

BRITISH
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Harlequin News

FLOORS FOR DANCE, PERFORMING ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & DISPLAY



Harlequin Floors has once again been involved in many important new projects. We installed floors at a UK land-based

rehearsal facility for Carnival Cruise Lines in Southampton and at The Guildhall School of Music as well as supplying floors for Dance Proms at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall.

In July we invited leading tap dance company, Tap Attack to our Tunbridge Wells HQ for the day to try out Harlequin's range of floors. It proved to be an interesting day for everyone involved and we look forward to continuing our collaboration in 2014.

The opening in September of our office in Berlin, serving all German-speaking countries, is another important expansion for the Harlequin Group.

Follow us any way you like! Harlequin News is just one way of us communicating with our customers, but don't forget, there are many ways to get in touch. Like us on Facebook (/harlequinfloors), follow us on Twitter (@DanceFloors), keep up to date with the latest developments on our website, which features a Live Chat link, meet the team at exhibitions or call us free on 0800 28 99 32. Whichever way you choose to get in touch, we look forward to hearing from you!

Guy Dagger

Managing Director
British Harlequin plc



Photos David Teti / Elliott Franks, Dance Proms 2013

Dance Proms – bigger and better than ever!

SEE PAGE 3

In this Issue

Tapping into Tap Attack's expertise



P.2

Carnival Cruises launch The Academy in Southampton.



P.4

Harlequin Activity helps transform former antiques shop



P.4

and much more ...

focus

Top Tap Company enjoys day out tapping on top floors



Tap Attack's Michael Newman, Jamie Spall, Jo Scanlan, Adina-Rae Nyahwa and Matt Hill

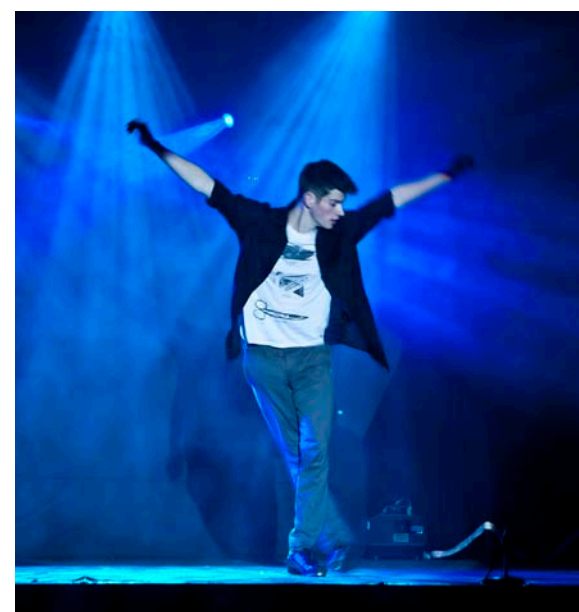
When the UK's top tap team "Tap Attack" visited Harlequin's Tunbridge Wells HQ there was plenty of fun on the dance floor as a selection of the company's top floors were put through their paces.

With a wealth of experience gained from performing across the globe as part of Xtreme Tap and the England tap team, the company's expertise offered Harlequin the perfect opportunity to get the most valuable feedback possible – from the dancers themselves. Harlequin Standfast was rated 'excellent' by all members of Tap Attack and praised for the crisp and clear sound it produces for tap. Harlequin Cascade also received unanimous ratings of 'excellent', with the dancers impressed by both its performance and safety qualities.



Guinness™ world record holding tap dancer, teacher and choreographer at Tap Attack, Jo Scanlan supports the goal of making safe dance floors accessible to all dancers. "When choosing a dance floor, safety of dancers has to be paramount. Over the last five years, I have noticed that a change is needed to prevent lower back, knee and ankle injuries which appear to be increasing. The problem is, you get what you pay for. All too often, cheaper floors are selected which are not sprung and this can have a negative effect on the health and careers of dancers."

Research reveals that both professional and student dancers can feel the difference between 'good' and 'bad' dance floors. Choosing a dance floor with a strong reputation in the dance community and that has the recommendation of dancers themselves, can help to make sure the decision made is a good one.



Matt Hill – Three times World Tap Champion

special events

Dance Proms – bigger and better than ever!

On Sunday 3rd November, London's Royal Albert Hall welcomed dance students from across the globe to the third annual Dance Proms. Celebrating dance and inspiring creativity, the gala event ended with a show-stopping finale as 450 students took to the stage on a 650m² dance floor supplied by Harlequin Floors.

