

## NEW BALLROOM EXAMINER – HELEN JESSOP



I started dancing as a child at the Ipswich School of Dancing, where I was very successful in my amateur competitions in the medallist world. I also had the opportunity to compete as a junior on the open circuit, again winning many Junior events. Dancing was my World and life, I needed dance in my life 24/7. Hence the desire to become a dance teacher.

I turned professional and started teaching at the age of 16 and took my first Associates at the age of 17 with both the NATD and the ISTD. Working at the very successful Ipswich School of Dancing under the guidance and tuition of Principles Olga Wilmott and Steven Verrall, also teaching alongside Steven Verrall and Julie Tomkins.

I entered the famous Pierre Trophy Competition age 17 and came 1st at my first attempt and continuing to win it 7 times in all. Also winning the NATD 10 Dance Trophy 6 consecutive years. In my last year of competing I managed to win the ISTD Basic and Standard trophy, the Pierre Trophy & the National 10 dance trophy. Achieving all three Major titles in the same year.

I often used to assist Steven Verrall in the NATD lectures and was very honoured when I was asked to do my first lecture for the National at Worthing by Mr Roy Moxon. I have trained many successful dancers, having the opportunity to be one of Robin Windsor's teachers when he was a junior. I also had the wonderful experience of teaching in Iceland Reykjavik on more than one occasion.

Currently I am teaching in Norfolk and am enjoying the new challenge of Chairperson of the Anglian Area for the NATD. I am delighted to have been included in the committee of the Medallist of the Year, & enjoyed the wonderful experience of being one of the adjudicators on the first event in 2016. I am always learning & seeking new challenges within the dance world. My desire is as strong now as it was all those years ago when I first discovered my love of dancing, & I am both honoured & excited to have been appointed an Examiner for the NATD.

*Helen Jessop*

## NEW BALLROOM EXAMINER - ZOEY JACOBS

I am 43 years old and have been dancing Ballroom and Latin since the age of 6 years old. I was trained by Mary Richardson at the County School of Dancing. I went through the medal system until I was 18 years old.



From the age of 18 to 27 I competed as an amateur on the open circuit nationally and internationally. In 2000 I turned professional and continued to compete to a high standard and gained further knowledge from teachers who were world champions.

I have for the last 17 years been teaching at the County School of Dancing and gained my qualifications as a Fellow in Ballroom and Latin and Licentiate in Freestyle. I teach mainly at the school - private lessons, all ages from social dancing to putting pupils in for medals and then dancing with them at the medal competitions. I take my own classes which I have been running for the last 10 years.

I also teach the Oxford University Dance sport team who compete on the university circuit and have been teaching the team for the last 10 years.

I am very passionate about Ballroom and Latin dancing and love what I do. This is the next step in my journey to become an examiner as I believe and support the NATD in putting pupils to do medals.

*Zoey Jacobs*

## NEW BALLROOM EXAMINER – JAIME DIEGUEZ



I started dancing at the age of 7 with the County School of Dancing, where I am now a full time member of staff. I took my first exam with the NATD just a few weeks after joining children's classes, I then went on to take part in medallist competitions and also became a regular competitor on the open circuit. I took regular exams and competed throughout juvenile, junior and youth. I also studied Flamenco for 6 years with the Spanish dance society, also at County.

I became under 21 UK 10 Dance champion at Bournemouth. I then decided to turn professional and take my qualifications with the NATD. I have now been a qualified professional with the NATD for approximately 13 years taking part in exams, medal comps and lecturing many times at various regional lecture days across the country, including the national congress at Cheltenham. I have also had the pleasure of competing as a professional making Latin finals at the closed UK, British National, English and BATD championships and semi-finalist of the international rising stars with my wife Anna Dieguez.

*Jaime Dieguez*

## NEW THEATRICAL EXAMINER – JACQUELINE HALL

I would first of all like to say how thrilled I am to have been appointed a Probationary Examiner for the NATD. Having started dancing at the age of 3 at Glenlyn Stage School in South East London, I worked my way through the grades to take my Associate Stage Branch Tap exam just before I left to attend university to study a BSc in Pharmacy.

Although I still had a passion for dance I never thought I would use my Associate qualification but a few years after leaving university I was fortunate enough to be offered a teaching position at my old dancing school and I was able to balance a career as a practicing Pharmacist and a Dance Teacher. I quickly gained my Fellowship in Tap and Modern and Licentiate in Ballet and Freestyle.

I expanded my teaching experience by setting up my own business teaching within schools and nurseries where I would teach students that would not normally access dancing classes. I enter these students for exams with the NATD and the excitement they have on exam day is infectious. Some of these students have gone on to gain places at Trinity Laban and performing arts schools.

I still enjoy performing myself and have appeared in many productions with local amateur dramatic societies as a dancer and in principle roles.

I am looking forward to my first exam sessions and representing the NATD as a Probationary Examiner.



*Jacqueline Hall*