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Providing young dancers career opportunities & financial support

# **ALANA HAINES AUSTRALASIAN AWARDS**

## **\$460,000 - CASH & SCHOLARSHIPS**



### **POST EVENT REPORT 2023**

This biennial event was held at the St James Theatre Wellington, spanning 5 days over Easter weekend Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> to Mon 10<sup>th</sup> April. This event was attended by dance enthusiasts from throughout Australasia to view 400 contestants 11-18yrs competing for \$50,000 cash plus elite International Scholarships. The event commemorates a promising 11yr old Wellington dancer Alana, tragically killed Xmas eve 1989 & was founded in 1991 by Alana's mother & former RNZB dancer Katie Haines. The AHA Awards has become the most prestigious dance awards event in Australasia, supported by dance communities worldwide. Scholarships are from international dance schools in Europe, UK, USA, Canada, & Australasia and were judged by an elite international jury.

The Grand Finals on Monday evening presented 33 outstanding finalists to a full house with stunning Guest Performers from Stuttgart's John Cranko Schule Germany, New Zealand School of Dance, Balletcollective Aotearoa & the Royal New Zealand Ballet.

It has been 33 years since AHA Awards was founded & so this year 33 girls & boys presented a red rose to 33 finalists - eleven from each group at the Grand Finals. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> from each age group get first choice of scholarships from the sponsor list in the program. Via our Finals link, all finalists will be offered an unlimited number of scholarships from our sponsors. Royal Winnipeg Ballet director & head Judge from Canada was so impressed by the talent that he has offered x20 - 3 wk summer school scholarships incl accommodation.

Junior winner was Leni Howlett - Vic Australia

A Group winner & Gailene Stock Award Winner was Lauren Wycherley - Auckland New Zealand

B Group winner was Emily Sprout- QLD Australia.

AHA Awards provides young dancers a career platform & as a result many of our past finalists are international stars throughout the world. This 'UNIQUE' event is a **wonderful** tribute to a dedicated & talented dancer who was taken before she could reach her goal, but would want to help other like-minded dancers reach **their** goals.

Please refer to the website [www.ahaawards.co.nz](http://www.ahaawards.co.nz) for a full list of the results etc.

*Alana Haines Australasian Awards - 37 Hathaway Ave, Karori, Wellington, New Zealand*

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