Sponsored for the third year in a row by Harlequin Floors, Dance Proms is a partnership project between leading dance organisations IDTA, ISTD and RAD, and the Royal Albert Hall. Compered by Wayne Sleep OBE, this year's show was watched by an audience of 3,000 including patron Darcey Bussell CBE. The event offers an amazing opportunity for young dancers to perform at this world-famous venue. With dancers from the UK, Italy, Belgium, Poland, and as far afield as New Zealand, the stage welcomed a diverse range of styles from ballet to ballroom and tap to tango, as well as rock, street dance and cheerleading.

For a high quality dance floor suitable for the different styles, Harlequin supplied its Harlequin Liberty sprung floor panel system with a double-sided Harlequin Reversible dance surface. To accommodate the arena's elliptic curve, the company's installation team cut each panel on-site.

Dance Proms is a unique and exciting celebration of dance and the gala performance at the Royal Albert Hall gives young dancers from all over the world the perfect place to showcase their talents and creativity.



Photos David Tett / Elliott Franks, Dance Proms 2013.



interesting projects

Carnival Cruise Lines open onshore dance studios

Star professional dancers Ian Waite and Natalie Lowe from TV's *Strictly Come Dancing* were in Southampton for the opening of The Academy on Friday 28th June 2013.

Creating the south coast's largest dance studio and training centre, The Academy comprises three large dance studios plus a costume and shoe storage room, an aerial performance room and two singing rehearsal rooms - all encompassed within a converted warehouse. The Academy will now house rehearsals for the thousands of dancers and performers rehearsing for appearances on the Carnival Cruise Lines fleet.

The dance studios utilise 720m² of Harlequin Activity sprung floor with a Harlequin Standfast top surface constructed to replicate the dance stage on a ship and in order to familiarise performers ready for the live shows on board ship. To indicate floor sizes on different ships, Harlequin uniquely used coloured welding to delineate the various stage dimensions. Harlequin Activity provides a sprung sub-floor with Harlequin Standfast vinyl providing a slip-resistant, durable surface, together creating a surface suitable for a wide range of dance styles including ballet, contemporary, modern and hip-hop.



Antique shop transformed to modern studio for Amanda Restell

A Harlequin Activity sprung dance floor has helped to transform an antique shop in Leigh-on Sea, Essex, into cutting edge dance studios as part of the relocation of the new Amanda Restell Academy of Dance – one of Essex's premier dance schools.

Founded in 1994 with just two classes and six pupils, the Amanda Restell Academy of Dance has grown over the last 20 years and now schools more than 600 children from the age of two. As part of its expansion and to accommodate the growing student numbers, Amanda moved the academy to the former antiques shop located at the 100 year old Elmworks Studios building.

During a complete renovation and modernisation programme to bring the new studios in line with 21st century standards for safety and comfort, Amanda turned to Harlequin Floors for their expert advice. Consequently, Harlequin supplied and installed over 150m² of Harlequin Activity sprung floor system with Harlequin Cascade dance surfaces across the facility's two studios. As well as professional sprung flooring, Harlequin Floors also fitted each spacious, soundproofed studio with mirrors and wall-mounted ballet barres.

"It was crucial to choose the correct floor systems for the styles of dance that the Academy offers," said Amanda. "The service that Harlequin provided from beginning to end was fantastic and everyone was so helpful and knowledgeable about the products installed."

Following the refurbishment, the BBC got in touch 'out of the blue' as they were looking for high quality rehearsal studios for Rachel Riley and professional dance partner Pasha Kovalev during the 2013 series of the ever popular *Strictly Come Dancing*. Pasha commented on what a high specification the studios had been fitted out to and each week staff and students at the Academy were able to get a sneak preview of what was coming up on the Saturday show, as well as meet Camilla Dallerup, who was helping with choreography.

theatre & touring

Burn The Floor sizzle on Harlequin Reversible

Thrilling audiences worldwide since 1999, Burn The Floor combines Latin and ballroom dance in a truly breathtaking theatrical dance experience. For dance floors that deliver the safety and performance levels required for these high-energy and high-voltage shows – the show and its dancers continue to rely on Harlequin Floors.

After a four-month West End run at London's Shaftesbury Theatre in 2013, Burn The Floor heads to Japan and Australia for a 2014 world tour. Harlequin will once again be supplying the floors, which dancers like Karen Hauer and Kevin Clifton feel gives them the perfect platform on which to perform.

"Having a floor that really works with us is extremely important. An artist has a canvas, a photographer has a camera and as dancers, we need our floor," commented Karen Hauer. "The Harlequin floor is the best thing we've danced on."

