

# Anton Du Beke

Biography, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Anton Du Beke is one of the most instantly recognisable figures in the world of dance today. Affectionately known as 'the king of ballroom' and a familiar sight on television, he is best known for appearing in every series of the BBC hit show 'Strictly Come Dancing' aired to date.

He is possibly most famed for his pairing with the formidable Ann Widdecombe - with comedic routines reaching a record 11.9 million viewers and causing nothing short of a nationwide sensation.

With the viewing public's support he has also made ballroom belles of leading ladies including Lesley Garrett, Dame Esther Rantzen, Jerry Hall, Judy Murray - and most recently Katie Derham, with whom he danced all the way to the Grand Final in 2015.

Anton's interest in dance started at the age of fourteen when he was sent to a local dance class in Sevenoaks, Kent, to meet his sister one evening. Instantly hooked, he went on to study Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz and Modern theatre dance and began competing by the age of seventeen.

He teamed-up with Erin Boag in 1997 to form an enduring professional partnership which would see them win many national and international awards before being spotted by the BBC for the pilot of 'Strictly'.



The pair continue to tour nationwide every year with full orchestra-backed productions, and perform each Christmas at the Royal Albert Hall. Anton's natural abilities to dance - and sing - continue to captivate audiences, and the performances are regular sell-outs.

His quick wit, style and charm - combined with such broad appeal as an entertainer - have seen Anton present popular daytime programmes such as 'Step Up To The Plate' and 'Hole In The Wall', as well as appearing on some of TV's most popular chat and quiz shows including 'A Question Of Sport' where his sporting prowess comes to the fore...

An excellent, and highly competitive sportsman, Anton represented his school and county in a number of different sports. Now an accomplished golfer with a handicap of 6, he is a regular on the green at Wentworth (often seen teeing off with Sir Bruce Forsyth) and most recently played for the England team in the 2016 Celebrity Cup.

Anton is in year-round demand, booked for weekend dance breaks and celebrity dance cruises, as well as teaching, compèring, speaking and performing at private, corporate, sporting and charity events.

Anton actively supports a number of charities including Nordoff Robbins, The NSPCC, CHUF, and the Not Forgotten Association.

Tune in this Autumn as Anton appears on our screens each week in what will be his 11th series of Strictly Come Dancing.