



IDTA
WORLD DANCE
CONVENTION
2026

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the interior of a grand, ornate theater. The stage is large and arched, with intricate carvings and a central sunburst motif. The stage is set with several tables and chairs, and the floor is made of polished wood. The ceiling is high and arched, with several large, ornate chandeliers hanging from it. The walls are decorated with intricate carvings and murals of buildings.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2026-2027
NOMINATIONS

RACHEL ALMOND

Rachel began dancing as a child working her way through the IDTA medal test system taking her first professional examination at the age of 17 as a pre-Associate. She has since continued to train and gained Fellowships in all four Ballroom branches, becoming an examiner for the IDTA ten years ago was one of her proudest achievements as this was a role she'd aspired to from a young age. The opportunity to visit fellow colleagues and their pupils home & overseas as an IDTA ambassador brings her much joy along with lecturing and adjudicating. In 2007 she was awarded the John Dilworth Scholarship for Classical Sequence and continues to compete in Inventive Sequence Dance competitions. Her passion for teaching became a full time occupation and as Principal of her own studio has trained many Nationwide champions in all genres, Rachel is a great advocate of the Nationwide and Medallist system. Having served the IDTA North West Area Committee and their Members for twenty years and as Chairperson multiple times, a position she is most passionate about, she would love the opportunity to represent all Members and to put back into something has gained so much from.



DALLAS CHAPMAN

I have had the honour of being an IDTA Examiner for over 30 years and have just completed my third year as a director, which I feel most proud to stand for you all on the board. I currently run a school in Luton. Rayner's that keeps the name of my main professional mentor the late Jack Rayner, although I have had many great names supporting me. I have been there for forty-three years this year. Starting my dance journey at the age of 8, I took IDTA medals, gaining experience in medallist and open competitions. As Freestyle appeared, I became a member of the ADFP. Holding championship/chairperson licence. I was voted onto the IDTA Ballroom and Sequence faculties, currently chair of the Sequence. In these roles I aim to help the development and publicity for these genres. The IDTA gave me access to the Bucks New University gaining a Foundation degree in Professional Studies and a Postgraduate diploma in leadership and management. IDTA teachers are a big family, and I feel that more than ever we need to work together.



LINDA COOK



Linda is an IDTA lifetime member of 51 years, Fellow and Examiner in all Theatre genres. She is currently a faculty Member of the Contemporary Modern Jazz and Acrobatic Dance. She represents the IDTA on the Theatre Dance Council International as a delegate and is currently Vice President. She has proudly served on the IDTA Board of Directors for the last 14 years. Her dancing life commenced in Theatre, Ballroom and Latin and is now highly respected as a theatre performer, teacher, adjudicator, choreographer, lecturer and examiner travelling extensively in the UK and abroad. Teaching is her first love, and for 49 years has been the Principal of her own Theatre School. She specialises in teacher training and is extremely proud of pupils who are now Fellow Examiners. As President of the Theatre Dance Council International, she began hosting the prestigious Theatre and Freestyle Carl Alan Awards and was delighted to have been awarded two Carl Alan Awards for Outstanding Services to Dance in 2014 and 2023. Linda was absolutely overwhelmed to have been inaugurated as President of the IDTA in July 2022. She firmly believes in the bright future of the IDTA and enjoys working actively and listening to members for the good of dance, whilst always keeping a 'sense of humour'. She would be honoured to be elected back to the Board of Directors and if successful work tirelessly with enthusiasm and commitment for Theatre and Ballroom members worldwide.

PHILIP DIMENT

Philip started dancing at the age of eight and competed in Juvenile, Junior, Amateur and Professional competitions in Ballroom and Latin American. On turning professional he found that he enjoyed the teaching side of dancing and has been a member of the IDTA since 1973. Philip and his wife Christine have run a successful dance centre in Southampton since 1975 and last year celebrated the school's 50th Anniversary. The school's base is medallist pupils, offering social events and dance holidays. A second dance studio, operated by his daughter Hayley, is Theatre based and is celebrating its 10th Anniversary this year. He became an Examiner in 1992 and was made an Honorary Examiner at the London Meeting in February. He is a former Chairman of the South East Area, a member of the Board of Directors for over 25 years and was President 2005/2006, and 2012/2013 a role which he enjoyed immensely. Philip and Christine travelled the length of the country visiting all the areas and meeting with many IDTA members. Philip would love to serve the Association as a Director once again and remains enthusiastic and totally committed to improving the benefits to its members.