"The tools that you work with, you need to be able to trust that it's going to work with you. And the way you can tell if it's a great floor is you don't actually notice it straight away," added fellow dancer Kevin Clifton. "When you come out on the Harlequin Floor, you don't notice it straight away so you can relax into your performance."



To hear the dancers talk about the show, their performances and the quality of the dance floors, head to the Harlequin YouTube channel to see interviews with:

1. Karen Hauer & Kevin Clifton - www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hb7f0e2aiVQ
2. Janette Manrara & Robbie Kmetoni - www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hb7f0e2aiVQ
3. Kristina Rihanoff & Robin Windsor - www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vMQR4Z0hYs

If you have a smart phone, scan the QR codes to see the interviews on your mobile device.



1. Karen Hauer & Kevin Clifton



2. Janette Manrara & Robbie Kmetoni



3. Kristina Rihanoff & Robin Windsor

Harlequin shines at Glyndebourne Festival

Harlequin Hi-Shine took centre stage at the Glyndebourne Festival 2013 when it was chosen to provide outstanding resistance, durability and a stunning mirror finish throughout the three-week run of Rameau's Hippolyte et Aricie.

For Glyndebourne's first production by French composer Rameau, the festival required a glossy white surface that could be danced upon, re-laid twice a day and was resistant to heavy truck movements. Ideal for theatre and operatic productions, as well as TV, concerts and exhibitions, Harlequin's Hi-Shine proved the perfect solution.

Founded in 1934, Glyndebourne is committed to delivering the highest standards of operatic performance, commissioning new work, developing new talent and reaching new audiences. In the 1,200 seat opera house, the festival featured performances of five other operatic productions by Mozart, Strauss, Verdi, Britten and Donizetti.



Glyndebourne Productions Ltd.
Photo Bill Cooper

events

Genée returns to the UK

The Royal Academy of Dance's Genée International Ballet Competition 2013 drew to a stunning climax when 58 candidates from 14 different countries gathered at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow. They undertook nine days of intense training, sweat and over coming stage fright in order to compete for the coveted gold, silver and bronze medals.

The event was presented by the RAD working in partnership with Scottish Ballet and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Since its inaugural appearance as the Adeline Genée Gold Medal in 1931, it has evolved into one of the world's most prestigious classical ballet competitions and is recognised as a tour de force in the worldwide ballet scene.

After five days of coaching, followed by two days of semi-finals, 12 finalists (nine female, three male) performed for a judging panel of top international ballet professionals including Prima Ballerina and President of the Royal Academy of Dance Darcey Bussell CBE, Director of The Royal Ballet Kevin O'Hare, and Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet Christopher Hampson.

High performance standards left the judges with difficult decisions, but they eventually awarded five medals with two bronze medallist wins from the UK - Natasha Watson and John Rhys Halliwell – and the Audience Award, voted for by audience members on the night, also going to John Rhys Halliwell.

This was the first time the annual competition has been hosted in Scotland. The event has previously been staged in Wellington, Cape Town, London, Singapore, Toronto, Hong Kong, Athens and Sydney.

Royal Academy of Dance Chief Executive Luke Rittner announced that next year, the Genée International Ballet competition will be held in Antwerp, Belgium. In true 'Olympic style', Lynn Wallis, RAD's Artistic Director, received the Academy's official tapestry from Christopher Hampson and passed it on to Assis Carreiro, Artistic Director of the Royal Ballet of Flanders.

Darcey Bussell with the 2013 medal winners



The Australian Dance Awards

Held on August 5th 2013, the Australian Dance Awards sponsored by Harlequin Floors proved a huge success for the internationally acclaimed Sydney Dance Company when its '2 One Another' work scooped a hat-trick of prizes.



2 One Another – Sydney Dance Company

On a night celebrating the very best dance that Australia has to offer, the Sydney Dance Company picked up awards for Outstanding Performance by a Company, Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer for Charmene Yap and Outstanding Achievement in Choreography for Rafael Bonachela. After Bonachela had collected the much-coveted choreography award, Yap showed dedication to the profession by rushing out from backstage to accept her award – halting her own preparations for the Sydney Dance Company's exciting live performance.

Australian Dance Theatre's Kimball Wong broke Sydney Dance Company's run of success when he won Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer for his work in Garry Stewart's 'Proximity'. On receiving the award, Wong drew smiles from the crowd when concluding his acceptance speech with a heartfelt thank you to his mum.

