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IDTA

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Freestyle Scholarships and Seminar 2019

This year the Freestyle Seminar and Scholarships took place on the weekend of 11th and 12th May. These are always exciting events and truly go from strength to strength.

Both the Scholarships and the Seminar were held, for the first time, at the Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham. Saturday's scholarships were held in the theatre which provided an excellent environment for dancing and a clear view for parents and teachers in the audience. The professional and student workshops took place in two large dance studios. The modern facilities and the helpful friendly staff added to the overall enjoyment of the event.

The atmosphere for Saturday's Scholarships was electric. The compère for the day was Anna Jones and four classes were held in various age groups. The class teacher was Andrew Chadwick whose energy and enthusiasm was infectious. His routines were inspiring and his detailed teaching brought out the best in everyone technically whilst his use of imagery (the students "moved the clouds" and had "an alien bursting out of" their chests) encouraged emotional engagement.

The assessors for the Scholarships were IDTA President Phil Winston, Freestyle faculty member Jill Kemp, Elliot Plate and the scrutineer was Dawn Corbett.

Finalists re-danced Andrew's routine and also a routine choreographed by their teacher. Congratulations must go to the nominees, and also to their teachers for their coaching, which together with Andrew's routines, led to nail biting finals and very worthy winners.

From the nominees who were not selected for the finals, one dancer in each age group, who showed outstanding potential, was presented, by Anna Jones, with a trophy and voucher towards further training.

There was a lovely "buzz" as everyone left at the end of the day with many looking forward to coming back for the Seminar the following morning.

After a well earned rest Saturday evening, the committee were back at the MAC bright and early Sunday morning to get ready for the Seminar.

The Seminar provided a very full day with seven lectures each for both professionals and amateurs. As these lectures were taken by six different lecturers, the variety of styles taught during the course of the day made it a must for all.

In both studios the energy and staying power of those dancing was impressive and was a testament to the quality of the lectures.

Dwain Dubs Allain from Peridot Dance Group shared his expertise with Street routines that worked on precise isolations and rhythms. As the first lecturer for the Professionals this certainly woke up everyone's brains!

Lisa Fitzpatrick's workshop "Accelerated Actions" was just as the title suggested. These routines were high speed and high energy and were a great insight into what is required for Freestyle Competitions. Her young demonstrators clearly loved what they were doing.

Elliot Plate, who has spent some time working in America, gave everyone an insight into the history of Hip Hop whilst teaching super routines with great clarity and detail. These were very well received.

Andrew Chadwick, still full of energy after taking all the classes for the Scholarships, gave us fabulous commercial routines and also lyrical slow routines. His obvious enjoyment and passion was mirrored by the dancers on the floor.

Chera Bittles-Kincaid taught us a lovely slow freestyle pairs routine and a change of pace was most welcome. Her able demonstrators made the routines look deceptively easy but they demanded a lot of control and flexibility.

Alison Coyne, an experienced director and choreographer, presented "West End Wonders" which gave us yet another change of style that was inspiring for all those teaching the Musical Theatre Syllabus. The day ended with delegates who had been working in the Professional workshops being invited to see the final performance in the Amateur workshop and it was amazing to see what Allison had managed to achieve in such a short time.

Congratulations must go to the Freestyle faculty, Nigel Edgar, Anna Jones, Jill Kemp and Dawn Parker and especially to faculty chairman Loraine Hastings for all their hard work both during the weekend and in the preceding months.

I, for one, cannot wait for next year. I would recommend this Seminar to everyone. Put it in your diaries next year and make a weekend of it!

Winners and finalist of the IDTA Freestyle Scholarships 2019

Class A – Under 14

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| First | Beverley Cooney | Spotlight Stage School |
| Second | Tegan Woods | Funky Fusion School of Dance |
| Third | Amelia-Freya Turner | Apple Dance Centre |
| Fourth | Shennai Sahota | Dance Xtreme Midlands Academy |
| Fifth | Taylor Sweet | Dance Xtreme Midlands Academy |
| Sixth | Bethany Browne | Regan Performing Arts |
| Seventh | Charlotte Woodward | Dance Xtreme Midlands Academy |
| Anna Jones Award | Paige Henrikson | The Dance Depot Theatre School |

Class B – Under 16

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| First | Olivia Bucksey | Gillham School of Performing Arts |
| Second | Kerys Tough | Empowered Studios |
| Third | Summor Billinger | Vibez Danceworks |
| Fourth | Millie White | A & M Freedom Dance Academy |
| Fifth | Sophie Randall | Dore School of Performing Arts |
| Anna Jones Award | Chloe Cooles | Fusion Dance Academies |

Class C – Under 18

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| First | Iffan Roberts | Quicksteps School of Dancing |
| Second | Nicole Manumbre | Spotlight Stage School |
| Third | Elenor Poole | Quicksteps School of Dancing |
| Fourth | Alexandra Smith | A & M Freedom Dance Academy |
| Fifth | Jessica Stone | Leek School of Dance |
| Anna Jones Award | Charlotte Mitchell | Caroline Carr Dance Studios |

Class D – 18 and Over

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| First | Steven Wilson | Caspers Freestyle Dance |
| Second | Justice Kirkley | A & M Freedom Dance Academy |
| Third | Joseph Wood | Tweedale Academy of Dancing |
| Fourth | Hannah Arbury | Fusion Dance Academies |
| Fifth | Kirsty Green | Step in Time School of Dance |
| Anna Jones Award | Grace Johns | June White Academy of Dance |

Anna Jones Freestyle Winners



Paige Henrikson GP A



Chloe Cooles GP B



Charlotte Mitchell GP C



26 Grace Johns GP D

Winners of the Groups



Beverley Cooney GP A



Olivia Bucksey GP B



Iffan Roberts GP C



Steven Wilson GP D

Full Groups



Group A



Group B



Group C



Group D

Line up from Winner downward



Line Up A

Left to Right: Beverley Cooney, Tegan Woods, Amelia-Freya Turner, Shennai Sahota, Taylor Sweet, Bethany Browne, Charlotte Woodward



Line Up B

Left to Right: Olivia Bucksey, Kerys Tough, Summer Billinger, Millie White, Sophie Randall



Line Up C

Left to Right: Iffan Roberts, Nicole Manumbre, Elenor Poole, Alexandra Smith, Jessica Stone



Line Up D

Left to Right: Steven Wilson, Justice Kirkley, Joseph Wood, Hannah Arbury, Kirsty Green



The Judges and presentation team Jill Kemp, Elliot Plate, Anna Jones, Phil Winston, Dawn Parker and Dwain Allain



The Full Team



Andrew Chadwick



Dwain Dubs Alain



Elliot Plate



Chera Bittles-Kincaid



Allison Coyne



Lisa Fitzpatrick



Andrew Chadwick in class action



Dwain Dubs Alain in class action



Elliot Plate in class action

Photos courtesy of Prof. Chris Kemp

*For a full catalogue of photos from the Freestyle Weekend please email: photos@momconsultancy.com
The images are £10 per digital file and the payment method is BACs transfer.*

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