



## Carl Alan Award Finalists 2022

#### **Freestyle Young Performers Award – Keira Wild and Romi Page**

Keira Wild



My name is Keira Wild, I am 14 years of age and have been dancing since the age of 3. I have competed in Freestyle at the highest standard of Premier Championship Grade. Throughout my competitive career I have achieved many titles which I am both very grateful and very proud of. I have dedicated my life to freestyle throughout the years and trained to the best of my ability.

I have won many prestigious titles within the Freestyle World, such as:- The World Championships, The British Championships, Spanish Fiesta Championships, WEDC (Ireland) where I was chosen by Blake McGrath as a stand-out dancer. One of my greatest achievements is winning Disco Kid which is every Freestyle Dancers dream to become a "Legend" and be featured on the wall of fame, which was held in the amazing Blackpool Tower.

I have won every Freestyle title during my competitive dancing years, there is only one title left for me to win which is in the slow dance category which is Slow Star Superstar. I have managed to obtain runner up at this event on many occasions, but it is my goal to achieve this title.

I have been honoured to have been nominated and short listed for several awards throughout my freestyle journey such as the Le Classique Awards, Diva Divo Awards, WEDC Awards and now leading on to the Carl Allen awards which I am very honoured and grateful for.

I represent the Freestyle World at the best of my ability and always strive to do my best, I have represented my teachers when guest teaching for other professionals and Freestyle schools in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Norway. I am also honoured to have given the chance to have demonstrated a lecture via Zoom for the ADFP during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I have also trained in other genres of dance such as ballet, modern, jazz and Acro which I attended outside of Freestyle to help with my progression.

I hope the above demonstrates my passion and dedication to dance. I am excited to see where my dance journey leads me.

**Romi E Page**



I am delighted once again to have been nominated by the Allied Dance Association in the Young Performers Award for Freestyle Dancing at The Carl Alan Awards Ceremony in October.

I have danced at The LP Dance Centre in Whitby since the age of two. I have always been encouraged to dance a wide range of genres within the school.

I have taken all my Medals and Awards with the NATD, gaining Highly Commended for all my exams, I was particularly proud when I received the Presidents' Award for Freestyle dancing a Juvenile. I am continuing to take exams with the NATD and am looking forward to being able to taking my Grade 5 in Freestyle dancing with the NATD in the summer. Last year I had the privilege of being asked to perform by the NATD for their new Graded Freestyle DVD.

In addition to taking my exams I have also competed up and down the North East coast at Freestyle competitions and festivals. I love "Slow Dance" and currently compete in the Premier Champ section and in Intermediate in the Fast Solo's. I have also competed in "Street" and with a partner in pairs and Rock n Roll. I have also performed at Disneyland in Paris and have also taken my first exams in musical theatre and now look forward to taking exams in Ballet.

My dream is to be a dancer as I have always been actively encouraged by all my family to be a performer; I therefore attend other classes now for acting and also for Commercial and Lyrical.

I feel honoured to have been considered for such a high accolade and thank everyone at the NATD for my nomination.

**Freestyle Outstanding Services Award – Don Corbett (Posthumous)**



Don and I met at the John and Joan Knights Dance School as a couple, we danced in their Latin American Dance Formation Team.

In 1975 we became members of The National Association of Teachers of Dancing. During the same year we began the Diane & Don Corbett School of Dance in Great Wyrley, Staffordshire. When our daughters Dawn and Denise joined us and created the team, we changed the school title to the 4D's Dance Centre.

After attending the Inaugural meeting of ADFP held in Birmingham, Don and I became members.

Don taught Amateurs and Professionals in Ballroom, Latin, Street, Rock n' Roll and Freestyle, training many couples in the Authentic Rock n' Roll style, he also coached many Solo's and Champion Freestyle Teams.

Don was a well-known Adjudicator, a DJ, and Co-Promoted numerous Freestyle Dance Competitions.

In 1989 4D's Dance Centre were invited to join 'The U.K. Freestyle Disco Display Team' to perform at The National Indoor Arena' Birmingham for the birth of the Birmingham International Tattoo. Don assisted with the training and took an active part in supplying the musical equipment etc for this event from 1989 until the latest show in 2019. If circumstances were still the same, Don would definitely be alongside me for the re-commencement of the show this year.

Don was passionate about Freestyle Dance in any form, giving everyone 100% dedication, he supported me in every aspect I have ever been involved with in the World of Dance.

Diane Corbett.

**Freestyle Lifetime Achievement Award – Frances Dawson**

I am Frances Dawson – having started my career teaching Ballroom and Latin American; suddenly, my life changes, when Saturday Night Fever, burst onto the scene.

I loved everything about it. The fact that you did not have to have a partner. The music was great, and it gave the dancer the freedom to express themselves from within. I fell in love with the whole scene.

It was labelled as a 6 week wonder, which has now lasted 30 years; and is still thriving today. I was present at the inaugural meeting of the A.D.F.P. and have been an active member since.

Soon, I was training young people, to be Champions, many of who are now, currently, Teachers of Freestyle. I had Champions in Solo's, Couples, Trio's, and my favourite, Teams. At one time, I had 8 teams on the go, all full of young people, learning good posture, dress sense, camaraderie, and a feeling of belonging to a huge club.

I still run a thriving Dance Studio in Birmingham, in a multicultural area: kids of all ages can realise their dreams! For the past 18 years, I have been taking aid and Dance, to the orphans of Romania. We can now boast 4 Dance Studios; a Concert Room; many outdoor playgrounds, and other projects. I still go out to teach Dance, because it changed the lives of many kids, just as it changed mine.

I would like to thank the Allied Dancing Association, for this nomination; it is a great honour

Frances Dawson May 2022

**Well done to you all for making the finals!**