Winner of the most emotional speech of the night must go to Jackie Hallahan. When collecting the Services to Dance Education award for more than 30 years of dance teaching, her passion and dedication to dance was clear to see and ensured that there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

Other winners on the night included; Ronne Arnold (Lifetime Achievement Award), Shane Carroll (Services to Dance) and Antony Hamilton for Black Project 1 (Outstanding Achievement in Independent Dance), while Dr Alan Brissenden AM was inducted into the Australian Dance Awards Hall of Fame.

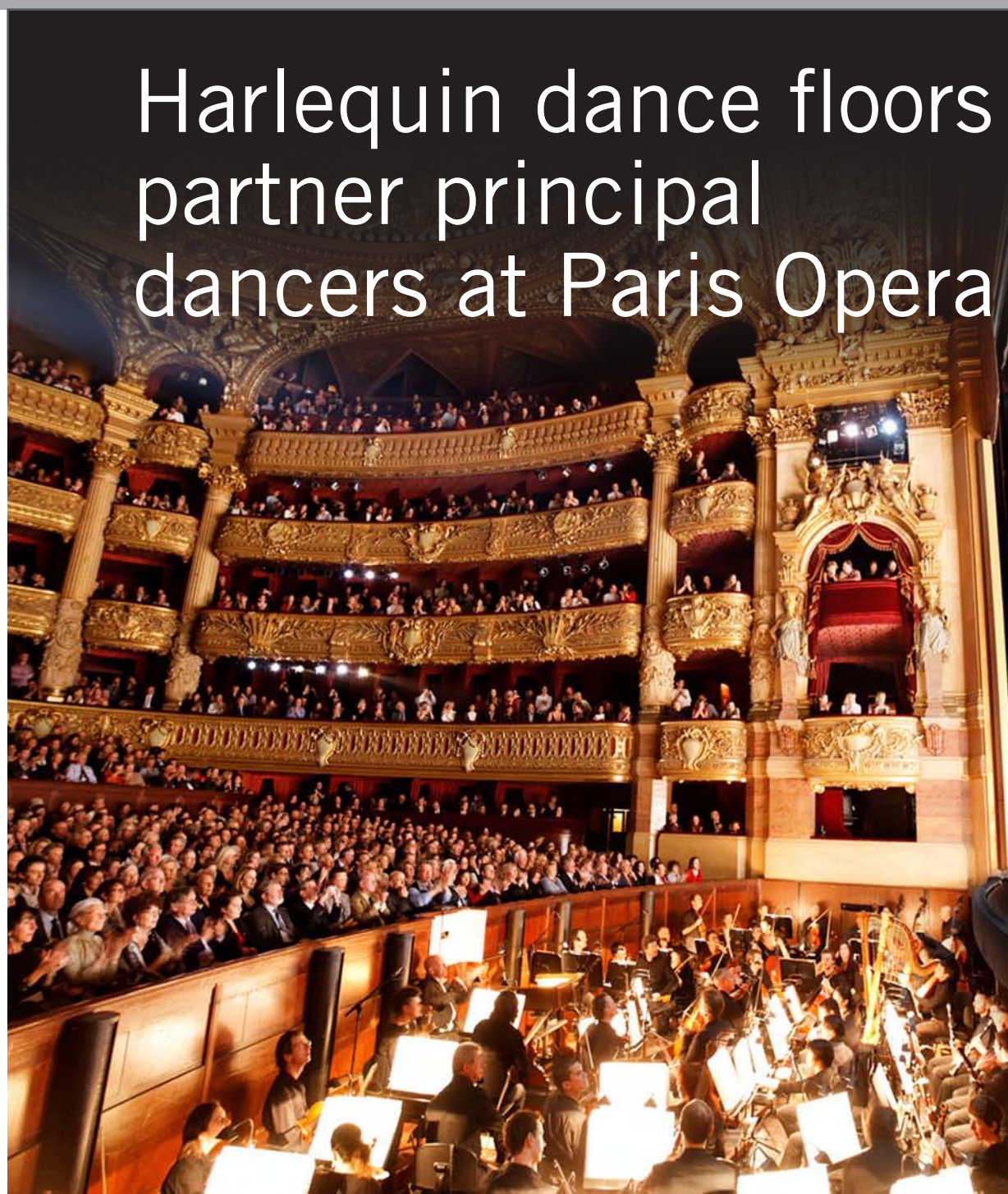
Since the inaugural Australian Dance Awards at the Sydney Opera House in 1997, it has grown to become one of the industry's most anticipated nights of the year. Sponsored for the second consecutive year by Harlequin Floors, the 2013 event was a huge success helping to further raise the profile of Australian artists and provide a focal point for the celebration of dance excellence.