CAROLINE DOWNING



Caroline has been a Life Member of the Association for ten years and has been a Theatre Examiner for thirty years. Caroline's school, which was started by her mother in 1944, has, in its current location, recently celebrated its fifty third anniversary. Caroline has trained many dancers and professionals in all genres. She has served on the South East Area Committee for over twenty five years, six of those years as chairperson. As an examiner it has been her greatest pleasure to have the privilege of meeting members and to examine at every level. Caroline is dedicated to dance in all its forms and last year was delighted to join the Freestyle Faculty. She would now like the opportunity to further give back to the IDTA and would be honoured, if elected, to serve as a director. In this role she would continue to help and support the members whose concerns and ideas are, she believes, of paramount importance. She would also want to ensure that the IDTA continues to develop and thrive in an ever-changing world, whilst maintaining the excellent standards, forward thinking and unique brand of friendly professionalism for which it is renowned.

WESLEY FAULKNER-CLARKE

My journey with the IDTA began in London, where progressing through the medal test system ignited a passion for dance that has guided my career. Establishing my own dance school has been one of my proudest achievements. The fulfilment I gain from teaching is unmatched, and I remain a committed advocate for the IDTA syllabus and examination system, which I actively promote through regular examinations. Becoming a Fellow and Examiner, and serving on the Midlands Committee has strengthened my connection to the Association. Supporting local and national events, and visiting schools reinforces the vital role the IDTA plays in supporting sustainable dance businesses around the world. I also currently teach for the Northamptonshire Association for the Blind charity, from which some students have completed their practice-based dance awards this year, as well as supporting another local Down syndrome charity, Ups n Downs, to fundraise through various dance-based events and initiatives. I am passionate about shaping a diverse and inclusive future for the association; if elected, I will serve with integrity and enthusiasm, committed to supporting members and ensuring their voices are heard at board level. It would be an honour to receive your vote.



AMY HEALD



Amy's involvement with the IDTA began at the age of 10, regularly taking exams and entering IDTA Medallist competitions. Qualifying at 18, she continued her professional development – most recently under the tutelage of, Dawn Parker and the late, Derek Tonks. She is proud to have become an Examiner in Ballroom, Latin, Classical Sequence and Freestyle in 2022 - thanks to their mentoring and support. Her roles of Examiner and Secretary of the North East Area Ballroom Committee have given Amy the chance to meet many dedicated and talented teachers both in the UK and overseas. Amy owns a busy school in Derbyshire, where her pupils firmly support the IDTA Dance Award system and eagerly participate in both Regional and Nationwide competitions. Amy has also coached several Professionals, with one of her Pre-Associate's being the recipient of both the Latin and Classical Sequence Bill Tasker awards in 2019! Amy was also thrilled to receive the John Knight Award for Classical Sequence herself in 2022! It would be a huge honour to be elected to serve the members on the Board of Directors and Amy's hard work and loyalty to the Association would make her an excellent ambassador.

WENDY HEYWOOD

Wendy's dance journey began with her first class at age three and has remained a huge part of her life ever since. She trained at the Lupino School of Dance, progressing through IDTA examinations in all Theatre subjects while also participating in festivals, championships, stage productions, and television. With over 40 years of teaching experience, Wendy continues to be passionate about making the joy of Dance accessible to people of all ages and abilities. As the principal of her school, she trains students from their first steps to professional level, and mentors teachers pursuing further qualifications, fostering growth and development within the Dance community. A life member of the IDTA, Wendy has served on the North West Area Committee, the IDTA Theatre Dance Festival committee for more than three decades, and is part of the organising team for the IDTA Theatre Dance Awards. In her role as an examiner, both in the UK and internationally, she has been privileged to experience the wealth of talent our Association produces. Wendy is proud to serve on the Board of Directors, where she strives to promote the IDTA and represent its members to the best of her ability.



