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Asian dancers triumph at Helsinki International Ballet Competition



 50-Heesun-Kim-South-Korea-partner-Hojin-Jeon-LA-FILLE-MAL-GARDEE-7-PIENI

The eighth Helsinki International Ballet Competition was a success for the Asian dancers. The main prize, Jane Erkkö Grand Prix worth 15 000 €, was received by 24-year-old **Heesun Kim** of South Korea. The 1st prize for senior women (20-25 years) was shared by **Xinlu Zhan** and **Yimeng Sun**, both dancers are Chinese. Senior women's 3rd prize was awarded to **Yoshiko Kamikusa** from Canada.

The first prize for senior men was not awarded. The second prize was received by South Korean **Byul Yun**. The third prize was shared by Japanese **Takatoshi Machiyama** and **Kengo Nishioka**.

Junior women's winner for first prize was South Korean **So Jung Shin**, for the second prize Chinese **Fangqi Li**, and for the third South Korean **Yeojin Shim**. Junior men's first and second prize went to China to **Zhuming Chen** and **Sund Yuedong**, the third prize went to Portuguese **Frederico Loureiro**.

The best choreography prize was awarded to **Jae Deok Kim** for *Aria*, which was performed by **Kim Heesun** and **Jeon Hojin**. The only Finnish dancer **Suvi Honkanen**, who reached the finals of the competition, was awarded with an Atteisti Scholarship of 1 000 €. The jury awarded also Encouragement prizes to **Matthew Cunningham**, **Magili Chadbourne** and **Chongzheng Guan**.

Sixty-six dancers from 19 countries competed in this year's Helsinki International Ballet Competition. Founded by Professor **Doris Laine-Almi** in 1984, it is regarded as one of the most distinguished and qualified ballet competitions in the world.

Image: Kim Heesun. Photo: Mirka Kleemola.

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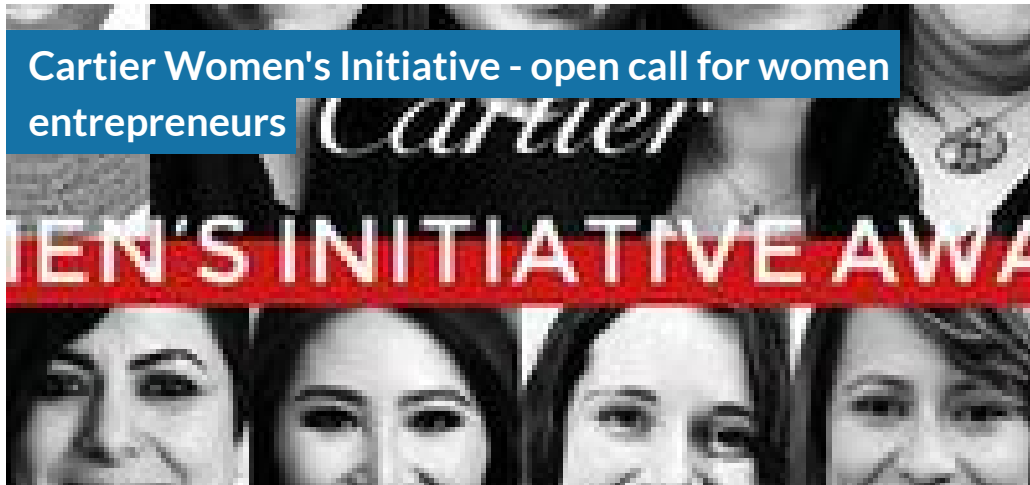
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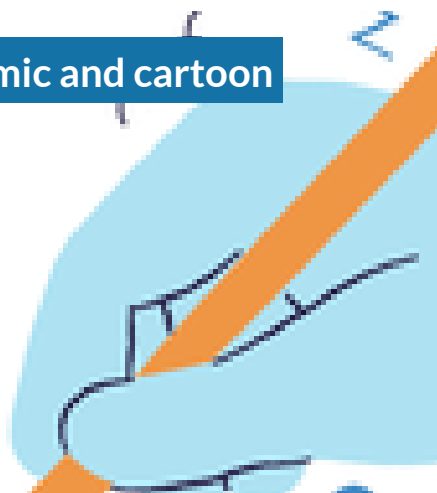
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