

6 January 2017
Friends of the Academy
PO Box 1556
Subiaco, WA 6904

To the Friends of the Academy,

I cannot thank you enough for your generous financial support that enabled me to travel to Sydney to compete in the 'Genee International Ballet Competition 2016'. It was such an incredible experience, full of training and learning from fantastic tutors such as Fiona Tonkin (Artistic Associate and Principal Coach of the Australian Ballet) and Lyn Wallis (Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Dance).

After four days of training and a further three days of performing solos, I was chosen by three Artistic Directors of some of the top ballet companies around the world -the Australian Ballet, Royal New Zealand Ballet and The Royal Ballet - to be a finalist; this meant I was in the top 12 out of 88 international competitors. Because of this, I then had to perform my three solos at The Sydney Opera House. This was so surprising and more than I could have imagined as an outcome of having taken part in this competition. To perform on The Sydney Opera House stage was a dream and a very surreal experience.

By taking part in this competition, David McAllister, Artistic Director of the Australian Ballet Company, has offered me the opportunity to go to Melbourne for a week's work experience. This is an incredible privilege and extremely exciting and I am hoping I will have many more opportunities like this in the future.

Throughout the intense 10 day competition, I was also able to meet other ballet students from all around the world and hear their stories about their country and home and how they learn and train.

I am so grateful for being able to have taken part in the 'Genee International Competition' and thank you again, most sincerely, for helping to make this possible.

Kind regards,

Evelyn