

DANCE *for* YOU

MAGAZINE



Closing Ceremony of Global Dance Challenge (Photo GDC)

Global Dance Challenge 2019

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Global Dance Challenge, a platform where dancers from all over the world can unite and have an extraordinary experience. Global Dance Challenge, where dance is the common language. Global Dance Challenge, where aspiring dancers are mentored by some of the world's most distinguished Directors, Choreographers and Teachers.

This past August, in beautiful Vancouver, Canada, Global Dance Challenge hosted over 200 competitors from all over the world and 12 internationally renowned jury members. Chan Hon Goh, *Artistic Director of GDC, Prima Ballerina, and former Principal Ballerina of National Ballet of Canada* is the visionary behind Global Dance Challenge. Ms Goh believes in creating an experience where aspiring dancers can showcase their talents, as well as receive mentorship by dance luminaries. It was a week full of sharing invaluable knowledge, cultivating artistic excellence and unlimited inspiration.



Antonio Casalihno, Gold Medal in Paquita Variation, Photo by Chen Yilu

Margarida Noiva Goncalves, Gold Medal, in "Peasant



Global Dance Challenge offered a variety of masterclasses over 3 days as well as each participant received professional coaching on their competition piece by one of the honorable jury members. Participants were also given the opportunity to showcase their technical strengths and artistic abilities in the studio with the mandatory marked masterclasses. It was an exciting 3 days where the young dancers were nurtured to perform to their fullest capacity.

On August 11th & 12th, 2019 all the aspiring dancers had a chance to perform in the semi finals. Dancers performed solos, duos, groups and ensembles in classical ballet, neo-classical, international dance, jazz and contemporary. From the Semi Finals, the top dancers were selected to perform again in the Finals on August 13th. All competitors truly danced to their fullest potential.



Angel Vizcaino from Mexico, Silver Medal in "Mariachi Loco", Photo by Chen Yilu



Lyric Fernandes in "Reflections" Photo by Chen Yilu

On August 14th, Global Dance Challenge had their Gala performance. The Gala performance was at the illustrious Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Every single competitor had the opportunity to perform at the Gala. At the Gala, the awards were announced as were the prizes. The second half of the Gala was filled with specially selected dances by the Jury to showcase outstanding pieces. The Global Dance Challenge Gala featured incredible guest performers. Dancers from the *Guangzhou Ballet* captivated audiences as they debuted their North American Premier of "*Swan Lake Pas de Deux*" as well as "*Le Corsaire Pas de Deux*". Principal dancers from the *Pacific Northwest Ballet* performed a dazzling rendition of the "*Tarantella*".



Huang Jueya Category B in "Coppelia" Variation, Photo by Chen Yilu

Tali Elman, Gold Medal in "Don Quixote" Variation, Photo by Chen Yilu



There were many incredibly talented young dancers and numerous awards, scholarships and prizes were presented. *António Casalinho* from Portugal was awarded Gold for professional ballet solo (category A2), Contemporary solo (category D2) and for the Flames of Paris Pas de Deux with *Margarita Roura Fernandes*. *António Casalinho & Margarita Roura Fernandes* – from Portugal, were awarded the **Prix de L’Or** for Category A. The **Prix d’Argent** for category A was awarded to Mexico’s *Angel Vizcaino* who also received the silver medal for his Ballet solo (category A2) and contemporary solo (category D2). Canada’s *Tali Elman* received gold for her ballet solo (category A3), silver for her contemporary solo (category D3) and the **Prix de Bronze** for (category A). The **Outstanding Choreography** award went to 2 contemporary solos. One was awarded to Canadian Choreographer *Kirsten Wicklund* for “A Deal with Chaos” and Polish choreographer *Barbara Bartnik*, for “Incumbency”. Beijing Aoba International Arts Centre – from China received **Outstanding Dance Organization** and *Nicholas Mihlar* from Canada received **Most Potential** and 2 honorable mentions by the Jury for his ballet solo and contemporary solo. He also was awarded numerous scholarships.

Congratulations to all the dancers who competed in the 2019 Global Dance Challenge!

Next year’s Global Dance Challenge will be held in August 2020. For more information and updates, please go to the website: www.gdancechallenge.com

By Tanya Phelps