



PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR
Nureyev ch: Yuri Possokhov
Staatsballett Berlin.

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CRITICS' CHOICE

ALISON KENT BERLIN

Dance Europe

PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR

Nureyev ch: Yuri Possokhov dir: Kirill Serebrennikov, Staatsballett Berlin - an elegant piece of theatre fusing dance, opera and drama.

Wunderland ch: Alexei Ratmansky, Hamburg Ballet - playfully nonsensical and totally immersive.

Liliom ch: John Neumeier, Czech National Ballet - a moving adaptation of Ferenc Molnár's play with a whisper of Rodgers &

Hammerstein.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A FEMALE DANCER

Olivia Betteridge, Alice in *Wunderland* ch: Alexei Ratmansky, Hamburg Ballet. Polina Semionova, 2nd Movement, *Symphony in C* ch: George Balanchine, *Fearful Symmetries* ch: Christian Spuck, Staatsballett Berlin. Alina Nanu, Julie in *Liliom* ch: John Neumeier, Czech National Ballet, Margarida Neto, *Petruschka/New Ballets Russes* ch: Richard Siegal, Nürnberg Ballet of Difference Asami Nakashima, Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar named*

Desire ch: Valentina Turcu, Slovenian National Ballet Maribor.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A MALE DANCER

Martin ten Kortenaar, Nureyev in *Nureyev* ch: Yuri Possokhov, Staatsballett Berlin. Giovanni Rotolo, Liliom in *Liliom* ch: John Neumeier, Czech National Ballet, Jón Vallejo, The Traveller in *Vertical Road* ch: Akram Khan, Semperoper Ballett. Andrew Cummings, Harry in *Harry* ch: Barak Marshall, Gauthier Dance Mathias Deneux, *Lovebirds* ch: Marco Goecke, Czech National Ballet

BEST PREMIERES

Slovenian National Ballet Maribor, *A Streetcar named Desire* ch: Valentina Turcu, 6 March 2026
Czech National Ballet, *Lovebirds* ch: Marco Goecke, 12 March 2026

Gauthier Dance, *Luck/Unluck* ch: Azure Barton, Hofesh Shechter, 26 June 2026

NEW NAME TO WATCH

Javier Wong, Czech National Ballet corps de ballet member but already entrusted with solo roles. Outstanding as Louis in John Neumeier's *Liliom*.
Carolina Fernandes, trainee dancer through the European Union Erasmus support programme, progressing to Gauthier Dance Juniors as of season 2026/27.

BEST NEWS

Eric Gauthier receiving the Citizens' Medal of the State Capital Stuttgart along with Theaterhaus founder Werner Schretzmeier in recognition of their longstanding dedication to Stuttgart's cultural life and their impact on the city's vibrant arts scene.

FRANÇOIS FARGUE PARIS

Dance Europe

PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR

Paris Opera in Roland Petit's *Notre Dame de Paris* at the Bastille, 6 December

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A FEMALE DANCER

Léonore Baulac, Paris Opera, for a seamlessly inspiring season at the Paris Opera, be it in *La Bayadère*, Preljocaj's *Le Parc* or as Marguerite in Neumeier's *Dame aux Camélias*.

Amandine Albisson, Paris Opera, as Giselle at the Garnier, 18 October 25 and Esmeralda in Roland Petit's *Notre Dame de Paris* at the Bastille, 6 December.

Alexandra Hutchinson, Dance Theatre of Harlem, in *Firebird*, Palais de Congrès, 28 February.
Laetitia Galloni, Paris Opera, in *Rhapsodies* ch: Mthuzuzeli November, at the Garnier, Soirée Racine, 6 October.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A MALE DANCER

Pablo Legasa, Paris Opera, as Frolo in Roland Petit's *Notre Dame de Paris* at the Bastille, 6 December.

Jérémy-Loup Quer, Paris Opera, as Tybalt in Nureyev's *Romeo and Juliet*, at the Bastille, 2 April.
Guillaume Diop, Paris Opera, as Albrecht at the Garnier, 18 October.

BEST PREMIERES

Driftwood ch: Imre and Marne van Opstal, Palais Garnier, *Soirée Contrastes*.
Etude ch: Marcos Morau, *Soirée Empreintes*.

NEW NAME TO WATCH

Jackson Smith-Leishman with the Paris Opera Junior Ballet, at Théâtre de Suresnes, 16 December.

WORST NEWS

The closure of the Palais Garnier, starting next season, for repairs and renovations now estimated to be for five years instead of the one year originally suggested.

GERARD DAVIS

CAMBRIDGE/LONDON

Dance Europe, Dancing Review

PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR

Marianela – *Timeless*, The Royal Ballet – brilliantly put together and wonderfully danced
La Fille mal gardée, The Royal Ballet – Matthew Ball and Fumi Kaneko were just a joy
Still Pointless, BalletBoyz – proving that great shows can be seen in the UK outside the big cities, Cambridge in this case

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A FEMALE DANCER

Marianela Núñez, The Royal Ballet, *In the Night* ch: Robbins, *Le Corsaire* pas de deux ch: Petipa, *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux* ch: Balanchine, Marguerite, *Marguerite and Armand* ch: Ashton – all in the same show
Marianela Timeless! Quite remarkable.

Fumi Kaneko, The Royal Ballet, *Lise*, *La Fille mal gardée* ch: Ashton, *Becomings*, *Woolf Works* ch: McGregor, *Untitled, 2023* ch: McGregor, *After the Rain* pas de deux ch: Wheeldon.

Juliette Klein, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo – Niki, *Ma Bayadère* ch: Maillot.

Emily Suzuki, English National Ballet – *Giselle*, *Akram Khan's*



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BEST PREMIERE
Ma Bayadère ch: Jean-Christophe Maillot
Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo

Dance Europe – October/November 2026