



Carl Alan Awards 2015

Theatre, Freestyle and Street

SPOTLIGHT ON: New IDTA Examiners

IDTA

**DANCE
INTERNATIONAL
MAGAZINE**

Issue 2 - March 2016

welcome

to Dance International Magazine

Spring is in the air and the Easter holidays nearly here and everyone is filled with enthusiasm for the future.

Registration for Dance Proms 2016 is now open, so time to join in the celebration of dance.

The new IDTA Level 4 Diploma in Dance Teaching will be available from 1st April, If you have any questions please go to the website at www.idta.co.uk/members-hub/qualifications/idta-level-4-diploma-in-dance-teaching/ or email info@idta.co.uk

Updates to the Theatre Craft Performers Award syllabi are enclosed plus updates to the Freestyle and Cheerleading professional syllabi.

A whole range of IDTA events are happening in the next 3 months
Nationwide Medallist of the Year Street Dance Finals – 6th March,
Supreme Medallist Competitions for couples – Spring Awards- 20th March,
Nationwide Medallist of the Year Ballroom and Latin Finals – 9th & 10th April,
Freestyle Scholarships and Freestyle Seminar – 7th & 8th May.

The IDTA exists to promote and foster the art of dance.
Our 7,000 members around the world are the Association.

At the heart of dance,
training the next generation of dancers,
passionate, expert and progressive,
a global dance community.

If you need advice and guidance, please ask, we are here to help.

Enjoy this issue of Dance International



Keith Holmes

IDTA Chief Executive Director

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Dance International

The magazine of the International
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introducing new examiners

We are delighted to introduce, Rachel Almond, Melanie Baldwin, Thomas Cliff, Clem Dallender, Anita Spiers and Tony Wiejski who were appointed as IDTA Ballroom Branch Examiners in 2015, and Caroline Randall, Carl Walker and Gary Williams who were appointed as IDTA Theatre Branch Examiners in 2015.

ballroom branch examiners



melanie baldwin

Melanie was introduced to dance at the age of five. She partook in many IDTA medal tests in Freestyle, before progressing to Latin American and Ballroom.

In 2004 Melanie began teaching within the Denise School of Dance. In 2007 she started teaching classes outside of the

school, giving her the drive and determination to establish her own dance school, Melanie School of Dance in 2011.

Under the expert tuition provided by Miss Denise Lowe, Melanie trained for her first professional examination in Freestyle. She found a passion to develop a deeper knowledge of dance, deciding to further her professional studies in other subjects, with the aim to become an Examiner.

After successfully completing four Fellowship examinations and three Licentiates, Melanie is very proud and honored to qualify as an Examiner.

Melanie would like to give special thanks to Miss Denise Lowe for her invaluable work, knowledge and backing, as well as being an inspiration to her. She would also like to express her sincere thanks to all the Examiners who have provided encouragement throughout her professional examinations.

Melanie would lastly like to thank her family, friends and students for their continual support. Melanie is delighted to have the privilege of representing the IDTA, in her new role as a Ballroom Branch Examiner.



rachel almond

Rachel began dancing at Finnegan's Dance Academy, Manchester as a child working her way through the IDTA medal test system, until she met IDTA Fellow & Examiner Tracey Bentley in 1995 and began training and working in her studio, Parkfield Dance Centre.

Rachel took her first professional examination at the age of 17 as a student and has since continued to train and gain qualifications in all Ballroom branches.

In 2007 she was awarded the John Dilworth Scholarship for Classical Sequence and continues to compete in the Inventive Dance competition held at Congress with her dance partner Thomas Cliff.

Her passion for teaching dance became a full time occupation in 2005 and she's trained many children and adults at Parkfield through the IDTA medal test system and taken competitors to Blackpool after entering the Nationwide Competitions.

After teaching for Tracey for twenty years she decided the time was right to become Principal of her own school and Rachel Almond Dance Academy opened October 2014 in Rochdale. Since opening she has continued to introduce more classes, has held examination sessions and had successes at various IDTA competitions with competitors qualifying to compete for the North West.

Rachel has been a steward, then member of the IDTA North West Area Committee for the past 10 years, a position she is passionate about, as well as being a mother to Iris, 3 and Freddie, 2 who are following her footsteps in the Rosette class.

