



# Stepping out

In her new column, **Marianka Swain** will be sharing some of the latest news from the world of same-sex dance. This month covers a big bus that makes a big splash and a fierce international competition in Berlin



The Big Dance Bus at the Pink Picnic

**T**he talented same-sex dancers who accompanied the T-Mobile Big Dance Bus to London's Royal Vauxhall Tavern made a real impact in their debut appearance at the Big Dance festival. Performing on June 20 to coincide with the opening weekend of London Pride Festival, the dancers put on a diverse show that "really captured people's imagination", according to Big Dance Bus organiser Stuart Barrett.

Spectators were treated to an elegant ballroom formation display by the Pink Dancers (pictured right); country- and-western-style line dancing from

the Cactus Club; a beautiful ballet duet choreographed by Joseph Mercier; unique all-male formation dancing by Guzy in Sync, presented by Studio La Danza; accessible street dance from Eclectic Dance Company; and a sensual workshop in same-gender tango.

"As an outreach project, it was an enormous success," says Stuart. "We really enjoyed sharing

a range of dance styles from the same-sex world with people who might never have come across them before... and I hope that some of our enthusiastic audience has been inspired to come along and try a class."

Further afield, Jacky and Mary Logan were the only dancers flying the flag for Great Britain at this year's Berlin Open Championships on June 26, although many home-grown couples have enjoyed success there in the past. The Logans were delighted to be placed seventh in Level C during a competitive contest featuring 81 couples.

Jacky reports: "It's one of the longest-running same-sex ballroom competitions, and the standard is extremely high, but it's also very friendly, so we always have a good time." Long-standing world champions Caroline Privou and Petra Zimmerman from Germany retained the women's ballroom title, but, in a dramatic result, three other categories were won by newly formed couples: Germany's Christin Wezel and Pascal Herrbach took the men's ballroom; Gergely Darabos and Kerkan Arpac, from Hungary and Turkey respectively, took the men's Latin; and Tania Dimitrova and Melanie Vogt, from Germany, took the women's Latin.

Stay tuned for news from a key event in the same-sex dance calendar: dancesport at the Gay Games in Cologne on August 3-6. For more information, visit the UK Same Sex Dance Council's website at [www.ukssdc.co.uk](http://www.ukssdc.co.uk) ●



Photographs by Stuart Slavicky