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Karla Doorbar as Clara in Birmingham Royal
Ballet's *The Nutcracker*

photo: Roy Smiljanic

Barbara Sharples International Choreographic Award 2017.

'A night to remember', must have been on the lips of all the performers and choreographers as they left the Royal Northern College of Music Theatre, Manchester. The occasion was the Barbara Sharples International Choreographic Award 2017, held Saturday 23rd September. It's a 'Dream' which has certainly come true for Barbara in establishing this Award, which is now in its seventh year, she has certainly encouraged, promoted and inspired young choreographers from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales into the wonderful world of Dance.

The evening was in the very skilful hands of Jane Tumelty as Compere and Host. Twenty three enthusiastic groups showing a good range of diversity:- Freestyle, Tap, Modern, Jazz, Street, Ballet and Contemporary took to the stage and entertained their lively audience with tremendous vigour. Their choreographers were, Suzanne Jones, Aileen Coffey, Kirsty Wood, Amelia Coles, Ashleigh Dalziel, Gemma Grayson, Sam Fairbrother, Jessica Hughes, Fay Low, Stephanie Ellis, Sophia Afzal, Shana Keeler, Emily Charlton, Jenna Rushton, Hollie Sorelle and Amy Hall. All the groups were well choreographed showing very impressive ideas and musical interpretation.

While the results were being collated we were all entertained by the outstanding and very impressive Cabaret of Junior Ballet Champion



Winner - Ashleigh Dalziel - Journey of a Slave

Rose Wilson, Winner of the 'Dance Master UK 2017' Kieran Price and Winner of 'Champion of Champions' and Miss Dance of Great Britain 2017 Abbie Platts.

The results were now ready, you could feel the buzz among the audience as the groups with their choreographers waited on stage with trepidation. The Adjudicators, Michael King, Mike Denman and Barbara Sharples had an extremely hard task, but eventually they came to the following decision. Third place was awarded to Hollie Sorelle and her group 'Torn', second place to Emily Charlton and her group 'Under the Sea', but the ultimate winner of the Barbara Sharples International Choreographic Award for 2017 and the receiver of a cheque for £1,000 towards further dance development, was Ashleigh Dalziel and her group 'Journey of a Slave'. Ashleigh's choreography was very well-structured and her group performed it with sincere music interpretation and feeling.

Congratulations Barbara and to everyone who contributed to this wonderful evening. I am definitely looking forward to your Choreographic Award in 2018. 'A night not to be missed'.

Lilian Aubrey.
President NCDTA.



3rd place - Hollie Sorelle - Torn



Runner Up - Emily Charlton - Under the Sea



Ashleigh Dalziel receiving her winners trophy from Barbara Sharples



Cabaret Artists - Rose Wilson, Abbie Platts, Kieran Price

The Barbara Sharples International Choreographic Awards 2017

It was certainly an honour to be asked to judge Miss Sharples' 2017 International Choreographic Awards celebrating its seventh year at the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

For anyone not familiar with this event I will endeavour to explain, this is the brainchild of Barbara Sharples to spotlight the work and talents of young choreographers in all genres of dance.

My fellow adjudicator Mike Denman (London) and I, along with compere, Miss Jane Tumelty, received a warm and sincere welcome from the organiser and third judge for the evening, Miss Sharples.

The quality of the 23 choreographed pieces presented at these finals was exceptional with regards to both content and technical performance, ranging from Classical Ballet to Tap and Contemporary. Unfortunately there was no presence from the ballroom styles - (note to self - maybe have to think about that for next year).

A Star Is Born

As the judges left the auditorium to deliberate their results the audience were entertained by Miss Dance of Great Britain 2017 - Abbie Platts, Dance Master UK 2017 - Kieran Price

and a charming junior Ballet performance from Rose Wilson. As every good show should have a good background drama, this was no exception. The first cabaret artist was due to appear, however, the tabs decided they didn't want to open, leaving Miss Tumelty on stage to "fill". Being the consummate professional she proceeded to interview the acts, this morphed into an excellent comedy routine. Well done Jane, a new career is awaiting you. Oh yes! The tabs duly opened and three first class cabaret performances graced the stage.

The Results

After a great deal of deliberation the following numbers were found victorious.

1. Journey of a Slave - Ashleigh Dalziel

Loosely based on the Oscar winning 12 Years a Slave, this was a slightly harrowing and thought provoking routine with excellent use of music and dance narrative thus proving to be the unanimous winner.

2. Under The Sea - Emily Charlton

Looking at the programme one could maybe be excused for thinking "Here we go again with the Disney classics". It just goes to show "don't judge a book or dance by its cover" as this routine was full of dramatic music with a good use of props, depicting Neptune (or Poseidon if we use the Greek) NB. Ariel not in sight.

3. Torn - Hollie Sorelle

On my notes I had written "well constructed format with excellent technical and musical content, this could be the winner". The shape changes were clean and comfortable.

Many of the routines were worthy of one of the first three positions, here are a few I thought merited a mention.

Starvation - Emily Charlton. A good use of a large cast with a strong depth of performance.

Asylum - Aileen Coffey. A well performed dance, depicting and showing controlled chaos.

Blue Monday - Sam Fairbrother. An enjoyable mixture of Tap meets Street.



Adjudicators and cabaret with Barbara Sharples

When the Judges were asked to say a few words I paraphrased something that Albert Einstein said: "Imagination is more important than knowledge as knowledge has limits".

This event certainly proved that in abundance.

Congratulations to Barbara Sharples and all her excellent team on producing a first class and giving event, allowing choreographers to showcase their talents.

Roll on 2018

Michael King

EXCITING NEWS!!!

Introducing an additional Choreographic Award in 2018 ****ENTERTAINMENT EXTRA****

For the most entertaining, original, group dance performance of the evening Entries for 2018 open now

PRIZE £500

For further details please e mail info@BSICA.co.uk The finals will be held on 22 September 2018 at the RNCM, Manchester