

IDTA

DANCE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

Issue 3 - June 2016



COVER: Directors Emeritus - Mr Derek Brown and Mr John Knight.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Lightfoot School of Dancing

Theatre Dance Awards 2016

The IDTA is delighted to announce the results of the International Theatre Dance Awards 2016, held at Royal Northern College of Music 124 Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9RD on 13th and 14th February 2016. Our congratulations to the winners, recipients of the special commendations and Awards and to all those who were nominated.

The International Theatre Dance Awards are obtainable only through audition. Candidates are initially nominated by the Association's Examiners when taking the higher Grades or Performers examinations through a qualified teacher. Eight awards are granted in Ballet, Theatre Craft, Tap, and Modern Jazz at higher Grade and Performers level. Over 500 candidates out of more than 7,500 are nominated each year for these awards and those who are successful are awarded a trophy and a cheque to further their dance career. Certificates are awarded to every nominee and the teachers of the winners.

Winners of the International Theatre Dance Awards 2016

Theatre Craft Grades:	Megan Little	Marron Theatre Arts
Theatre Craft Performers:	Francesca Kennedy	Walsall Academy of Dance
Ballet Grades:	Francesca Goode	The Dance Factory
Ballet Performers:	Corina Clarke	Debra Simmons School of Dance
Tap Grades:	Megan Little	Marron Theatre Arts
Tap Performers:	Abigail Tildsley	Marron Theatre Arts
Modern Jazz Grades:	Erin Chapman	Lara Academy of Dance
Modern Jazz Performers:	Bree Quinton	Sharon Berry School of Theatre Dance

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## Special Commendations 2016

### *Theatre Craft Grades*

|                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Amy Civil        | June D Gill School of Dancing    |
| Millie Liddle    | Elaine Milbourne Performing Arts |
| Lauren Wood      | Wirral Theatre School            |
| Taylor Robson    | Marron Theatre Arts              |
| Elena Davidson   | Elaine Milbourne Performing Arts |
| Imogen Earley    | Elaine Milbourne Performing Arts |
| Amelia Henderson | Strickland Cook Theatre School   |
| Aobhinn Quirke   | Cork Arts Studios                |
| Chloe Radford    | Cardwell Theatre School          |

### *Theatre Craft Performers*

|                     |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Abigail Tildsley    | Marron Theatre Arts                 |
| Georgia Robson      | Marron Theatre Arts                 |
| Taela Yeomans-Brown | Livingston Academy of Dance         |
| Bethany Gill        | Victoria Stansfield School of Dance |

### *Ballet Grades*

|                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ella Slingsby              | Sandy Gray School of Dancing   |
| Camille Ribeiro            | Joze School of Performing Arts |
| Rosie Johnston             | LWHS School of Dance           |
| Chiara Privitera           | Academia Royal                 |
| Megan Little               | Marron Theatre Arts            |
| Lottie Bunney              | Hazelbiz Performers Academy    |
| Laura Rose Cashin-Hardiman | Mayo School of Ballet          |
| Faith Hepburn              | IBC School of Dance            |

### *Ballet Performers*

|                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Shannon Clarke      | The Riley School of Dance      |
| Tianna Carter       | The Marilyn Jones Dance Centre |
| Abigail Taylor      | Caroline Carr Dance Studios    |
| Chloe Byrnes        | Strickland Cook Theatre School |
| Andrew Ashton       | The Red Shoes School of Dance  |
| Taela Yeomans-Brown | Livingston Academy of Dance    |
| Emma Cornish        | Cardwell Theatre School        |
| Hannah Swift        | Gwyneth Hare School of Dance   |

**Apology:** We wish to sincerely apologise to the following nominees whose names were missed from the official programme. Charlotte Timbers, Ballet Performers section from the Dynamic Dance School and Evie Wilkinson, Theatre Craft Grades section from Marron Theatre Arts. May we offer our congratulations to Charlotte and Evie and their teachers for their nominations.

