

★ Meet the Professional Dancers from ★



Robin Windsor



Photo: Jon Cottam © BBC 2011

★ Which three words best describe the jive to you?

Energetic, ferocious and uplifting.

★ How old were you when you discovered you loved to dance?

I was three years old, I started dancing very young!

★ Did you go to a special dance academy like Bella?

Yes, I went to the Ipswich School of Dancing which was my local dance school. I spent most of my free time there.

★ How old were you when you won your first dance competition?

I was five years old, obviously it wasn't a professional dance competition like the competitions I did as a grown up but it was a fun experience for a little boy and it was wonderful to win.

★ What is your favourite dance and why?

The jive because it's a fun, lively dance and I'm a fun, lively person!

★ Meet the Professional Dancers from ★



Kristina Rihanoff



★ Which three words best describe the rock 'n' roll to you?

Fun, speed and power!

★ How old were you when you discovered you loved to dance?

I have danced for as long as I can remember but I was probably about six when I decided I want to dance for the rest of my life!

★ Did you go to a special dance academy like Bella?

Yes, at the age of six I was invited to a ballroom dance school.

★ How old were you when you won your first dance competition?

I was seven and my partner and I were so excited! We had no fear as we just wanted to dance. Our enjoyment must have come through as we won! It was a small local competition but it felt so important to us.

★ What is your favourite dance and why?

My favourite dance is the rumba. It is the slowest of all Latin dances. The music is really beautiful and you can do a lot of amazing tricks and show off your flexibility.

★ Meet the Professional Dancers from ★



Artem Chigvintsev



Photo: Jon Cottam © BBC 2011

★ Which three words best describe the samba to you?

Carnival, party, fun.

★ How old were you when you discovered you loved to dance?

I was twelve. My mum loved dancing – just for fun, but her love of it encouraged me to give it a try and I'm glad I did!

★ Did you go to a special dance academy like Bella?

No, I learnt at home with my mum, but pretty soon I started taking lessons, although not at a proper dance academy.

★ How old were you when you won your first dance competition?

I was thirteen. Having taken dancing lessons and been encouraged by my mum to follow my heart and become a dancer it was a wonderful experience after only a year of dancing to compete with other boys and to be the winner!

★ What is your favourite dance and why?

Paso doble because it's dramatic, very physical but also is a feel good dance.

★ Meet the Professional Dancers from ★



Flavia Cacace



★ Which three words best describe the tango to you?

Dramatic, passionate and expressive.

★ How old were you when you discovered you loved to dance?

I started dancing at the age of five and I haven't stopped since. I love it more now than ever before, the older you get the wiser you get.

★ Did you go to a special dance academy like Bella?

No, but I went to a very good dance school after school and at weekends which I loved.

★ How old were you when you won your first dance competition?

I was around twelve.

★ What is your favourite dance and why?

I love lots of dances, I love music that inspires me. If I had to pick one dance, though, I'd have to say the Argentine tango. It suits my style and I love the music.