

The logo for the International Dance Teachers' Association (IDTA) is a white semi-circle on a dark blue background. The letters 'IDTA' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, oriented vertically within the semi-circle.

IDTA

**DANCE
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Reviews

The Barbara Sharples International Choreographic Awards 2019

Date: 26.09.19

Venue: The Royal Northern College of Music

Event: The Barbara Sharples International Choreographic Awards 2019

Remit: To encourage, showcase and reward choreographers' talents

Conclusion: Excellence!!

Once again I have been asked to review the above, now in its ninth year and going from strength to strength (a tenth Anniversary Special next year??). Without doubt, the reason for its continued success lies in the drive of its exceptional leader, Miss Barbara Sharples, who originally conceived the Awards, and who requires no introduction in the world of dance.

A warm and sincere welcome was extended with her natural charm and professionalism by our compère for the evening, Miss Jane Tumelty. Guests included several visiting dignitaries: Miss Sharples, fellow IDTA directors Phil Winston accompanied by Chris Whiston-Farkas, Joanne Kirkland accompanied by husband John, Lynn Armsby and Vanessa Hooper; ADA representatives Peter and Carol Parry; NATD former President Yvonne Gilmore and Norah Button, Co-Principal of Liverpool Theatre School and holder of the Freedom of the City of Liverpool Award. Also present and warmly welcomed were choreographers, teachers, performers and families - the life blood of any event.

Miss Tumelty continued to introduce the panel of adjudicators, explaining that one of the advertised panel - Mr Anthony Edwards - had been taken ill that day and rushed into hospital. Having sent our best wishes from the auditorium for a speedy recovery, introductions were resumed. Standing in for Anthony Edwards....

The Judges

Mr Phil Winston

Director of Phil Winston's Theatreworks in Blackpool and former President of the IDTA 2018-19, Phil is an extremely well respected professional, whose influence extends to many performers and professionals in the industry today.

Mr David Needham

David has been a soloist with English Bach Festival Ballet and is currently Dance Director in Residence at The Hammond, Chester.

Miss Barbara Sharples

Completing the panel of judges is the Director and founder of the BSICA, the one and only Miss Barbara Sharples.

Following 24 excellent performances from this year's finalists, the judges retired to deliberate over their results,

leaving us in the capable hands of Miss Tumelty to introduce a trio of solo cabaret performers.

The Cabaret

Ruby Nuttall

We were informed that Ruby is not only the Theatre Dance Council International (TDCI) junior Ballet champion for 2019, but has been reigning champion for the last three years. Ruby enthralled the audience with a charming classical piece.

Grace Hawksworth

Grace is the winner of Miss Dance of Great Britain 2019. Grace performed a high energy routine with control and style.

Harrison Vaughan

Completing our cabarets for the evening was Harrison Vaughan, the TDCI British Modern Champion. The "clown" was his vehicle to produce an interesting and powerful performance using props and costume to great effect; this was interestingly timed as the major feature film "The Joker" has just been released.

Coulrophobia is the technical name for the fear of clowns. I think this word must have been used by fellow competitors when competing against the talent of this young man!

Following a short break after the cabarets the eagerly awaited results arrived.

The Results

This year's competition included, for only the second time, an additional Cabaret Award (attracting a prize of £500), targeted at performances that embrace a more Musical Theatre expression. This category was won by:-

Dance until the night dies – Georgina Rixon

An entertaining and charming routine with good use and changes of props, genre and speed. It was noted that the dancers stayed in character, not just costume, throughout the awards ceremony. The performance and prize money was dedicated to Bobbie Drakeford, who passed away earlier this year as a sign of respect from this choreographer who was also her pupil.

Winner of the Choreographic Award (£1,000) – Tarzan - Rebecca Lynas

Without doubt an exciting and acrobatic display, with some “death defying” stunts that kept the audience on the edge of their seats. On a cautionary note to any choreographers thinking of going down this route next year - this is a specialised style and a health and safety minefield!

Runner Up – Emily Charlton

Emily won this section in 2018 and was runner up in 2017, proving that talent will come to the top.

3rd Place – Hollie Sorelle

Another fantastic number from Hollie who won the 2018 Cabaret Award and has featured in the first three of the Choreographic Awards for the last three years. I enjoy this choreographer’s work with her almost signature fast and sleek changes of shape and lively foot-tapping music.

Congratulations to Miss Sharples and her dedicated team on producing another excellent evening. I look forward to the tenth anniversary. Date for your diary – 19th September 2020. See you there!

Michael King



Winning Choreographer, Rebecca Lynas & Barbara Sharples

Barbara Sharples International Choreographic Awards

It was my absolute pleasure and certainly a night to remember to be at the Barbara Sharples International Choreographic Awards staged at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. Initially attending as a member of the audience but then unexpectedly “stepping in” to join the panel of Adjudicators the event was full of variety, skill and precision.

Our compère was our very own Jane Tumelty, eloquent in every way. Her warmth and encouragement evoked a calm, professional atmosphere.

To all the choreographers and the performers many congratulations. Each and every performance was slick and well rehearsed, most certainly the endless hours of rehearsals did pay off with such polished results. This event is a wonderful opportunity for aspiring choreographers to stage their creative ideas in a professional venue.

Organisation was slick and precise. Well done to the hard working committee and of course “at the helm” Miss Barbara Sharples who initiated this competition to encourage future choreographic talent.

So... next year the event will be celebrating its 10th anniversary “19th September 2020” make a note in your diaries!!

Let rehearsals commence to make the occasion even more special...!!! Who knows what may be in store?... let’s wait and see !!

Phil Winston



Winning group, Tarzan, choreographer Rebecca Lynas



Runner up group, Birdbox, choreographer Emily Charlton



*Runner up Choreographer,
Emily Charlton & Phil Winston*



*Entertainment Express winner, Georgina Rixon
& Barbara Sharples*



Entertaining Express Winner, Dance till the night dies, choreographer Georgina Rixon



3rd Place, New Jack Swing, choreographer Hollie Sorelle



Cabaret performers, Adjudicators & Compere



3rd Place Hollie Sorelle & David Needham