## Special Commendations 2016

### **Tap Grades**

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Rosie Johnston   | LWHS School of Dance                  |
| Faith Hepburn    | IBC School of Dancing                 |
| Millie Liddle    | Elaine Milbourne Performing Arts      |
| Sophie Bond      | Nottingham Theatre Dance              |
| Grace Hawksworth | - Victoria Stansfield School of Dance |
| Lauren Cryer     | Wendy Charles School of Dance         |
| Remy Evans       | Livingston Academy of Dance           |
| Amy Civil        | June D Gill School of Dancing         |
| Taylor Robson    | Marron Theatre Arts                   |

### **Tap Performers**

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Charlotte Warne  | Marron Theatre Arts           |
| Molly Fairclough | Phil Winston's Theatreworks   |
| Birdie Thorpe    | Sharon Berry School of Dance  |
| Georgia Robson   | Marron Theatre Arts           |
| Rebecca Hanneman | Sharon Berry School of Dance  |
| Charlotte Troth  | Marilyn Baker School of Dance |

### **Modern Jazz Grades**

|                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Caitlin Hanlon   | Hoyle School of Dance            |
| Hannah Sowerby   | Wendy Charles School of Dance    |
| Hannah Elliott   | Elaine Milbourne Performing Arts |
| Georgia Aspinall | Lynne McCheynne                  |
| Lola Kinard      | Mullen Theatre School            |
| Lauren Wood      | Wirral Theatre School            |
| Leah Derby       | Adele Taylor School              |
| Phoebe Roberts   | Adele Taylor School              |
| Charlotte Dyson  | Adele Taylor School              |
| Kirbie Franks    | Penelope's Dance Studio          |
| Olivia Lallo     | Sharon Wood School of Dance      |

### **Modern Jazz Performers**

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Abigail Tildesley | Marron Theatre Arts                |
| Emma Griffin      | Marilyn Baker/Gemma Grayson School |
| Madeleine Jones   | Marilyn Baker/Gemma Grayson School |
| Georgia Robson    | Marron Theatre Arts                |
| Emily Gardiner    | Cardwell Theatre School            |
| Molly Fairclough  | Phil Winston's Theatreworks        |
| Bethany Mortimer  | Hoyle School of Dance              |

## Awards presented in conjunction with the International Theatre Dance Awards

**W.J. (Bill) Tasker Theatre Craft Award:**      **Taylor Robson**      **Marron Theatre Arts**

*This award is kindly donated by Mrs Margaret Tasker, in memory of her late husband, W.J. (Bill) Tasker, Financial Director of the IDTA, from 1971 - 2002, and founder member of the Theatre Dance Awards Committee.*

**Veronica Tweedale Bursary Award:**      **Tabitha O'Sullivan**      **Elite Academy of Performing Arts**

*Veronica Tweedale was a much loved and respected dance teacher and choreographer throughout Stoke on Trent and the Midlands Area. The Veronica Tweedale Bursary Award is given for the 1st Special Commendation for the Ballet Grades.*

**Gladys Thorpe Memorial Award:**      **Shannon Clarke**      **The Riley School of Dance**

*Gladys Thorpe was for many years a highly respected teacher and examiner of the IDTA, serving on the Theatre Council and Technical Committees. The Ballet Faculty is pleased to present a Bursary Award and a Memorial Trophy to a young dancer who displays exceptional potential in Classical Ballet from the Performers section of the International Theatre Dance Awards.*

**Ken Dodd Tap Award Girls:**      **Megan Little**      **Marron Theatre Arts**  
**Ken Dodd Tap Award Boys:**      **Thomas Matthews**      **Cardwell Theatre School**

*Ken Dodd continues to offer his support to our nominees by generously donating two trophies in memory of his agent, Keith McAndrews. Two award winners are chosen by guest adjudicators.*

**Pam Tidmarsh Bursary Award:**      **Megan Little**      **Marron Theatre Arts**

*Pam Tidmarsh was a very well respected teacher, Examiner and Director of the IDTA, especially for the Midlands Area where she was much loved. The Pam Tidmarsh Bursary Award and Trophy are donated by Jeanette Haines and Gillian Hughes and is awarded to the 1st Special Commendation in the Modern Jazz Grades.*

**Peggy Harrison Award**      **Taella Yeomens-Brown**      **Livingston Academy**

*Peggy Harrison is an Honorary Examiner, teacher and holder of the IDTA Distinguished Service Award. The Peggy Harrison Award is made to the 1st Special Commendation in the Modern Jazz Performers.*

### **Modern Jazz Performers**

Abigail Tildesley  
Emma Griffin  
Madeleine Jones  
Georgia Robson  
Emily Gardiner  
Molly Fairclough  
Bethany Mortimer

Marron Theatre School  
Marilyn Baker/Gemma Grayson School  
Marilyn Baker/Gemma Grayson School  
Marron Theatre Arts  
Cardwell Theatre School  
Phil Winston's Theatreworks  
Hoylake School of Dance

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Veronica Tweedale Bursary Award: Tabitha O'Sullivan Elite Academy of Performing Arts

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Ken Dodd Tap Award Girls: Megan Little Marron Theatre Arts
Ken Dodd Tap Award Boys: Thomas Matthews Cardwell Theatre School

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Peggy Harrison Award Taella Yeomens-Brown Livingston Academy

Peggy Harrison is an Honorary Examiner, teacher and holder of the IDTA Distinguished Service Award. The Peggy Harrison Award is made to the 1st Special Commendation in the Modern Jazz Performers.