JILL KEMP



Jill has been a professional member of the IDTA for nearly 50 years, starting her career teaching Ballroom subjects in London. Jill opened her school in 1980 and over the past 46 years has trained thousands of IDTA medalists. With teacher training being one of her main subjects, her students have been awarded the Bill Tasker, John Dilworth and John Knight Scholarships. Jill has an MA in Leadership and Management and in addition to teaching in her school has taught dance within mainstream education both at GCSE and Degree levels and was integral in the development of BA courses in dance performance. Jill has lectured to industry leaders in management and team leadership for the National Arenas Association at Wembley and Glasgow arenas and has lectured, coached, examined and adjudicated both in the UK and Overseas. Jill is the recipient of the ADFP Professional Award, ADFP Area Award, a double Carl Alan Award winner and the MK Sport Unsung Hero award for dance in the community. Jill was elected to the Board of Directors in 2024 and is proud to be an IDTA Life Member, Examiner and currently a member of both Freestyle and Latin Faculties and looks forward to the future development and promotion of the IDTA.

LYNDA KING

IDTA Life Member, appointed as an Examiner in 1991. Elected annually to: Board of Directors since 2005, plus Finance & General Purposes Committee from 2013. As President Elect, then President 2015-2016, Lynda served on all sub-committees, gaining substantial knowledge and insight regarding all of IDTA's operations. Supporting members, in all genres worldwide, is our priority. Lynda's commitment to IDTA ensures future vision, development and progression to achieve new goals, elevating our Association to be at the forefront of this global dance industry. Carl Alan Award Winner 2015. Distinguished Service Award 2018. Technical dance consultant to external publishers. Long-serving member, Freestyle, Latin & Ballroom Technical Faculties and author, co-author of IDTA technical publications. Commencing 1987, Lynda established foundations for a very busy, full-time, successful medallist school, participating in Nationwide Finalist Events. She still actively enjoys teaching social dancers & coaches many professionals for IDTA qualifications, at all levels. Dance is not just a way of life, it is our future!



DAWN PARKER



Dawn started dancing at the age of 7 and began with the Classical Sequence Branch. As time passed her passion for dance grew stronger and over a number of years she gained IDTA Awards in many genres. Under the guidance of the Tonks & Bates School of Dance she achieved great success in Medallist Competitions. By the age of 17 she qualified in the Old Time Branch. After gaining Fellowship levels in all Core subjects she became an Examiner at the age of 29, a role she still loves after more than 30 years! The development of the technique has remained one of Dawn's top priorities and she is currently a member of the Freestyle and Classical Sequence Faculties. She has served as Chairman of both and was also part of the Ballroom Faculty for a number of years. She remains loyal to the Midlands Area Committee since elected in 1999. In 2004 she was elected onto the Board of Directors and from 2010 – 2011 and again from 2028 – 2019 she served as President of the Association. Dawn is also Chairman of the Nationwide Committee and serves on several sub committees.

ELLIOT PLATE

Dance has been a central part of my life from an early age. I began within the IDTA medal system and progressed to competitive dancing, becoming a member of the British team and proudly representing the United Kingdom at Ballroom and Latin World Championships. Following my competitive career, I pursued my ambition to become an IDTA teacher, continuing my involvement with the organisation that shaped my development. In 2022, I was honoured to be voted into the South East Area Ballroom Committee, where I have gained valuable experience and learnt from many respected colleagues and peers. Alongside my achievements in the Ballroom and Latin disciplines, I developed a strong focus in street dance, becoming both a UK and World Champion. Drawing on this experience, I was privileged to act as a consultant for the recently updated IDTA Street Dance syllabus. Becoming a Director has been a long-standing goal of mine. I hope to help shape the future of the Association with fresh ideas, while supporting all its members. To me, the IDTA represents family and community, and I am passionate about seeing every area continue to grow and thrive together.



AMANDA RESTELL



Amanda has been with the IDTA for over 30 years and served as an examiner for more than a decade. Currently chairperson of the IDTA SE Theatre Area, she is dedicated to supporting dance teachers and advancing the association. After being nominated last year, Amanda hopes to serve again, representing the interests of dance teachers and local studios in board decisions. Her career reflects the IDTA's values, as she promotes professional standards and aims to strengthen the association's reputation. As the industry navigates a shift towards becoming more digital, Amanda would like to help strike a balance between honouring the rich heritage of the IDTA and embracing the necessary modernisations in syllabus, examinations and member communication. She is committed to teacher welfare and the competitive growth of both the theatre and ballroom branches alike in these challenging times.

