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MISS DANCE OF GREAT BRITAIN DANCE MASTER UK



AND INTERNATIONAL BALLET CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009

by Lynne Chilver

Miss Dance of Great Britain finalists and Dance Master UK competitors

The stiletto shoe discarded in the gutter on a greyish Sunday morning reflected Blackpool's faded splendour, in stark contrast to the wonderfully atmospheric Wintergardens, one of this town's crown jewels.

The nation's florists must have had a bumper week in the run up to the big event, as scores of flower arrangements arrived for the dancers, already busy on stage rehearsing the opening ceremony in warm up gear and full hair and make up. Sitting in the empty auditorium watching the team putting it together gave a glimpse of the talent we would be privileged to witness as the day progressed. While the dancers rehearsed, the organisers and technicians were busy, the flowers gathered on the grand piano in the wings and the audience assembled outside by the coach load, ready to scream and cheer their support all day.

At 12.30 the stunning opening ceremony launched the event, the huge venue packed to the rafters, the atmosphere electric. It had been put together and rehearsed in such a short time and was so exciting, full of energy

and colour, glitz and glamour, the fabulous costumes, the impact of the boys, so much want to be there. It promised well for the day to come.

Louis Colletta, our inimitable compère in his introduction pronounced all the dancers champions in their own right. They oozed confidence and gave their all as they took possession of the stage, showing emotion, control, abandon, energy, dynamism, in choreography with such diversity and inventiveness that there was plenty to appeal to everyone. Superb lighting and sound gave them every assistance and the audience needed no encouragement to show its appreciation. So much care, detail, time and money had been invested in the preparation and presentation of each and every one of the dancers. The three very experienced adjudicators, Lynda Cardwell, Cynthia Carr and Gerry Zuccarello, now had the unenviable task of selecting twelve competitors for the semi finals.

After a short break, the Junior and Senior Ballet Championships began, adjudicated by

Jean Geddes. The impeccably groomed dancers went up to the stage spurred on with kisses and cries of good luck and do your best. The spotlight was now quite literally on these dancers, enhancing their classical grace, elegance and musicality.

All competitors were presented with roses before the winners Natasha Agarwal (Junior) and Matthew Koon (Senior) were announced.

Chairman of Miss Dance of Great Britain, Judith Silvester, introduced last year's Miss Dance and Dance Master UK and we heard about their plans before the semi finals got underway, giving a second chance to see the twelve selected dancers. How would they perform this time for their audience and adjudicators, joined now by Miss Geddes and Simon Green?

Next, with the audience in a fever of anticipation and the atmosphere really charged, Dance Master UK got underway. The boys appealed as only boys can with passion, bravado, style and athleticism. It was pure entertainment and what everyone had been



Adjudicators L to R: Cynthia Carr, Gerry Zuccarello, Lynda Cardwell, Jean Geddes, Simon Green



John Dilworth Award winner, Danielle Alexander with adjudicator, Lynda Cardwell



Ros Wicks' daughter, Eleanor Claire presents the Rosalyn Wicks Bursary Award to Anna Julia Grinnell



Rosalyn Wicks Bursary award winner Anna Julia Grinnell



Dance Master UK 2009 Billy George with adjudicator, Gerry Zuccarello



Dance Master UK 2nd place, John Stevenson with adjudicator Gerry Zuccarello



Dance Master UK 3rd place, Will Botting with adjudicator Simon Green



Miss Dance of Great Britain 2009 Sophie Turner with president, Colin Donaldson



L to R: Dance Master UK 3rd place, Will Botting, Dance Master UK 2009 Billy George, Dance Master UK 2nd place, John Stevenson



Miss Dance of Great Britain 2nd place, Stephanie Thompson with adjudicator, Lynda Cardwell



Miss Dance of Great Britain 3rd place, Amy Bryson Smith with adjudicator, Cynthia Carr



L to R: Miss Dance of Great Britain 3rd place, Amy Bryson Smith, Miss Dance of Great Britain 2009, Sophie Turner, Miss Dance of Great Britain 2nd place, Stephanie Thompson



Miss Dance of Great Britain and Dance Master UK trophy winners