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# International Theatre Dance Award Reports

## Saturday 13th February 2016

I arrived at the Royal Northern College of Music on Saturday morning full of excitement and anticipation, and I wasn't disappointed!

The annual IDTA Theatre Awards had returned one more to this excellent venue.

The day started with the Theatrecraft classes, taken by Miss Rachael Crocker. Rachel has had a very diverse career to date, ranging from shows such as Phantom of the Opera to Grease amongst others! The curtains opened to reveal row upon row of beautifully groomed, elegant students, to the delight of the audience.

After a good warm up, the candidates performed a couple of short routines in which they could show off their kicks and turns to the audience and assessors alike.

All to soon, it was time to learn the main routine, a 70s disco style routine to music from "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" for the grades classes.

Every one was able to give of their best as the class was delivered in such a clear and detailed manner.

The "performers" class were treated to a swing style routine to "Putting on the Ritz" showing just how versatile and valuable the Theatrecraft syllabus is for those wishing to enter the industry in the future.

The winner of the grades class was Megan Little from Marron Theatre Arts and the winner of the performers class was Francesca Kennedy from Livingston Academy.

The final award of the morning went to Taylor Robson from Marron Theatre Arts

After lunch, it was time for the Ballet nominees to take to the stage.

The classes were taken by Mr Errol Pickford, a former Royal Ballet soloist, and who is currently in charge of the graduates at Elmhurst.

His easy, engaging manner soon had all candidates at their ease as they worked their way through the centre practice and allegro enchainments he had created for them. He gradually built these up into a charming final variation in each of the classes.

He emphasised to the students, the great importance of musicality and spatial awareness, so that all could give of their best when they performed in their groups.

The standard of technique was strong and secure in both classes, which was lovely to see.

The winner of the grades class was Francesca Goode from The Dance Factory and the Veronica Tweedale award was won by Tabitha O'Sullivan of Elite Academy of Performing Arts

The performers class was won by Corrinna Clarke from the Deborah Simmons School

The winner of the Gladys Thorpe Memorial Trophy, which this year was adjudicated by Mrs Olivia Pickford was awarded to Shannon Clarke from The Riley School of Dance.

*Gwyneth Hare*

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## Sunday 14th February 2016

A lovely day at the Northern College of Music watching the Tap and Modern Jazz nominees. The standard of the Tap and Modern Jazz grades was high with array of talent on the floor. The Performers classes were full of enthusiastic and attentive dancers. The artistry of the routines by Tap lecturer Jo Scanlon and Modern Jazz lecturer Barnaby Thompson were rhythmic and enabled the students to embody the musicality and style of the music. The lectures were well organised and structured with a logical progression where all of the students in both classes were able to reach their full potential. The Performers Modern Jazz class once again was over a hundred strong with the routine having to be challenging to split the abundance of talent which the adjudicators had to assess. The Tap Performers also had to perform one at a time on the final cut! truly a professional audition for technique, control and rhythm accuracy. Congratulations to all of the students for such attentive and professional conduct. Once again IDTA teachers producing outstanding work .

*Donna Wilcox*





*Abigail Tildesley - Tap Performers Winner*



*Megan Little - Theatre Craft Grades Winner.jpg*



*Modern Jazz Grades Group*



*Erin Chapman - Modern Jazz Grades Winner*



*Megan Little - Tap Grades Winner*



*Modern Jazz Performers Group*



*Shannon Clarke - Gladys Thorpe Award Winner*



*Tabitha O'Sullivan - Veronica Tweedale Award Winner*



*Taela Yeomans-Brown - Peggy Harrison Award Winner*



*Ballet Grades Group*



*Taylor Robson - Bill Tasker Award Winner*



*Thomas Matthews- Ken Dodd Boy Award*



*Ballet Performers Group*





*Bree Quinton - Modern Jazz Performers Winner*



*Tap Grades Group*



*Tap Performers Group*



*Francesca Goode - Ballet grades Winner*



*Megan Little - Ken Dodd Girl Award*



*Theatre Craft Grades Group*





**Corina Clark** - Ballett Performers Winner



**Megan Little** - Pamela Tidmarsh Award Winner



**Francesca Kennedy** - Theatre Craft Performers



**Theatre Craft Performers Group**