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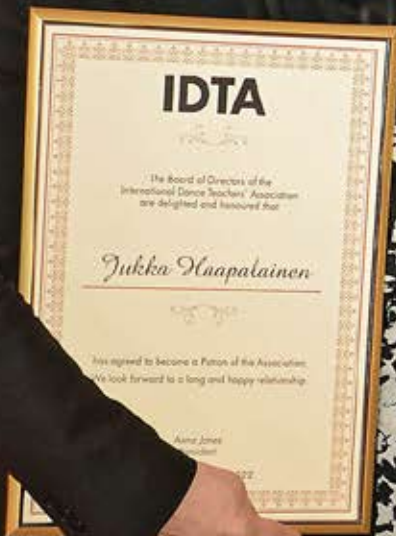
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**DANCE  
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# *Faculties in the Footlights*

## **Contemporary Modern Jazz Faculty**

**The work of the Contemporary Modern Jazz Faculty of the IDTA seems to be one that is never done! All of us being constantly aware of the needs of our teachers and their eager pupils both in this country and overseas. The last couple of years, as we all know too well, have been challenging but the artistic endeavour of the teaching profession never wanes.**

Perhaps during these times access to films, Netflix, the Arts channel, social media, classes via zoom etc. awareness has been raised. Many theatre dance, musicals and fascinating documentaries featuring pioneers of the dance world were easily available keeping our art form at the forefront of the media ( so much better than the news channels!) this I believe has continued to stimulate and inspire the future young generation of dancers in aspiring to fulfil their dreams.

Over the last 3 years the faculty, consisting of Miss Linda Cook, Miss Lisa Handley, Miss Shani Mitchell, Mr Carl Walker & yours truly undertook the task to completely revise the existing syllabus to create the Contemporary Modern Jazz Syllabus Preparatory - Grade 5 also producing 2 new Contemporary Set Studies to augment the Vocational Intermediate Performers examination. All this available in note / dvd & download format from head office.

Always a huge responsibility creating a new system which will stand the test of time, ensuring the work is attainable for a wide range of age groups & abilities without compromising standards. Our faculty as a team work tirelessly on behalf of IDTA teachers to create work that is both creative and commercial. Many an hour or so is spent in meetings all together, via Zoom & on the phone, thank goodness we all get on famously!!

Inspiration for all of us is initiated by the music and we are so fortunate in having the opportunity to be working with the incredible Richard Whetherall composing a diverse range of musical styles and atmospheric stimuli specifically for the technical work. We contemplate considerably that compositions don't 'date' overnight & that our many overseas schools will also be inspired musically. It can be quite daunting for teachers to search age appropriate, creative music for their pupils so hopefully the new grades provide this facility (no ppl/prs !)

When travelling in our examination duties it is certainly rewarding when listening to familiar inspirational music and examining IDTA syllabus work presented with the same energy and enthusiasm from Beijing to Birmingham ... Corfu to Croydon ... Madrid to Macclesfield ... and all the other exotic locations we visit.

Our responsibilities are also to develop & devise the Acrobatic Dance Syllabus. Grades Prep-Grade2 are available and have been enthusiastically incorporated into many schools itinerary, again another opportunity to build extra classes for teachers.

SO ... as you can guess your Contemporary Modern Jazz Faculty have certainly not been 'putting their feet up!' (forgive the pun!) over the curious Covid constraints!

Oh ... the new Acrobatic Dance Grades 3-5 will be presented to the membership at the Annual Congress July 2022 at the Winter Gardens Blackpool. We certainly look forward to seeing you there.

*Phil Winston  
Chairman Contemporary Modern Jazz Faculty.*



# A Touch of Classical!

Hello dear friends,

**By the time you read this article we will be well into 2022, and hopefully the worst of the pandemic will be behind us. It has not been easy for any of us, and so many dance teachers in all genres have had to close their doors forever! This has proved no exception to those of us who love Sequence dancing. Trying to rebuild a business after so many years is no easy task!**

We as an Association have been instigative in providing help, guidance and support for our members, and although not being able to meet in person, the technical Faculties have been able to continue their work thanks to the Zoom platform whenever possible.

The Sequence Faculty were well into the process of working towards the much needed revision of the Classical Sequence syllabus from Pre Associate through to Fellowship level prior to lockdown, and are now happy to report that the full examinations for Associate and Licentiate as well as all Modules have been revised and made more 'user friendly'! The new syllabus will be much clearer to understand with regards to studying for a Professional examination. The Pre Associate examination has been revised and to an extent, simplified to encourage new students, and there is also a Level 3 Dance Teaching

Assistant which is well worth taking a look at. Please check out the Members Area on the IDTA website for further details.

The syllabus revision has been an ongoing project, interrupted by the pandemic, but the Faculty are committed in promoting Classical Sequence for all ages. I would like to thank the Faculty members for their continuing support and enthusiasm in promoting this suffering genre. Watch this space for future updates with regards both Classical and Modern Sequence enthusiasts.

On another note, if you enjoy choreography, why not arrange a 16 bar routine and enter the IDTA Inventive Dance Competition? Events will be run to find a prizewinning dance in Classical, Ballroom and Latin Sequence. This will take place at the newly refurbished iconic Winter Gardens on Saturday 9th July 2022. Contact Head Office for more information.

I remain positive and believe we can all keep sequence dancing ALIVE!!!

**Enjoy your sequence dancing.**

*Derek Tonks (Chairman Classical Sequence Faculty)*

## Musical Theatre Faculty

**Linda Regan reports:**

**I am proud to say I currently serve as Chairman on the Musical Theatre Faculty for the International Dance Teachers Association, alongside my close friends and colleagues Denise Skinner, Ian Meeson, Liz Kendrick, and Lisa Handley. We are supported in our work by Liz Murphy and the IDTA Board of Directors and feel honoured to be voted in by our fellow Examiners.**

We hold regular meetings throughout the year and work closely and collaboratively as a team to liaise on faculty business. During meetings we discuss a range of topics such as listening and responding to the needs and recommendations of the IDTA Directors and members.

We also regularly update syllabus work for students to reflect current developments within the performing arts industry. We also identify and explore new ways of developing and promoting the IDTA and syllabus work through raising awareness of the Musical Theatre genre through lectures and events.

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Currently the Musical theatre syllabi offers a broad range of qualifications commencing with Rosettes, progressing through the group Stage examinations from Introductory to Stage 6. Students can also complete solo, duo, trio and team medal tests from Introductory to Gold bar standard. The really dedicated student can progress onto the Performers Certificate which prepares students for auditions for dance and drama colleges and the performing arts industry.

Additionally, teachers wishing to expand their knowledge of teaching the musical theatre genre can undertake the Musical Theatre teaching Diploma. More recently the faculty have developed and written the new Acting Awards syllabus offering medal test examinations from Introductory to Gold Bar standard. These are available for solo, duo and team awards. The Musical Theatre genre has the ability to build confidence, expression and communication skills within students, skills that are very much needed in all walks of life and for the dance teacher, it has the potential to encourage new students into your school by building student numbers and generating new income.

*Linda Regan – Musical Theatre Faculty Chairman*