and emerging choreographer Marcelo Gomes; former ballerina and current artistic director of National Ballet of Canada Karen Kain; dance archivist, writer and historian David Vaughan; and founding artistic director of Urban Bush Women Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. The awards will be presented by Mikhail Baryshnikov, Millicent Johnnie, Julie Kent, Martín Santangelo and Valda Setterfield at the Alciet CitiGroup Theater in Manhattan on 7 December. Renowned dancer, artistic director, choreographer and teacher John Meehan will chair the jury for the 11th USA International Ballet Competition set for June 2018 in Jackson, Mississippi. “I am thrilled and honoured to be invited to chair the jury,” said Meehan, who served on the 2010 and 2014 Jackson jury panels. “I know the responsibility we jurors carry in maintaining the standards of this tremendously prestigious competition.”

Kristine Butler has recently joined San Francisco Ballet as a corps de ballet member. Amanda Skoog has been appointed as the executive director of Shobana Jeyasingh Dance. She joins the company from Royal New Zealand Ballet, where she has been the company’s managing director since 2006. Wim Broeckx has been guesting with the West Australian Ballet, teaching company class and also a Masterclass programme while in residence.

Singapore Dance Theatre’s artistic director Janek Schergen is the recipient of the this year’s Tatler Award for Culture. Edward Watson received his MBE for services to dance from The Princess Royal on 6 October and then had to hurry back to the Royal Opera House to perform in both Raven Girl and Connectome.

Dutch National Ballet dancer Michaela DePrince gave a performance at the Women in the World Summit at Cadogan Hall in New York in October. A war orphan from Sierra Leone, DePrince was adopted by an American couple. In the USA, she studied at The Rock School for Dance Education in Philadelphia, and participated in the Youth America Grand Prix, where she won a scholarship to study at ABT’s Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School in New York. She danced with Dance Theatre of Harlem before joining the Dutch National Ballet’s Junior Company in 2013. She was invited to join the main company by artistic director Ted Brandsen the following year. Her book, Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina, is to be made into a film by MGM.

LOSSES

With sadness Ballet Cymru has announced the sudden death of its dancer and education officer, Mandev Sokhi, on 10 October. And The Royal Ballet has reported the death of former principal David Drew, who passed away on 16 October.