



Focus on Exams

Issue 1 – February 2017

Welcome to *Focus on Exams*, the RAD publication dedicated entirely to exams matters.

In this electronic edition we include key exams news and updates, but some information, such as names of successful Solo Seal candidates and new and retiring examiners, will be included in the next printed copy.

In other exams news...

- the 2017 Examiners' Seminar took place in London in January
- the Syllabus Development Group continues to work on our new 'Repertoire Programme'...
- the [Fiona Campbell Examinations Bursary](#) opens again during February – visit our [website](#) for more information, or to apply...

Please do let us know how we are doing – we're always pleased to receive feedback about any aspect of RAD exams! [Fill in our survey](#) or email exams@rad.org.uk

Do your students or their parents want to know what happens behind the studio doors at an RAD exam? Show them our [video](#) for an insight!

Dr Andrew McBirnie
Director of Examinations



Specifications, exams information and Rules and Regulations

We are updating our Specification, Information and Rules and Regulations documentation to make it clearer and more user-friendly. The current documents will remain in place until the new version (which will be collated into a single document) is ready.

We are also working on some



Fiona Campbell Examinations Bursary

The [Bursary](#) is open for applicants throughout February 2017. Teachers can apply on behalf of deserving candidates, to the value of their next exam. The process is very simple – through the [online form](#) you have 150 words to explain why your candidate is deserving of a bursary.

There are no published criteria – candidates will be chosen by the panel

translations of these documents so users of RAD exams all over the world can find the information they need more easily.

Keep an eye on the [website](#) for further details.

Comments, suggestions or questions?
Email exams@rad.org.uk

No maximum age limit for any RAD exams!

Doreen Pechey took her Grade 6 exam aged 71!

Sign into the Members' Area to [read more](#) about this inspiring exams story...



Examiners' Seminar 2017

All 197 RAD examiners met in London in January 2017 for the Examiners' Seminar.

The event, led by Artistic Director Paula Hunt, was a chance for examiners to work together on standardisation exercises, reviewing new material, exchanging exams news/queries and updating and

based on their subjective response to the applications, up to the total value of the fund in each application round.

All exams are eligible (apart from the Solo Seal). Bursaries are available worldwide to exam candidates of RAD teachers. Successful candidates will have 12 months to use the bursary from the date of being informed of their award.

We hope you will lend your support to this initiative in assisting deserving candidates who would otherwise have difficulty in entering for RAD examinations.

Timings for Primary in Dance and Grade 1

From January 2017, 5 additional minutes have been added to the timing of Primary in Dance and Grade 1 exams.

The revised timings can be [found here](#).

If you have not included the revised timings in your planning for upcoming exams yet, they can proceed as organised, but ensure that you include the additional time in future.

Towels

familiarising themselves with existing and new administrative procedures. It was also a chance to welcome new examiners, and bid farewell to those retiring.

This year, a 'Q&A session' was arranged with Jeanetta Laurence OBE, former Associate Director of The Royal Ballet. Chief Executive Luke Rittner CBE interviewed Jeanetta about her life in dance, including ballet lessons from some of the examiners present (June Christian and June Mitchell)!

A gala dinner included guests Jeanetta Laurence, former Chair of the RAD Kerry Rubie, and Alexander Campbell, Principal of The Royal Ballet (and nephew to former RAD examiner Valma Briggs!), as well as senior RAD staff and Trustees. Retiring examiners were recognised at this event; more details will be included in the June edition of *Focus on Exams*.

Our examiners bring the Academy to its members and their students, in their schools and studios in towns and cities all over the world, and we are grateful to them for their tireless enthusiasm and hard work. They now go on to examine our 238,000 candidates across the globe – good luck to both examiners and all candidates in 2017!

If candidates need to take a towel into the exam studio, this should be placed on the bracket that secures the barre to the wall, not on the barre itself.

The examiner will advise if necessary.

Minimum age reminder

From 1 January 2017, candidates must have reached the stated minimum age by a specified date before each exam session.

The actual dates will be determined on a country-by-country basis; [contact your local office](#) for further details.

Staff and contacts

For general queries email exams@rad.org.uk

To register candidates in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, contact the relevant office. To register candidates anywhere else in the world email idregistration@rad.org.uk


We now have a specific email address for queries relating to certificates – email certificates@rad.org.uk

To find an RAD contact, visit our [website](#).



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