



**DANCE  
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# The Barbara Sharples International Choreographic Award 2018

**Saturday 22nd September 2018** saw the eighth year of the International Choreographic Award take place at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. The award is the brainchild of Miss Barbara Sharples, who is still its driving force and whose aim in developing the concept is to encourage young choreographers to stretch their creative abilities in all dance genres – definitely a “Mission Accomplished”!

I was honoured to be invited as a guest this year as I judged last year’s event, and soon settled in to an evening of wonderful talent and entertainment.

The judging panel for the evening was introduced by our compère Miss Jane Tumelty with her trademark ease and professionalism.

#### **Miss Rosemarie Ford**

Many may remember Rosemarie from “The Generation Game” and later as the presenter of “Come Dancing”. We must not forget, however, that she is a trained dancer.

#### **Mr Antony Johns**

Antony is an award winning choreographer working in theatre around the world, along with involvement in many T.V. programmes.

#### **Miss Barbara Sharples**

Miss Sharples needs no introduction to anyone reading this report. As a senior examiner and Director of the IDTA she is peerless.

All 23 finalists then readied themselves for “battle”!

This year’s competition included an additional Award for the most “Entertaining Cabaret Number” (attracting a prize of £500), aimed at dances that embrace a more Musical Theatre expression. The category was won by:-

#### **Juggernaut – Hollie Sorelle.**

This was an exciting number by Hollie Sorelle who took third position last year and is a worthy winner of this year’s first cabaret section. Although the concept is about choreography, it certainly doesn’t harm the “product” to have it performed well: particular mention must be made of the excellent male lead dancer.

Congratulations to all the finalists! I’m sure you made the results process very difficult for the judges.

As we awaited the judge’s deliberations we were entertained by three superb cabaret performances:-

#### **Aimee Boyd – Winner of the TDCI British Ballet Championship 2018**

Wonderful to see this lovely Classical Ballet piece represented. I felt a little sad that there appeared to be no Classical Ballet during this year’s finals – maybe next year?

#### **Leah Darby – Winner of Miss Dance of Great Britain 2018**

A charming, controlled and personality driven cabaret number.

#### **Harry Wilson – Winner Dance Master UK 2018**

A powerful male piece with superb rhythm and shape changes.

It is a sign of the esteem in which Miss Sharples is held that so many dance glitterati supported this event, as would be expected, a strong contingent from Miss Sharples’ own association, the IDTA, including and presenting the healthy first prize of £1000.00, IDTA President Phil Winston accompanied by Chris Winston – Farkas, CEO Liz Murphy along with directors Michael Sandham and Joanne Kirkland accompanied by her husband John, the Allied Dancing Association was also represented by Peter and Carol Parry

If you enjoy an evening out full of theatre and dance (and I think that covers nearly everyone reading this report!) then book next year’s date, 21st September 2019 in your diary.

**Once again, congratulations to Miss Sharples and her hard working team on another excellent evening.**

*Michael King*



All Choreographers



Presentation by Rosemarie Ford  
to Sophina Afzal 2nd place



Presentation by Barbara Sharples  
to Emily Charlton winner



Presentation by Antony Johns  
to Hollie Sorelle 3rd place

## The Results

### **Winner (prize £1000) The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas – Emily Charlton**

Based on the book and film of the same name. Good use of shape on both sides of the stage with continuous interest. Harrowing and thought provoking, but excellent, and also this reviewer's winner. Emily was also last year's runner up.

### **Runner Up - Torn – Sophina Afzal**

Another strong powerful performance with great music. Personally, I believe dance is a performing art and therefore subjective, and is not necessarily a competitive form. I enjoyed the way this piece developed and by the end was totally involved.

### **3rd Place Sing,Sing,Sing – Hollie Sorelle**

A fabulous night for Hollie who took first place in the cabaret section and a third place with this lively number based on the Benny Goodman classic immortalised by Gene Krupa's fantastic drumming. My first jottings in the dimly lit auditorium were, "Like it! Don't know why...". As the number continued I realised it was the slick shape changes, energy and empathy with the music that took this piece to the third spot.

Several pieces in my opinion were worthy of the final positions and thus merit a mention:-

### **The Hatter – Connie Manning**

At first glance we could have been forgiven for thinking this was a "pretty little Alice in Wonderland number" – wrong! As I watched I kept thinking that if this were to be produced on stage with "Black Light" and green light, what an excellent nightmarish segment this would make within a full show, encapsulating nearly all the "Alice in Wonderland" story in three minutes.

### **Cyber Bullying – Aileen Coffey**

Another thought provoking topical number. Fast use of spoken word and song, with rapid, continuously changing choreography.

### **Mannequin – Emily Charlton**

Well controlled. Interesting original changes and it told a story – which is what this competition is all about.



Adjudicators, Jane Tumelty Compere & Cabaret Artists with IDTA President Phil Winston



Winner of the Entertaining Cabaret Group "Juggernaut" choreographer Hollie Sorelle



Winner of the BSICA Group Award "The Boy in the striped pyjamas" choreographer Emily Charlton



Harry Wilson



Aimee Boyd



Leah Darby all Cabaret Artists