Becoming an Examiner for the IDTA is a role she has aspired to from a young age and she is extremely proud to be given this opportunity and is looking forward to visiting other members and meeting new colleagues.

Rachel would like to offer her heartfelt thanks to Tracey Bentley for her continued coaching, wisdom and support from pupil, colleague to friend.



thomas cliff

Thomas started dancing at the age of eight. He successfully competed in several competitions and performed on stage in local shows and on the West End.

In 2005, Thomas qualified as a professional teacher. Due to his impressive performance in his first Latin American professional examination, he was nominated for the prestigious 'John Dilworth Scholarship Award', which he later went on to win. Thomas was also fortunate enough to be awarded with the 'Giles Bursary Award' for his Freestyle Licentiate qualification.

Thomas started his teaching career at Connections Dance Centre, Manchester, where he taught for six years and then managed for a further three years. It was at Connections Dance Centre that he discovered his passion for teaching. The teams and crews that Thomas choreographed went on to achieve nationwide success and he also had fantastic success with the individual and duo competitors that he taught. In December 2012, Thomas founded his very own dancing school. This has been a huge success and continues to go from strength to strength.

Thomas has lectured at several events throughout the UK including the IDTA Congress, London Seminar and Freestyle Seminar. He is also currently the Vice Chairman of the North West Area Committee. This is a role he has fully embraced and he is proud to represent the members of a fantastic area.

Thomas is honoured to have been appointed an IDTA Examiner and is looking forward to representing this fantastic organisation. He would like to thank Tracey Bentley for all her hard work, dedication and support whilst training him right through to his fellowships. Thomas would also like to thank his family and friends for all their continued support and encouragement.



clem dallender

Having been a member of this wonderful, progressive association for more than 30 years, it is an honour to be accepted as an Examiner, an ambition I have had since a young man.

My dance career started when I was eight years old, competing successfully in Juvenile and Junior events after which I started my professional studies with Ena Allwright, completing professional exams in Classical Sequence, Ballroom, Latin American and Freestyle. Whilst studying, I opened my first dance school in Gosport, Hampshire, training children and adults for competitive and medal events.

I am now the principle of the "Accent Dance Academy" in Horndean, Hampshire where I focus on training medallists and professionals.

Of course, achieving my long term ambition is not the end of my learning. I am totally committed to the concept of "continuous improvement" and thank the IDTA Board and other members for providing such magnificent advice, support and encouragement. I will do my very best to promote the Association and be a worthy ambassador.

Lastly, I would like to thank Judy Walsh and Philip Diment for keeping me focused on my studies and giving me so much support, advice and encouragement, I cannot thank you enough!



anita spiers

Anita took her first dance class at the age of 5 attending the Court School of Dancing, Sutton, with Courtney Castle and Yvonne Pelham. Anita worked her way through the IDTA Amateur Medal test system.

In 1986 Anita commenced her Professional studies with the late Jacqueline Roberts and become a full member of the IDTA Association in 1988 going onto qualify in all core subjects to Associate and Licentiate level. It was Jacqueline who introduced Anita to both Congress and South East Area meetings where she went on to become a committee member. In January 2000 Anita opened her own school the 'Aniani School of Dancing' with her husband Ian, where she continues to teach today at all levels from beginner to professional entering pupils through the IDTA Medal Test system.

After the sad passing of Jacqueline Roberts, Anita continued her professional training with Yvonne Saunders and qualified to Fellowship level in Ballroom, Latin and Freestyle.

Anita would like to thank the support of her husband, Ian, family, friends and all her teachers over the years for all their encouragement and motivation.

Anita feels privileged to have been accepted by the Association as an Examiner and looks forward to continue passing on to others the IDTA motto 'At the Heart of Dance'.



tony wiejski

Tony started his working career as an engineer having qualified at Kingston University with a BSc in Aeronautical Engineering at the age of 22: he then went on to work in several full time positions in software and IT Project Management but always had a keen interest in dancing particularly Ballroom and Latin American rhythms from these early days. Over the years, this interest developed into assisting in classes, demonstrating in shows and events and eventually professional training.

He qualified with the IDTA as a professional dance teacher in 2000 whilst working full time as an IT Manager and then set up his own school, Stepright School of Dance, in 2001 in Esher. Here he has been fully employed as school Principal teaching children, adults and training professional candidates.

