the Prix de Lausanne 2025 in a moment out of time.

The show opens with Margarita Fernandes and António Casalinho performing the balcony pas de deux from *Romeo and Juliet* by John Cranko. The audience will then have the chance to witness the variations of the Finalists and Prize Winners from this edition of the Prix de Lausanne.

This will be followed by the two winning variations of the Young Creation Award 2025, imagined and created by young students from our partner schools.

An original work, choreographed by Jessica Lang and created in one week, will then be presented by 26 dancers for the Partner School Choreographic Project. Finally, Margarita Fernandes and António Casalinho will return to dance the pas de deux from the ballet *Le Corsaire*.

#### **Dedicated Press & Photo Access**

<https://www.prixdelausanne.org/press-access>

#### **Days open to the public**

Monday 3 February to Sunday 9 February 2025

#### **Press & photo access**

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*The Prix de Lausanne follows the development of future dance talents throughout the year through various activities which culminates into the most prestigious classical ballet*

*competition in the world. The first edition of the competition, designed for 15 to 18-year-old dancers, took place in 1973. Since then, it has become a major annual event in the dance sphere on a worldwide scale, and its goal remains unchanged: to identify, promote and help the best young dance talents around the world. Today, after 48 editions, the Prix de Lausanne is considered the most prestigious ballet competition on an international level and the foundation upholding and organising it has morphed into a wide scale charity, well beyond the initial event. We support the most promising young talents throughout the year through various education and training activities. The Prix de Lausanne allows them to live a unique experience that will serve them throughout their career. As a development partner, we provide them with a healthy environment to reach their full potential. That is why we have developed a vast network of partners to strive for excellence in this exceptional artistic dance field.*