

# DANCE TODAY TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2013

Marianka Swain introduces the launch of our brand-new competition

Leaders. Followers. Juniors. Seniors. Beginners. World champions. We may wear different labels, but there is more in dance that connects us than divides us, and one of the most important connecting threads of all is how much our lives can be enriched by the influence of a truly great teacher.

That's why *Dance Today* has decided to launch our new competition celebrating the best dance teachers in the world. Whether they're incredibly passionate, have the patience of a saint, are able to explain the most mind-boggling of figures or believe in you when you don't even believe in yourself, we want to hear about them. Any style, any level and anywhere –

there are no limits, as long as they mean something to you.

So, if you think your teacher, past or present, deserves recognition for their incredible work and dedication, we'd like you to nominate them. All you have to do is get in touch with us by June 7, by post, email, Twitter or via our Facebook page, telling us about your teacher and why you'd love to see them win *Dance Today* Teacher of the Year 2013. The best reader contribution will win a year's free subscription to *Dance Today*.

We'll announce the shortlisted candidates and overall winner – the teacher with the most reader votes – in our August issue, along with your glowing comments and their reaction. The Teacher of the

Year will win a specially created *Dance Today* trophy – a cover of the magazine starring them, a feature about them and their studio in the magazine, and a year's free subscription to *Dance Today* and sister magazine, *Dancing Times*. We also have a year's free subscription to DSI-TV ([www.dsi-london.tv](http://www.dsi-london.tv)), which offers up-to-the-minute film coverage from the competition floor, Masterclass apps with former world champions and numerous other features and interviews; a pair of tickets to a West End dance show (details to be confirmed) and a selection of CDs from Maestro Direct, as well as unprecedented bragging rights!

We'll also bring you top teaching tips and recollections of their own life-changing teachers from leading industry figures like former world champion and internationally renowned coach Shirley Ballas. "A great dance teacher has an almost psychic ability to see not just the student in front of them, but what that student could one day achieve," she explains.

"They're not just going through the motions and picking up a cheque; they're totally invested – they take on your goals as their own, and they share in every triumph and every setback.

"In my experience, the best teachers are ambitious and don't let you get away with anything, but they're also unfailingly positive and instil you with confidence and determination that stay with you forever, on the dancefloor and off. I strive every day to give my students what my teachers gave me, and I hope that cycle continues for generations to come." ●



Illustration by Simon Oliver

## HOW TO CONTACT US

Send us your *Dance Today* Teacher of the Year entry or get in touch with any questions at:

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