Over the last decade he has served on the IDTA Ballroom South-East Area committee and continued his personal development by obtaining his Licentiate qualifications in Ballroom and Latin and later on, trained under Miss Jane Tumelty to complete his Fellowships in Ballroom, Latin and Freestyle.

His approach is to make dance exciting and fun to all those he meets and trains at his school and his colleagues know of his personal commitment to this philosophy and of his belief that in life 'it's what you do that counts, not what you say'.

He is very proud to have been appointed as an IDTA Examiner and he is looking forward to applying his knowledge and passion for dance in this role.

theatre branch examiners



gary williams

Gary commenced his training in North Wales with Adele Meads, he continued at the London Dance Centre with Anna Northcote-Ballet, Matt Mattox- Jazz, Gillian Gregory -Tap.

He danced professionally for 16 years first in the U.K. then in Portugal, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden and Jordan which brought his language skills up to seven.

Whilst still performing he was invited to give a workshop at the Swedish School in Palma de Mallorca and this introduction to working with children made him decide to start gaining his teaching qualifications and open his own school where he teaches all genres and levels including Advanced 2 and Teacher training.

For 4 years he was the Ballet Master at the Son Amar Theatre Restaurant, Mallorca at a time when there were more than 30 dancers in the show. He has also formed part of Wanda Rokicki's choreographic team on events in Hong Kong, Dubai and Qatar.

He joined the IDTA via the agreement with the RAD and his first IDTA exam session was with the inspiring June Gill- all the candidates enjoyed their exams so much they wanted to go back in for a repeat!.

Gary would like to sincerely thank Yvonne Goût for her expert and thorough guidance for his Fellowship exams- it was a pleasure to study with her and to Loraine Hastings for all her great help and friendship in preparation for the Examiners course which is much valued and finally my friend of 30 years plus Marjie Norte, my second in command at the school for her continued support, love and always being "there". Gary feels it is an honour to be appointed an Examiner and hopes to serve the IDTA for many years.



carl walker

With the intention of being a dance and drama teacher, Carl's career path was interrupted when he performed on board cruise ships and in six films.

He is now co principal of CGL Arts Theatre School in Birmingham alongside Examiner Ian Meeson. Delighted to be appointed, Carl intends to give something back and encourage, just as many did for him.

He would sincerely like to thank Karen McDermott and Phil Winston whom without, he would not have aspired toward this role.



caroline randall

I started dancing at Bishops Stage School in London when I was three years old, taking classes in all theatre subjects. Dancing has undoubtedly always been my passion. I participated in festivals, shows and regularly took part in IDTA examinations. At the age of 12 I joined the IDTA initiative YST (Young Stars of Tomorrow) which I was hugely proud of being involved in. It was here that I met Miss Yvonne Goût, who then continued my professional training with. After achieving my Associate qualification I opened my own business, Footsteps dance school was born. I now have 3 successful branches! I continued over many years to obtain the criteria required to apply to be an Examiner and here I am today!

Becoming an Examiner has always been my ambition and I am delighted to now have the opportunity to fulfil this dream. I hope to further encourage and inspire other people to progress with their dancing careers, and really look forward to an exciting future career with the IDTA.

I would like to thank Miss Goût, my husband and family for being so supportive over the years.

The North East Theatre Area are very proud to announce The Judith Silvester Young Teachers Award 2016

This special award is open to students/teachers who live or train in the North East Theatre Area covering Yorkshire and Humberside and are currently studying for a Pre Associate or an Associate examination. We will accept candidates who already hold teaching qualifications and are continuing with their studies.

Teachers/students may nominate themselves or be nominated by a teacher.

Enquires and application forms must be requested from the Area Secretary:
Sarah Bennett Tel: 07768474952/ 0114 2341335
or email sarah.ebennett@btinternet.com

All applicants must fill in Part 1 of the form entering their details Teaching qualifications, subjects studied, who they have trained with and answer three questions.

Candidates will then be notified if they have been successful for Part 2.
This will be hosted at The Constance Grant Dance Centre, Sheffield on Sunday 5th June 2016.
A forty minute class will be taught in their preferred genre to a panel of two examiners.

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL NOMINEES IS 1ST MAY 2016