



Press release

## **SJM Brings Prix de Lausanne Asia-Pacific Preselection to Macau for the First Time**

*Seeking Future Ballet Stars and Showcasing the City's Cultural Strength*

(Macau, 27 September 2024) SJM Resorts, S.A. (“SJM”) is delighted to announce its collaboration with the esteemed Prix de Lausanne to co-host the Asia-Pacific Preselection of this renowned ballet competition. This will be the first time the competition is held in Macau. This prestigious event is dedicated to discovering and nurturing young dancers who aspire to professional careers in classical ballet, setting the stage for the stars of tomorrow. Under the guidance of the Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR Government, with the support of the Cultural Affairs Bureau and Education and Youth Development Bureau, the two-day preselection kicked off today with an officiating ceremony at the Grand Lisboa Palace Resort Macau.

Mr. Ho Hong Pan, Head of Department for Promoting Cultural and Creative Industries of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government; Ms. Kathryn Bradney, Artistic and Executive Director of the Prix de Lausanne; Mr. Benjamin Toh, Chief Operating Officer of SJM, esteemed members of the Prix de Lausanne jury, representatives from local performing arts and dance schools, and renowned dancers were in attendance to the ceremony.

Ms. Kathryn Bradney, Artistic and Executive Director of the Prix de Lausanne, commented, “We are thrilled to bring the Prix de Lausanne Asia-Pacific Preselection to Macau for the very first time. This event represents a unique opportunity for young talents in the region to showcase their artistry and skill. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR Government, the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the Education and Youth Development Bureau, and our partners at SJM for their invaluable support in making this possible. We look forward to witnessing the dedication, passion, and potential of these young dancers as they embark on their journey in the world of ballet and dance, contributing to the future of the art form.”

Ms. Daisy Ho, Managing Director of SJM, remarked, “SJM is privileged to partner with the Prix de Lausanne, contributing to the development of future ballet luminaries and bolstering Macau’s stature as a cradle for diverse artistic talent. By hosting this international acclaimed event, we aim to enrich Macau’s cultural offerings and reaffirm our dedication to promoting Macau as a ‘City of Performing Arts.’”

This year’s Asia-Pacific audition features a distinguished judging panel, including Kathryn Bradney, Artistic and Executive Director of the Prix de Lausanne; Cao Chi, former principal dancer with the Birmingham Royal Ballet; Kosuke Yamamoto, former principal dancer with the Birmingham Royal Ballet; Tan Yuan Yuan, former principal dancer with the San Francisco Ballet; and Septime Webre, Artistic Director of the Hong Kong Ballet.

The preselection will take place from 28 to 29 September at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre. Forty-six young ballet dancers, representing Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan region, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and Korea, will compete in different age groups. They will participate in ballet workshops and a stage selection, interacting with dancers from Asia-Pacific, showcasing their skills and learning classical ballet and contemporary variations. The jury will deliberate and select up to four top-ranked dancers to advance to the global finals of the 2025 Prix de Lausanne at the Théâtre de Beaulieu in Switzerland.

The Prix de Lausanne, an annual highlight in Lausanne, Switzerland, is celebrated as the zenith of classical ballet. Returning to Asia for its first pre-selection since 2022, and choosing Macau for its inaugural regional selection, this event highlights Macau's magnetic appeal in drawing global cultural and artistic talent, as well as its proven track record in hosting significant international events. SJM fully supports this preselection, a world-renown flagship ballet competition, which not only draws attention from the global performance art community to Macau, but also enhances the city's influence as a cultural and artistic powerhouse.

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Distinguished guests attend the officiating ceremony for the Prix de Lausanne Asia-Pacific Preselection.



Ms. Kathryn Bradney, Artistic and Executive Director of the Prix de Lausanne, gives a speech.



This year's Asia-Pacific audition features a distinguished judging panel.





Forty-six talented ballet dancers from various Asia-Pacific cities will participate in a two-day workshop and final audition at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre.