

# ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Queen Camilla the new Patron of the Royal Academy of Dance

Image of Queen Camilla at the Royal Academy of Dance's new HQ opening in March 2022.



- Queen Camilla is the RAD's third Royal Patron
- The Queen served as Vice-Patron alongside the late Queen Elizabeth II, who was Patron until her passing last year
- Queen Camilla is a supporter of RAD's Silver Swans dance programme for older learners.

**Today the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) welcomes Queen Camilla as its new Patron.**

Queen Camilla has been Vice-Patron of the RAD – one of the world's leading dance education and training organisations – since 2020, serving alongside the late Queen Elizabeth II who was Patron of the organisation from 1953 until her passing in 2022.

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As Vice-Patron of the RAD, Queen Camilla has performed numerous duties; formally opening the RAD's HQ in 2022 and awarding the RAD's Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award to ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov at a special presentation at Buckingham Palace the same year. Over the years, Queen Camilla has been a supporter of RAD's Silver Swans dance programme, a programme designed and developed for learners over the age of 55 with an interest in dance.

In her new role as patron, Queen Camilla will continue to serve as an inspiring figure and supporter of the RAD and wider world of dance.

**Tim Arthur Chief Executive of the RAD** says, *"On behalf of the RAD, I am truly delighted that Queen Camilla is our new Patron. Previously our Vice-Patron, Queen Camilla has been so supportive of our organisation, championing our programmes including Silver Swans, which is designed to encourage older people to dance."*

*The RAD has a long, positive history and relationship with The Royal Family. It was the late Queen Elizabeth II's grandmother, Queen Mary, who was interested in dance – ballet in particular. With an approach from our Founding President Dame Adeline Genée, Queen Mary became our First Royal Patron in 1928. We are truly thankful for The Royal Family's ongoing patronage of our organisation and look forward to welcoming Queen Camilla as our official Patron."*

**Darcey Bussell President of the RAD** says, *"This is just wonderful news. HM Queen Camilla has been such an engaged supporter of the RAD for many years. Her patronage will make such a difference to the members of the RAD and she will help encourage all generations to benefit from the many attributes dance."*

The RAD started life in 1920 as the Association of Teachers of Operatic Dancing in Great Britain. It was born out of a meeting of leading dance professionals arranged by Philip Richardson, former editor of the Dancing Times. With Dame Adeline Genée chosen from among her peers as its first President, the Association launched its first syllabus in the same year and held its first exams in 1921.

Queen Mary became the Association's first patron in 1928 and in 1936 it became the Royal Academy of Dancing (RAD) after receiving its Royal Charter from King George V. The following year, the RAD was awarded its coat of arms by the College of Arms.

Fast forward to present day, the RAD is an international, world-leading dance and training organisation where around 250,000 students across the world take RAD exams every year. The RAD has a strong global membership in 85 countries and has offices in 36 countries around the world, with its HQ in London.

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **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.