

DANCE INTERNATIONAL

IDTA

THE INTERNATIONAL DANCE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2008 • VOL 6 • NO. 6

Liverpool European Capital of Culture 2008

**PART
3**



Liverpool European City of Culture 2008



The painting of the stairs of the Grafton Rooms, Liverpool

DOLPHIN DANCE STUDIOS BY BEVERLEY NORRIS

Since the opening of Dolphin Dance studios at our new premises in March 2007 lots of exciting things have happened.

In December the ITV used our studios to rehearse for the *Royal Command Performance*, which was performed and filmed at the Liverpool Empire. Famous names who came flooding through our doors including Brian Rogers (choreographer), David Jordan, Darcey Bussell, English National Ballet and Paul Potts to name but a few.

In September to November the BBC used the studios for *Strictly Come Dancing* with John Barnes and Nicolé Cutler.

In October we were asked to perform a gala evening with Joe Longthorne and Liz McLaren from *Atomic Kitten*. This was published in *OK Magazine*. Also in October we were asked to perform at Ken Dodd's birthday, as he is one of Dolphin's Patrons.

In January Willie Russell came to rehearse his famous play, *Stags and Hens*, with



professional actors In March Alan Bleasdale rehearsed his new play, *On The Ledge*, with professional actors and Sky television used the studios to audition for its TV series *Are You Smarter Than a Ten Year old?*

In April Nike filmed a new commercial in the studios.

Jim Cartwright is coming to rehearse his play *Eight Miles High*, with professional actors.

Winner of the Ros Wicks award from the **Dance Master UK** final 2005, Richard

Leeson, who was a former student is currently touring with *High School Musical* and covering the lead of *Troy*, after a successful year in the west end in *Dirty Dancing*.

Our current student Shane Gould had a place in the finals of **Dance Master UK** 2008.

All our students who have graduated are enjoying employment in the profession from west end and touring shows from the Lido in Paris to commercial work, various cruise lines including the Royal Caribbean and Disney.

On top of all this we have been able to expand. We now have ten beautiful spacious studios.

All in all Dolphin has lots of exciting things to look forward to and as we are in Capital of Culture year our current students are being catapulted into films, television, pop videos, and gaining vast experience while still training with us at Dolphin Dance Studios. Capital of Culture has brought more opportunities in the vibrant city of Liverpool.



Nicolé Cutler and John Barnes rehearse for *Strictly Come Dancing*



OK magazine article



L: to R: Ethna Brown (Brookside) Playwright, Willie Russell and director Bob Eaton

ALEX THOMPSON SCHOOL OF DANCING BY NEIL LUNT

The city of Liverpool has been responsible for producing, a comprehensive list of excellent dancers over the last 40 years since I have been involved in dancing. My sister Paulene and I first started to dance at the Alex Thompson School of Dancing. His daughter Pat partnered by George Coad were the current World Amateur Ballroom Champions at that time.

They inspired the whole of Merseyside and my earliest recollection of competitions and of Liverpool dancers were: Alan and Joan Merrall. Kenny Welsh, Gary Sharp, Lynn Cuzack, Keith Jones, Paul Taylor and Sue Wilson and Mike Gray and Shirley Mullholland.

Following on slightly later were: Karen Johnson (Hilton), Shirley Rich (Ballas), John and Dianne Free, Andrew Sinkinson, Marie

Pownall (Sandham), Pamela Swindells (Hull), Debbie Lunt, Peter and Carole Parry, Nicola Cranshaw (Nordin), Kelly Beesly, Raymond Quinn.

Now present day and still competing are: Kimberley Taylor, Lucy Jones Rachael Herron, Gary Wright and Vicki Burke, Kyle Taylor, Josh Mallone and Kimberley Jones.

If I have missed anyone out then I apologise - after 40 years the memory fades a little but I think you will agree it's an impressive list. All the dancers listed need training and the city of Liverpool was very fortunate to have top coaches such as George Coad and Patricia Thompson, Eric Lashbrooke and Norma Graves and Margaret Redmond.

Neil Lunt



The parents of Pat Coad, Alex and Irene Thompson ran a very successful dancing school for many years



George Coad and Pat Thompson when they were World Amateur Ballroom Champions



Eric Lashbrooke and Norma Graves



Andrew Sinkinson partnered by Amanda Owen



Karen Hilton MBE (nee Johnson) partnered by Marcus Hilton MBE



Neil Lunt and Paulene Lunt (now Taylor)



Kimberley Taylor and Daniele Gallaro



Marie Sandham (nee Pownall) partnered by Michael Sandham



Paul Taylor and Paulene



Nicola Nordin (nee Cranshaw) partnered by Goran Nordin



John Free partnered by Diane Free (nee Moran)



Kenny Welsh partnered by Marion Welsh



Kyle Taylor and Jordan Stone



present the

President's Dinner and Dance

incorporating the

2009 Carl Alan Awards

for Ballroom, Latin, Classical Sequence,
Freestyle and Theatre



to be held at

The Royal Lancaster Hotel

Hyde Park, London

on

Sunday 1st February 2009

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