



**DANCE  
INTERNATIONAL  
MAGAZINE**

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# Miss Dance of Great Britain and Dance Master UK 2019



**It was early in the morning on the 9th June when a friend and myself set off for Blackpool to attend what was going to undoubtedly be a day to remember. The sun was shining and the journey smooth and easy, a joy in itself!**

On arrival we made our way to The Opera House where a warm IDTA welcome awaited us from the hard working committee and team who were all modelling the new Miss Dance T-shirts. Once we had consumed a coffee and had found our bearings we began to take in many new experiences...! We discovered a fabulous new look for the Miss Dance and Dance Master competition.

Firstly a larger programme boasting the updated branding and most impressive new logo which was splashed around the whole event, not a single person there could miss that this was indeed a prestigious occasion. Secondly, a great merchandise pop up shop by # Merch selling a wide and varied selection of T-shirts (some with the obligatory dancer's bling!), water bottles, keyrings, dancewear etc. Yes we were spoilt for choice! Next we entered the auditorium where the technical rehearsal was taking place. The old banners have been replaced by a large LED screen situated upstage, provided by Blair Winston of Splash Reel, bringing the event into the 21st century. This was later used to display advertisements, messages of good luck along with photographs of the competitors at their winning heats throughout Great Britain.

It was now time for the contestants to be put through their paces as they were taught the opening routine which had been wonderfully choreographed by Miss. Linda Lister and Miss Shani Mitchell. As always this highly experienced duo delivered the choreography with a precise, detailed approach and much enjoyment and enthusiasm. To observe the performers through this process was a privilege, to watch them dance away their anticipation and nerves, to observe them work as a team and to feel the mounting excitement they all exuded was spine tingling. Then, the newly commissioned opening music was played. Although still early in the day there was absolutely no doubt it was going to create a mind blowing atmosphere like no other. Credit to the composer Mr Chris Mann for creating this dynamic, current, motivational and uplifting piece of music which proved itself to be a perfect start to the proceedings.

As the eager audience took their seats the suspense and sense of occasion just grew and grew, at this point we had

little idea of the show that lie ahead. The music began, the cheers began, the lights went up with the main tabs to reveal a highly professional array of lighting effects which complimented the fabulous costumes. The cheers became louder as the dancers began to perform the newly arranged routine for the rip-roaring audience who were all riveted, just brilliant!

## **Now let the competition begin!**

The standard of the 57 Miss Dance heat winners and the 17 Dance Master heat winners was most impressive and provided a varied and engrossing programme of dance genres and song.

The highly acclaimed adjudicators Lynne Chilver, Janet Pharaoh and George Ure narrowed down the competitors to only 12 for the semi-finals ... a difficult task to say the least! They were Felicity Nunn, Lauren Wood, Jasmin Haughey, Lauren Wadsworth, Georgia Price, Isla McAlpine, Lucy Holcroft, Eleiyah Navis, Olivia Fryer, Annie Knight, Jessica Bridge and Grace Hawksworth.

In true Dance Master style the crowd were full of admiration and appreciation for the young men participating. With additional adjudicators, our IDTA president Mr. Phil Winston and Rachael Crocker the competition went from seventeen down to six for the final. These were, Daniel Richards, Jay Allen, Harry Smallman, Jack Skelton, Luke Lowry and Oliver Barker.

The Miss Dance semi-finals took place to a fanatic audience, could it possibly get any more exciting? Well yes was the answer. The following performers were announced for the final, Felicity Nunn, Lauren Wood, Isla McAlpine, Lucy Holcroft, Annie Knight and Grace Hawksworth.

## **The final result ...**

George Ure awarded a place on the *Urdang Academy Accelerator course* to **Gabriel Sharrock**.

The *John Dilworth Bursary Award* was presented to **Olivia Fryer**

In recognition of the most promising vocal the *Ros Wicks Bursary Award* was given to **Daniel Richards**.

