

A brief introduction to the International Dance Teachers' Association



International Dance Teachers' Association

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THE ASSOCIATION: The International Dance Teachers' Association was created in 1967 by the amalgamation of two major post-war organisations, the International Dancing Masters' Association and the Dance Teachers' Association. These two bodies were themselves the results of mergers dating back to 1903.

Our 5,000 active members have all qualified to achieve this status by taking one of our professional examinations, i.e. Level 4 Diploma Dance Teacher or Associate, Licentiate and Fellowship. Applications for membership will be considered from qualified members of other recognised dance teacher associations or societies subject to proof of their existing qualifications and suitable references.

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the Association are to promote and foster the art of dancing in all its forms and to uphold the highest ideals of the dance profession. To consult with and advise, government departments, local authorities, all education establishments, and any other interested organisations on matters relating to the activities in dance performance, training and education.

ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE: The Association is managed by an annually elected Board of Directors of nineteen members. Separate faculties of technical specialists exist for 1) Ballroom dancing (Viennese Waltz and Argentine Tango), 2) Latin dancing, 3) Classical Sequence dancing, 4) Freestyle (Rock 'n' Roll, Line Dancing, Street Dance, Belly Dancing and Cheerleading), 5) Ballet, 6) Tap, 7) Theatre Craft and Dance Exercise, 8) Contemporary Modern Jazz and Gymnastic Dance/Acrobatic Dance. These faculties set the syllabi and prepare textbooks.

REPRESENTATION: The International Dance Teachers' Association is a member of the British Dance Council, the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre, the Sports and Recreation Alliance, the Theatre Dance Council International and the Federation of Dance Awarding Bodies. IDTA graded and vocational graded qualifications are recognised by Ofqual (England), Qualifications Wales and the CCEA (Northern Ireland) and appear on the Regulated Qualifications Framework. IDTA vocational qualifications at Level 3 appear on the UCAS tariff.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS: Each summer a major congress of teachers of dancing covering all branches is organised by the Association in the north of England and a shorter one in London in the winter. Additionally, regular meetings are arranged by the IDTA Areas. Professional teaching qualifications can be obtained through training with the Association's member teachers and those holding Licentiate, Fellowship or Examiner status.

Professional teaching examinations exist in each of the following forms of dance:

Core Genres	Non –core Genres
1. Ballroom	9. Line Dancing
2. Latin	10. Rock 'n' Roll
3. Classical Sequence	11. Cheerleading
4. Freestyle	12. Street Dance
5. Ballet	13. Salsa
6. Tap	14. Argentine Tango
7. Theatre Craft	15. Belly Dancing
8. Contemporary Modern Jazz	16. Dance Exercise
	17. Gymnastic Dance/Acrobatic Dance
	18. Musical Theatre Diploma

Examinations are available for genres 1-8 at Associate / Level 4 Diploma in Dance Teaching, Licentiate and Fellowship levels, gives the candidate the right to participate in all the activities and receive all benefits of the Association (core subject with full voting rights). Passing the examinations 9-12 at Associate, Licentiate and Fellowship levels, gives the candidate the right to participate in restricted activities and benefits of the

Association (non-core subjects, no voting rights). Passing the examinations 13-18 at Diploma level gives the candidate the right to participate in restricted activities and benefits of the Association (non-core subjects, no voting rights).

In addition members may also take the IDTA's Anatomy & Physiology Diploma, which is a requirement for candidates taking their first Theatre Branch core subject Associate examination (5-8 above) or may be taken by any member. The diploma does not admit the holder into membership of the Association.

From 1 September 2010, the IDTA professional examinations have been divided into three Branches;

- (i) Ballroom Branch - Ballroom, Latin, Classical Sequence
- (ii) Freestyle Branch - Freestyle (incorporating Street Dance, Rock 'n' Roll, Cheerleading and Line Dancing.
- (iii) Theatre Branch - Ballet, Tap, Modern Jazz and Theatre Craft

Members holding only a qualification in Street Dance, Rock 'n' Roll, Cheerleading, Line Dancing and any other dance styles which may be introduced (non-core subject) are restricted to entering candidates only in the subject in which they are qualified. A member holding only a Latin Associate from 1st September 2010 may enter candidates for Rock 'n' Roll examinations. All members may enter candidates for the Musical Theatre Syllabus examinations. Argentine Tango, Salsa, Belly Dancing, Dance Exercise, Gymnastic Dance/Acrobatic Dance and Musical Theatre are single subject, non-core, teaching diplomas. Access to the IDTA examination service is available only to members and is restricted to the branch(es) in which they hold professional teaching qualifications. Further guidance can be obtained from IDTA Head Office.

QUALITY ASSURANCE SERVICES: The Examiners of the Association are qualified Fellows and are appointed after scrupulous examination and assessment. All Examiners are moderated and reappointed annually, maintaining rigorous standards of achievement. Training and Standardisation days are a compulsory requirement for Examiners to ensure national standards of assessment.

AREA ORGANISATIONS

Areas have been in operation for many years and represent an opportunity for members/teachers to gather together and obtain information and guidance specifically for their own needs. This includes engaging lecturers and running competitions - the arrangements for which are made by a committee, elected from the members in that Area. There are eight Ballroom Areas in the British Isles and 11 Theatre Areas. The IDTA has established a number of International Areas.

Details of these meetings are published in the Association's quarterly magazine **Dance International** and IDTA members can attend all or any of the meetings in any Area. A complete list of the Areas in the British Isles is available in the IDTA Brochure.

INFORMATION SERVICE/WEBSITE: Each year IDTA Head Office replies to hundreds of enquiries about dance, dance teaching and where to learn to dance. The Association website includes provides a wide range of information and a section to find a dance school in your local area. There is also a secure members' area of the site which can only be accessed by current members of the Association.

PUBLICATIONS: In addition to the quarterly **Dance International** magazine the IDTA publishes a number of technical books such as The Technique of Ballroom Dancing by Guy Howard, The Laird Technique of Latin Dancing by Walter Laird, The Technique of Theatre Dance, Freestyle Dance by Anna Jones, Advanced Freestyle by Anna Jones, Lets Rock 'n' Roll by Lynda King, Anatomy & Physiology Guide by Bobbie Drakeford, the Street Dance Guide, Technique of Line Dancing and The Guide to the Theory and Technique of Classical Sequence Dancing. The Association also publishes many other books, DVDs and CDs to assist the student and qualified teacher in the drive to maintain good teaching practices and standards.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Members of the IDTA are required to pay an annual subscription due on 1st January each year, in order to access the Association's services, including the examination service, access to meetings and conferences and the Dance International magazine.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Can be found on the IDTA website at www.idta.co.uk

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