

IDTA

**DANCE
INTERNATIONAL
MAGAZINE**

Issue 3 - September 2022



“let’s talk technique”



Michael Sandham

Have you got your new copy of the new Latin book?

You may have seen the IDTA advert for the new Laird Technique of Latin Dancing technique book. It can be easily identified by its very modern-looking orange cover. The book is not a general update as seen in 2018 but is the new eighth edition.

If you have the 2014 or 2018 version, you may be thinking, is it worth purchasing a new book just for a shiny new cover? You will be happy to know that this book is much more than that. Format is used on some pages. Several figures that were descriptions have been fully charted, making it easier to dance the figures with the correct technique. In the Jive, there are two new figures. The foot positions on step 2 of the Cha Cha Cha chasse of “half closed” have been replaced with “almost closed”.

For those that have followed the development of the Laird book since it was first published in 1961, you will have seen the constant evolution of Latin Dancing reflected in each edition, and the eighth edition continues that steady development.

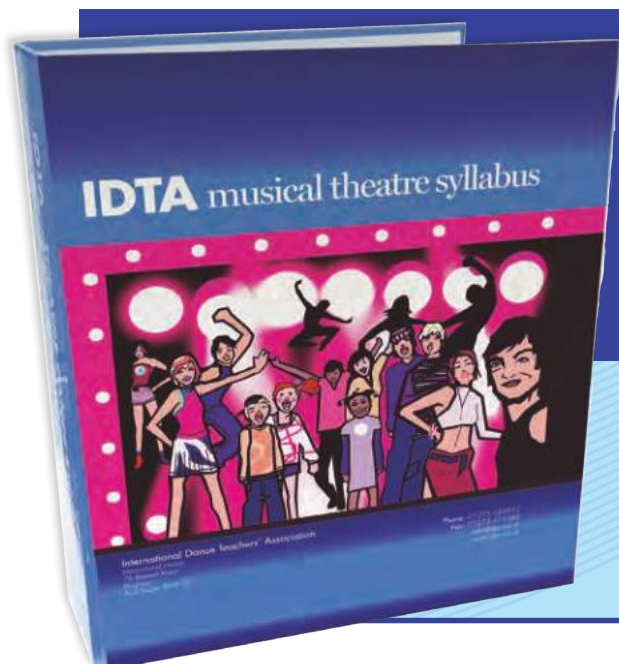
To quote Walter Laird from the book’s chronicle page, “The contents of this book are based on fundamental principles

and principles never change.” It’s reassuring that the Latin Faculty have kept these words at the forefront of their minds as new developments have been made. The Latin Faculty has worked hard on the latest edition over the last few years. Special thanks must go to Miss Lynda King, the Latin Faculty Chairman, for her dedication and leadership during a difficult period for the dance industry.

Incidentally, there has also been a reprint of ‘The Green Book’ first published in 1972. I recommend you put it on your Christmas list! Thought to be the most detailed Latin technique book of all time with the additional columns of “Leads or Indication”, “Use of Contact Arms”, and “Position of Free Arm” make it essential reading for anyone studying for a professional examination or anyone just interested in Latin technique.

Now back to the “Orange Book”. Whilst the IDTA syllabus for professional examinations will not use the new book until mid to late 2023, I recommend purchasing a copy to familiarise yourself with the changes. Also, for IDTA Nationwide schools, the new charted figures and the additional figures will significantly enhance your pupils’ competition routines.

Happy reading!!



IDTA

P207 Musical Theatre Syllabus

Contains the syllabus for Group examinations, Introductory and stages 1 - 6, Rosettes, Stardance, Medals, Performers Certificate, and Diploma.