MICHAEL SANDHAM

Michael, a Fellow and Examiner of IDTA, is offering himself for re-election to the Board of Directors to continue serving the members. He has had a successful career in amateur and professional competitive dance with his wife, Marie, and they now run IDTA dance businesses in two locations. Michael serves on the current Financial and General Purposes Committee and IT Committee, and he believes that the IDTA should always be looking for new ways to use technology to benefit the members, save money, and increase efficiency. Furthermore, Michael has served as Chairman of the Latin Technical Faculty for two years and has also held the position of Chairman of the Ballroom Faculty. He considers it an honour and a privilege to serve the IDTA members and is grateful for the support and assistance they have given him over the past 40 years. If re-elected, Michael sees it as an opportunity to return that support by continuing to work hard for the members of the Association. He believes that the Association should always be looking to the future to remain 'At the Heart of Dance.'



YVONNE SAUNDERS



As an IDTA member for over fifty years, Yvonne has seen many changes within the IDTA, and throughout the dance world. Technology and the use of social media has brought members closer together throughout the world, making the Association more connected. As a senior Examiner in Ballroom, Latin, Classical Sequence and Freestyle, she still enjoys examining, from Rosettes through to Professional candidates. As a Past President, Yvonne has gained much insight into the workings of various committees and continues to be a member of the Finance and General Purpose, LMCA and Overseas committees. Yvonne is the present Chairman of the Ballroom Faculty, a role she has previously presided over, and is also an active member of the Latin Faculty. Yvonne is also a Trustee of the IDTA Benevolent Fund. In 2019, Yvonne was awarded the Carl Alan Dedicated Teachers Award for Ballroom. She was overwhelmed to receive this prestigious honour, which marked a highlight of her teaching career. Yvonne continues to teach at the prestigious studio, Dance Options Cheam, with technical training a subject very close to her heart. Now seeking to be appointed a director, her support for the Association has never been stronger.

DENISE SKINNER

Denise trained at the Hylton- Bromley Theatre School and went on to dance and act professionally in Shows, TV and cabaret throughout this country and overseas. She then opened her own school which she runs successfully with Cheryl Dodd. Denise is a senior examiner, sits on the Theatre Craft and Musical Theatre faculties, British Federation adjudicator and a qualified drama teacher. The latter role helping when she co-wrote the IDTA's Musical Theatre Syllabus. Denise enjoys promoting the syllabus to both Ballroom and Theatre area meetings throughout the country and has lectured extensively overseas including China, New Zealand, Cyprus and Italy. Denise has always been involved in many aspects of the association having served on the Theatre Council and on the QAP. She is a former NW area chairman and has been involved in the International Theatre Dance Awards for many years, latterly as Compere. Denise is passionate about her commitment to the IDTA and the welfare of its members.



ANITA SPIERS



Anita's first IDTA Dance Award was at the age of 5 with the Court School of Dancing, Sutton and achieved her first Professional Qualification, Associate Latin at 18. Continuing her teacher training with the support and guidance of Yvonne Saunders and the Late Jacqueline Roberts, Anita is now a Fellow in Ballroom, Latin, Freestyle and Classical Sequence. In 2015 Anita was proud to become an Examiner of the Ballroom Branch and continues to enjoy visiting our members within their schools, sharing knowledge and encouraging the next generation. Anita is privileged to be asked to adjudicate for IDTA Nationwide in Blackpool, along with Area and other Competitions. Anita has been a committee member of the IDTA S E Area, still regularly attending and supporting area events. In 2019, Anita was honoured to receive the John Knight Award for Fellowship Classical Sequence. For over 37 years, Anita, with husband Ian, have been running The Aniani School of Dancing, teaching beginners to Professional Teacher Training. Having served her first year as a Director, Anita would be honoured to be re-elected, remaining deeply committed to supporting teachers and members, the foundation of the association, contributing to its continued development and success.

