



# IDTA

## DANCE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

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Gerhard & Amor, IDTA Annual Dinner & Dance, July 2016

# Miss Dance of Great Britain and Dance Master UK 2016

As we strolled down towards the Winter Gardens you could already see the crowds gathering, mini buses arriving, matching t shirts of support and lots of glamorous ladies!

Blackpool was abuzz with excitement! I knew I was in for a great day!

The theatre was alive as I entered the backstage area and the finalists were hard at work busy picking up the choreography for the opening ceremony!

The organising committee were busy, busy doing last minute preparations for the day ahead but what really impressed me was how calm and amazingly efficient everything seemed with such a massive event only half an hour away. A 'well oiled machine' is the best way to describe the Miss Dance organising committee and that is why the institution that is 'Miss Dance and Dance Master' of Great Britain is just as strong if not growing in strength every single year! Without these ladies I don't know where the association would be.

I took my seat in the Circle behind the judges and took a moment to ponder their job for the day. They did such an amazing job, as they were truly spoilt for choice with the talent on the stage!

Miss Shani Mitchell, Mr Adam Booth and Miss Alicia Afonso were welcomed as the starting panel to select the semi finalists out of the 53 finalists! I thought this was a clever mix of judges as each judge brought a wealth of experience to the table as was expertly introduced by Miss Linda Lister in the opening ceremony! I don't know how she remembered their wealth of credits unscripted!! This year it was quite a nice touch to have Alicia judging as, being a past winner herself, she could really appreciate the position and the amount of nerves/adrenaline the finalists were feeling.

My sister-in-law and I decided to 'mock judge' for ourselves, so as the first round began we started 'starring' and marking our opinions down. After the first 27 performers there were so many stars we really got a feeling for just how high a standard this year was going to be! To be honest we were pretty accurate; although we couldn't get it down to lower than 18 in our 'mock' semi final!

It was fantastic to see the energy and passion each and everyone of the top 53 brought to the stage! Dance teachers and choreographers you should be so proud as they definitely rose to the occasion.

The final 14 were announced as we stood having a lovely buffet reception in the green room. It was lovely to catch up with our IDTA family it's always nice to have a good natter at these events.

For the semi final there were 2 more judges welcomed to the panel, Cressida Carre who treated us to a fantastic west side story lecture in London and Stephen Houghton who has west end and TV credits galore with a single released by Simon Cowell also!

I can honestly say the top 14 excelled! I don't know how it was possible but we both agreed everyone's performance was even better 2nd time around.

Then it was time for Dance Master UK. It's always nice to see what the boys have to offer and this year was no exception. They catapulted onto the stage with explosive jazz numbers, strong vocals and even 2 Fab tappers this year.

Third place went to Max Cookward who performed a fabulously technical piece to Everybody Hurts.

Second place was James Buckley who delivered a fantastic Musical Theatre song and dance number looking very handsome as a pilot and showing strong vocals and technique.

And the winner of Dance Master UK 2016 was Aaron Hough who delivered a strong dynamic routine about being 'alone on the planet' showing excellent classical technique and creating an electric atmosphere!

We only just had time to catch our breath when the moment we'd all been waiting for arrived. The finalists!! And what a thoroughly well deserved bunch they were. (Our 'mock judging' was 'on point' again! Very proud of ourselves we were!)

The final just summed up what a fabulously innovative and diverse day of dances we had had and I was completely at a loss with picking the top 3 as they were all so well deserving to be there. They were all winners. Again not a one of them put a foot wrong and raised their game even higher! What true pros!

The third place was announced as Ciara Farrelly who treated us to a dynamic routine to a blues style. She demonstrated such superb strength and control, just fabulous!

Second place was Eloise Gledhill who gave an emotional contemporary performance to Say Something. I love this song and this choreography painted such a raw emotion it was stunning!  
 And our Winner of Miss Dance of Great Britain 2016 and winner of the Judith Silvester Award was Harriet Fisher who performed a beautifully heartfelt and stunningly choreographed routine with such clever choreography involving a pillow. Her timing and mastery of the prop was just flawless. Such a well deserving winner!

I just want to convey my sincerest thanks to the Miss Dance committee for inviting me to report on this amazing event! It was timed to perfection and a joy to watch from start to finish!  
 I'm already counting down to next year!

*Lisa Handley*



*Miss Dance of Great Britain 2016*



*Miss Dance of Great Britain and Dance Master UK, Winners, second and third place finalists*



*Tracey Southern, Miss Dance of Great Britain Winner - Harriet Fisher, Shani Mitchell and Karen Cotton.*



*Dance Master UK 2016*



Ros Wicks Award winner Georgia Lennon with Elenor Hill.



Dance Master 3rd Place Max Cookward with Anna-Jane Casey



Dance Master 2nd Place James Buckley with Alicia Peacock



Dance Master Winner Arron Hough with Steven Houghton



Miss Dance 3rd Place Ciara Farrelly with Cressida Carre



Miss Dance 2nd Place Eloise Gledhill with Adam Booth



Opening Ceremony



John Dilworth Award Winner, Nuala Sheehy with IDTA President Lynda King