*Third place Dance Master* went to **Jack Skelton**

*Second place runner up* to **Daniel Richards**

The title of *Dance Master Of Great Britain 2019* was awarded to **Harry Smallman**

Third place Miss Dance was awarded to **Lucy Holcroft**

Second place runner up to **Lauren Wood**

The grand title of Miss Dance of Great Britain 2019 was awarded to **Grace Hawksworth**

Every contestant gave their absolute best with their spellbinding performances, their hard work and dedication was plain for all to see. Every one of the performers can rest assured that they will have inspired so many of the next generation. I know this as I heard many young dancers in many conversations (well not actually listening to each other but all talking at the same time!) Their voices and faces full of joy, excitement and enthusiasm for the love of Dance.

Thank you and many congratulations to everyone involved, a truly amazing day in true IDTA style.

*Dawn Aldred*



*John Dilworth winner Olivia Fyler with adjudicator Lynn Chilver*

It was with a sense of astonishment, quickly succeeded by delight, that I read the email inviting me to adjudicate Miss Dance 2019 as the IDTA panel member. It was a definite yes!

On the day, as always, the excitement and anticipation was palpable before even entering the theatre as crowds of supporters gathered and the atmosphere inside was electric, rightly so as the young contenders for Miss Dance and Dance Master deserved every atom of the pride and encouragement bursting from their families and dance schools.

The event got underway with a stunning new look to the staging and opening sequence, the dancers all getting an opportunity to make an early impact.

Then on to the business of the day and this year there was a great variety of styles from the dancers and their choreographers- cabaret, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, dramatic, theatrical, acrobatic with tappers and vocalists also well represented.

All the dancers performed with passion and commitment doing great credit to themselves and their teachers and the finalists gave us stunning performances and were presented with their awards to well-deserved acclaim from the audience.

A wonderful day from start to finish which I was honoured and thrilled to be part of. Here's to 2020!

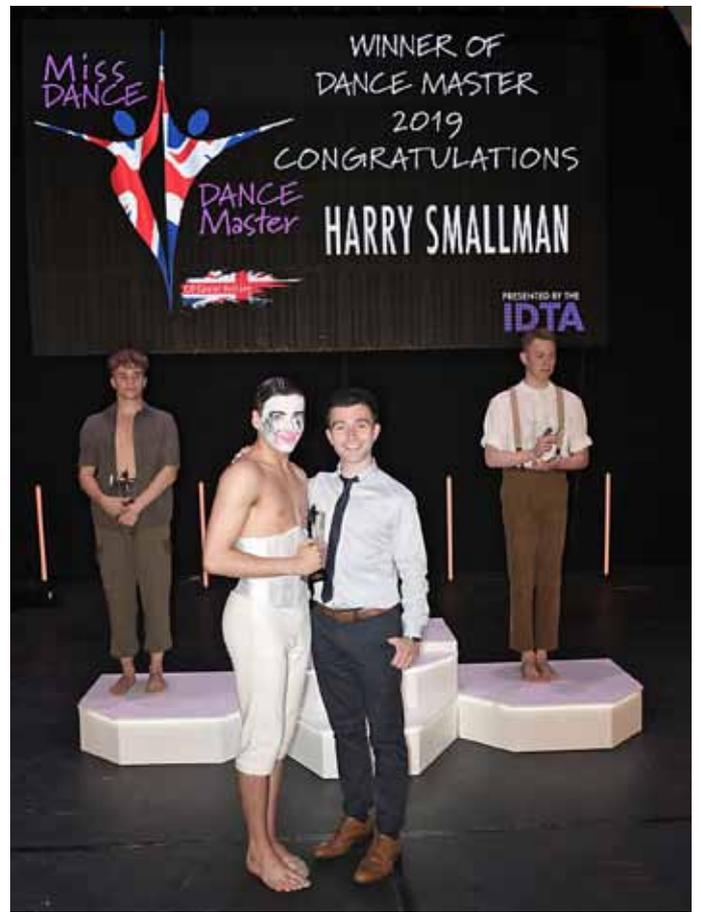
*Lynne Chilver*



*Ros Wicks Bursary Award Winner Daniel Richards with Eleanor Hill*



Left to right: Miss Dance Committee Chairman, Karen Cotton, Miss Dance of Great Britain Grace Hawksworth, President Phil Winston and IDTA Examiner and member of the Miss Dance Committee Tracey Southern.



Dance Master 2019 Harry Smallman George Ure



Winners and Runners Up



Miss Dance and Dance Master Winners and Finalists 2019