VICTORIA STANSFIELD

Vicki Stansfield has been a proud member of the IDTA since 1973. Dance and the IDTA have been central to her life and career. She began her training in Doncaster at the age of nine and, by twelve, had secured a contract performing in children's ballet at the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool. She went on to work professionally across the UK, including pantomime and theatre productions, before establishing her own dance school in 1975. The Victoria Stansfield School of Dance is now proudly in its 51st year and has achieved success across all genres, winning numerous theatre awards and championships, including Miss Dance 2019. Vicki trained for her teaching qualifications under Miss Chadburn, Miss Pearce and Miss Sharples and has since devoted her career to teaching and mentoring within the dance profession. For over 40 years, she has served as an examiner, adjudicator and lecturer and has been a valued member of the Theatre Craft Faculty for more than 20 years. She takes great pride in the achievements of her former students, many of whom have gone on to perform in the West End, on Broadway and on international cruise contracts, while others have become successful dance teachers. Vicki would be honoured to serve on the Board of Directors and support the Association and its members moving forward.



BRYAN THOMSON



Having taken my first steps at 10 years old and taking my first professional exam at 17 years old the time has flown by and now I have been a member for over 50 years. I along with my wife opened Lee Green dance centre 44 years ago and, in that time, have trained thousands of students using full use of our medal test system. As an examiner and director I have travelled extensively meeting many teachers and students to see a very high standard of work I have been privileged to be invited to the theatre dance awards which I have attended and enjoyed immensely musical theatre been a favourite I have served as chairman of my area committee many times and have the pleasure of compèring the Nationwide competitions for over 30 years which I am very proud of. I am the very proud recipient of the distinguished service award. I have a passion for the industry that has given me such opportunities to improve my skills and help others to achieve their goals and their dreams. I always try and support the younger members to keep their professional development ongoing which I believe will help keep IDTA at the heart of dance. As a serving examiner and director, I would like to have your support and represent you the members which I would do to the best of my ability and with integrity. If successful I would do my utmost to keep the association at the heart of dance.

MICHELLE UPTON

Michelle Upton is a highly respected senior examiner and faculty member in Contemporary Modern Jazz, with a strong foundation in professional dance education. She began her journey as a professional dancer, gaining valuable industry experience that continues to inform her teaching and examining today. Michelle trained at MADD under the expert guidance of Frances Clayton, where she developed both technical excellence and artistic versatility. With over 13 years of experience as an examiner for the IDTA, Michelle has travelled extensively across Asia, Europe, and the UK, demonstrating her commitment to maintaining and promoting high standards in dance education worldwide. Alongside examining, she is a skilled adjudicator and choreographer, widely recognised for her insightful feedback and creative vision. Michelle has successfully run her own dance studio for more than 20 years, nurturing dancers of all ages and abilities while fostering a supportive and inspiring environment. She is known for her forward-thinking mindset and dedication to embracing new ideas within the IDTA. Her leadership roles include serving as Co-Chair of the Theatre Dance Association for seven years and contributing to the development of the junior TDA. Michelle is also Co-CEO of La Ren and Elite Teacher Training Academy.



DONNA WILCOX



Donna Wilcox BA (Hons), LCD Dip, FIDTA, RAD TDip, ARAD is a highly respected dance professional with 27 years of experience in performance, education and leadership. A former professional dancer, she received the Most Promising Classical Ballet Award from the LCD after early training with IDTA schools and advanced study at the London Contemporary Dance School. She is also a Royal Ballet & Opera Associate Teacher. As Founder and Director of the Elite Academy of Performing Arts, Donna has produced World and Global Champions and IDTA Theatre Dance Award winners, with students progressing to West End and international productions. In 2021, she launched Elite Teacher Training, expanding access to high-level mentoring for teachers worldwide and La Ren Events for dance merchandise and productions. An IDTA Examiner for 14 years, Donna is a member of the Ballet faculty and seven years as Co-Chair of the Theatre Dance Awards, recently launching the Junior event. "I have loved working as a director this past year and getting involved in strategies to digitalise and make the IDTA's presence even more visible on a global stage promoting in Indonesia as well as National events. I would love to continue working for the members in 2027."

