

## Leroy Mokgatle wins gold at Genee ballet contest



*Lania Atkins, Jana Baldovino, Leroy Mokgatle and Makensie Henson. Photo: Elliot Franks*

South African dancer Leroy Mokgatle has won the gold medal at the Genee International Ballet Competition, hosted in London. Mokgatle, aged 15, was awarded the top honours at the prestigious competition's finals, which were held on September 19 at Sadler's Wells. He also won the Margot Fonteyn Audience Choice Award.

The judging panel for the final of the international competition, which is held in a different country each year, included artistic director of Northern Ballet David Nixon, Monica Mason, who is a former director of the Royal Ballet, and Birmingham Royal Ballet artistic director David Bintley. Australian dancers Lania Atkins and Makensie Henson, both 15, won the silver and bronze medals respectively.

The choreographic award went to Jana Baldovino from New Zealand. The competition is run by the Royal Academy of Dance and is open to dancers who have trained on the RAD's syllabus around the world. Previous medallists include Lauren Cuthbertson, Steven McRae, Xander Parish and Francesca Hayward.

This year marked the first time that the [RAD has offered bursaries to help less privileged dancers](#) enter the competition.

by Georgia Snow - Sep 21, 2015