

DECODING THE STRICTLY JUDGES

Only the most adept multi-linguists survive *Strictly*. Not only must you learn the language of dance (and occasionally the language of love... or at least showmance), you must also master the language of our delightfully eccentric judges. Is Len really asking you to don Hunters? Does Craig truly care about the alignment of your left index finger? Is Darcey genuinely worried about accessorising? Here is my comprehensive guide to what the judges really want...

Len Goodman

Role: Head judge

Likes: Correct footwork

Dislikes: Messing *abaht*

How to win his ten:

Strong basics, feel-good performance

What he means when he says...

"Go on, give it some welly!" = I want crisper dynamics in Latin and more drive in ballroom.

"Some dances don't suit that particular person." = Pack your bags in week six.

"You're what this show is all about!" = You're getting lots of votes! Even if you can't dance!

Especially if you can't dance! Ding ding ding jackpot!

Craig Revel Horwood

Role: Mean judge

Likes: Perfection

Dislikes: Mediocrity, darling

How to win his ten:

Drama with a capital D

Marianka Swain offers her translation services to the new crop of *Strictly Come Dancing* hopefuls

What he means when he says...

"Your right index finger/left eyebrow/hidden little toe looks AWFUL." = Too good too soon. Remember: vulnerability wins votes, and I thrive on weakness. "Entertaining, for all the wrong

What he means when he says...

"It was understated." = I've already forgotten it.

"You reminded me of Ginger Rogers/ Cyd Charisse/Liza Minnelli/Jessica Rabbit."

= I'd never heard of you before the series started, but you're now my favourite!

"You were sailing on a sizzling ship of weightless destiny through a molten rainbow in my rrrrough rrraunchy rrracy rrrumba fantasy!"

= Ding ding ding jackpot!



Bruno enjoyed Fern Britton playing the "sssaucy strumpet" in her salsa last year

reasons." = Dance *disaaahster*, but fab-u-lous telly. Keep it coming.

"Absolute filth." = Ding ding ding jackpot!

Bruno Tonioli

Role: Cultural stereotype judge

Likes: Explosive similes

Dislikes: Sitting down

How to win his ten: In the words of Arlene Phillips, he just wants raw sex

Darcey Bussell

Role: Female judge with Doctor Who powers of regeneration

Likes: Taciturn male celebs

Dislikes: Awkward lines

How to win her ten:

Smooth transitions, lack of shirt buttons

What she means when she says...

"I want you to show off your imaginary

necklace, yah?" = Pull up through your centre and work on your topline, yah?

"It was very clean. It had nice energy." = It was soporific.

"Your chaînés tournes/fouettés/ attitude turns/other token ballet element were fantastic!"

= Ding ding ding jackpot! ●

The launch show of *Strictly Come Dancing 2013* will be aired on BBC1 on September 7.