



IDTA

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**Miss Dance of Great
Britain 2015 and Dance
Master UK 2015**

Show Reviews

Reports from around the world

SPOTLIGHT ON

Margaret Powell and Vera Barclay

Miss Dance of Great Britain and Dance Master UK 2015

Whenever I visit Blackpool, I still get a thrill when I catch my first glimpse of 'The Tower' from the M55. But that is nothing compared to the buzz of excitement already surrounding the Opera House on this beautiful, sunny June morning.

As we entered through the stage door, we are immediately welcomed by Miss Dance committee member Catherine Sheppard, who quickly gives us a back stage tour. We are able to witness first hand just how efficiently the Miss Dance committee, along with their army of experienced helpers, have everything perfectly under control. The competitors are lined up on the stairs waiting to hand in back-up copies of their music. Nothing is left to chance. Joanne Kirkland has already transferred all the performer's music tracks on to a digital playlist, so once this is handed over to the Sound Technician, it's all systems go.

It's time to rehearse the Opening Ceremony. The competitors begin to fill the stage, make-up on, hair done, but still in track suits and onesies. Sharon Berry welcomes everyone, reminds them of a few 'do's and don'ts', and wishes them all a very enjoyable and memorable day. She is then joined by Linda Lister who gets them all on their feet and organises with military precision. In no time at all, a slick theatrical opening number is produced which manages to give each individual performer a chance to shine. Genius.

Meanwhile, the Wintergardens has become a hive of activity. The whole place is now packed with audience members, teachers, and friends and family delivering flowers and gifts to the stage door, hoping to catch a glimpse of their competitor for one final 'break a leg' hug.

At 12.30pm, the auditorium is full, the lights dim, and the overture begins. The atmosphere is electric. As the curtains open, and the competitors enter, the noise from the audience is deafening. The dancers perform the opening number with great enthusiasm and style, setting the tone for the rest of the day.

Our three highly experienced professional adjudicators are introduced – Betty Chappelle, Jonathan Burrell, and Lisa Ingram – all with a very difficult task ahead. Compere Barry Northall introduces each competitor to the stage for their solo performance. This year we have an entertaining mix of styles from Lyrical to Musical Theatre, all with creative choreography. Congratulations to all the teachers.

After 53 excellent performances, there is a short break, then the final 12 lucky semi-finalists are invited to the stage to perform again, this time dancing for a chance to appear in the Grand Final.

It is now time for Dance Master UK and the atmosphere is once again buzzing with excitement to see how these 13 exceptionally talented young men are going to perform. The audience are certainly not disappointed.

Another short interval, and we are approaching the Miss Dance Final. The judges, now joined by Lee Lomas and Cat Simmons, take their seats as the tension mounts. The audience go wild yet again as we see the routines for the last time.

While the results are collated, it is Cabaret time. Latin Champions Neil Jones and Ekaterina Sokolova take to the stage to give an outstanding performance which has the audience on their feet.

It is 7.30pm, and the moment we've all been waiting for has arrived ... the results are in. The winner of Dance Master UK is Reece Woodier from TAB Academy, who performed a stunning arrangement. Runner Up is Benjamin Holloway, trained by Adele Taylor. The winner of Miss Dance 2015 is Demi-Leigh Foster from Nadine's Dance Company who gave a flawless performance with a Fosse style routine. She is also presented with the Judith Silvester Award by Tracey Southern and Karen Siddall, Miss Silvester's daughters, who donated the award in honour of her dedication to Miss Dance. Runner Up is Eloise Gledhill, trained by Adele Taylor.

The John Dilworth Bursary is awarded to Harriet Fisher from the Strickland Cook School.

The Ros Wicks Bursary, presented by her daughter Eleanor Clare, is awarded to Abbie Roebuck for her vocal potential.

Congratulations to all the competitors for their hard work and commitment, and a huge well done to all their teachers, parents, and supporters for their endless dedication.

Many thanks to the Miss Dance committee and their team for organising this fantastic event. Looking forward to next year already. Put the date in your diary – Sunday 12 June 2016.

Lisa Lee



Miss Dance of Great Britain 2015 with Dance Master UK 2015



From left to right - Michael Brown, Madeleine Lawton, Miss Dance of Great Britain 2015 Demi-Leigh Foster, Dance Master UK 2015 Reece Woodier, Eloise Gledhill Benjamin Holloway.



Harriett Fisher receiving the John Dilworth from Betty Chappelle



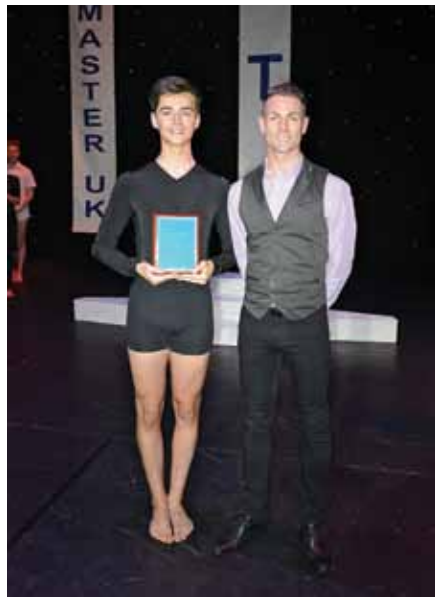
Abbie Roebuck receiving the Ros Wicks Award from Eleanor Hill



Reece Woodier Dance Master UK 2015 with Keith Holmes



Benjamin Holloway Dance Master runner up with Jonathan Butterell



Michael Brown Dance Master 3rd Place with Lee Lomas



Demi-Leigh Foster Miss Dance of Great Britain 2015 with Keith Holmes



Miss Dance winner Demi-Leigh Foster being presented with the Judith Silvester Award by Tracey & Karen



Eloise Gledhill Miss Dance runner up with Lisa Ingram



Madeleine Lawton Miss Dance 3rd Place with Cat Simmons



The Miss Dance Committee left to right: Catherine Sheppard, Tracey Southern, Karen Siddall, Linda Lister, Betty Chappelle, Sandra Houldsworth, Sharon Berry, Joanne Kirkland.