Rafael Bonachela and dancers from Sydney Dance Company celebrate their third win of the evening as Artistic Director of West Australian Ballet, Aurélien Scannella (far left) and Harlequin's Managing Director, Guy Dagger (far right) present the award for Outstanding Performance by a Company.

around the world

Harlequin dance floors partner principal dancers at Paris Opera



When Harlequin Europe interviewed the leading lights of The Opéra National de Paris there was unanimous agreement that the partnership between dancers and the dance floor is of great importance. Director of Dance, Brigitte Lefèvre was joined by principal dancers, Dorothee Gilbert and Jérémie Bélingard for the interview which is featured on the Harlequin YouTube channel.

Brigitte Lefèvre summed up the selection process that had led to buying a Harlequin Liberty sprung floor to meet the daily needs of the 154 strong dance company. "The choice of the dance floor is very important. Floors had to be discovered, tried and tested. It wasn't easy, but I am grateful, very grateful to Harlequin for having allowed us to get to know the floor in this way. A floor that is so ideally suited to our dancers."



Paris Opera Ballet. Photo: Agathe Poupeney

Queensland Ballet enjoy the perfect floor

Harlequin was privileged to have access to Queensland Ballet's Artistic Director Li Cunxin and the Ballet's Principal Dancers, Rachael Walsh and Matthew Lawrence. Against a background of rehearsal and performance, life as a professional dancer is all captured on video offering a fascinating insight to all aspiring young dancers.

Rachael Walsh asserts that, "The hard work is certainly worth it. The rewards of this beautiful career far outweigh all the hard work and tough times. I wouldn't change a minute of the life I have lived as a dancer."

Turning to Matthew Lawrence, who continued, "We were trying different techniques on stage, so it was important to have the security that a good floor gives you. You know you have good purchase off the floor when you take off for your jumps. Even in rehearsals you need a good floor so you have the security when you are doing your steps you know they will work on stage."

In conclusion, Li Cunxin rounded off, "I want dancers to feel excited about coming into this wonderful environment. An environment where they can learn, they can improve, they can perfect the art form."



Queensland Ballet Principals Rachael Walsh & Matthew Lawrence as Giselle & Albrecht Photo David Kelly

Harlequin's news

NIDMS update – new NHS dance injury clinic announced in Birmingham

On Friday 29 November 2013 the partners of the ground-breaking National Institute of Dance Medicine and Science (NIDMS) announced an agreement to establish the second ever NHS specialist dance injury clinic in Birmingham following the success of the London clinic at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.

Birmingham has one of the biggest hubs of dancers in England, with a concentration of Dance Science expertise. The new clinic will be based at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham and work in partnership with Birmingham Royal Ballet's state-of-the-art Jerwood Centre for the Prevention and Treatment of Dance Injuries. The first NHS dance injury clinic opened in London at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH) in May 2012. It has treated over 200 dancers in its first year and been widely acclaimed by dancers and dance companies.



The new clinic is being made possible by Harlequin's additional donation of £10,000. Chelsey Houps, Mark Rasmussen and Caroline Reilly with the 'giant cheque'.

New office opens in Berlin



Dirk Rüter

In September 2013 Harlequin Floors announced the opening of an office in Berlin. Harlequin Germany GmbH will be headed by Dirk Rüter who has managed the German speaking market segment since 2010.

Harlequin sponsors CDET's Recognised Awards Scheme

Harlequin Floors has been named as a sponsor of the Recognised Awards Scheme offered by the Council for Dance Education and Training (CDET) – the quality assurance and membership body for the UK's professional dance and musical theatre industries.

The CDET's Recognised Awards are a set of industry-designed standards for pre-vocational performing arts schools and teachers committed to upholding safe and professional standards of practice.

By referring to CDET's list of Recognised Schools, Teachers and Instructors, parents and dancers are able to make an informed choice when selecting suitable dance and musical theatre education provision in the UK. Find out more at www.cdetr.org.uk

Printed floors add a bespoke personal touch

Don't forget, we now offer an exciting new printing service. There has never been a better way to add a bespoke personal touch to your stage, set or studio.

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©2014 British Harlequin plc
Festival House, Chapman Way
Tunbridge Wells, Kent
TN2 3EF UK

Tel: 01892 514888
Fax: 01892 514222
enquiries@harlequinfloors.com

www.harlequinfloors.com

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