



Stars of the Future 2026

Stars of the Future has for many decades been a massive part of the dancers calendar and today so many years on it continues to be the case.

Congratulations to ML Promotions and to Nicholas Miles for making the day so successful and as always it was timed to the minute.

There were some excellent competitions and performances during the day and some have been selected for this article

Gunnar Gunnarsson starts with the terrific Junior Latin

1st Sebastian Kwan & Lauren Kwan Winning all 5 dances in dominant fashion were Sebastian & Lauren. A very rhythmical couple who consistently demonstrated strong performance quality throughout the competition. Their ability to connect with the music and engage the audience was a real strength. Congratulations

2nd place: Luca Ivanets & Pebble Rose A clean and well-organised couple with excellent lines, clarity of movement, and strong posture. Their technical foundation provides a very polished appearance on the floor. The next step is to develop greater fluidity in their movements, allowing the dancing to flow more naturally and continuously.

3rd place: River Hicks & Sophia Dell A charismatic partnership with an engaging presence that draws attention on the floor. Their personality and confidence are clear strengths. To progress further, focus should be placed on creating more volume and power in the movement to produce a bigger and more impactful performance.

4th place: Erick Craia & Chloe Winters Erick & Chloe are a highly dynamic couple with excellent energy and intent in their dancing. Their ability to create contrast in their movements, makes for an exciting viewing. To develop further, continuing to develop their performance skills would take them to the next level. While the dynamics are strong, focusing on projecting more personality, emotion and connection with each other and the audience would benefit them greatly.

5th place: Jack Murphy & Sienna Upton A couple who displayed great energy and enthusiasm throughout the competition. Their commitment and effort were evident in every dance. Improving the coordination & fullness of their bodies will help create a stronger and more cohesive partnership.

6th place: James Edwards & Kseniia Vitiuk James & Ksenia displayed some excellent individual qualities, with Ksenia demonstrating particularly strong feet and leg action, while James showed very good posture and body alignment. As a couple, the next stage of their development is to increase the overall volume and power of their dancing, creating a larger and more commanding presence on the floor.



Junior Latin line Up

NOT TO BE MISSED

Stars of the Future 2026 Cont'd...

Clara Guzzardi continues with her performance evaluation of the Under 16 Solo 5 Dance

It was wonderful to see such a busy and well-supported event in Gillingham, with a full day of dancing and a strong standard throughout this Under 16 Solo 5 Dance competition.

1st Place – Evie Crofton-Martin Evie is a dancer I have seen on several occasions and she consistently delivers performances with confidence, energy, and commitment. Her power and drive are always evident and are channelled effectively through her movement. At times, this enthusiasm can lead to her dancing slightly bigger than necessary and travelling more than the choreography requires. However, today I saw a noticeable development in her performance. She maintained her trademark confidence and energy while dancing with greater control and a more compact approach. I was particularly pleased to see her taking more time in the slower dances, allowing the movement to breathe and develop naturally. This added maturity to her performance and undoubtedly contributed to a well-deserved victory.

2nd Place – Lukrecja Zukauskaitė Lukrecja is a vibrant and talented young dancer with a natural flair for performance. She has an engaging quality on the floor and demonstrates excellent musical feeling. To continue progressing, I would encourage her to focus on completing her actions fully, particularly through the feet and legs, ensuring that each movement is finished before transitioning into the next. Strengthening the connection to the floor and achieving fuller leg extension would further enhance her overall presentation. From a choreography perspective, introducing a little more continuous movement and flow could help showcase her dancing even more effectively, as there were occasions where extended posed moments limited the opportunity to demonstrate her dance ability. With these refinements, she will certainly continue to challenge strongly for top honours.

3rd Place – Ava Cave thoroughly enjoyed watching Ava's performance. She demonstrated very good use of her feet and legs, combined with a pleasing fluidity of movement from step to step. She showed a strong understanding of movement quality and presented the dances with elegance and femininity. Her overall performance was polished and assured, and I felt she was very competitive within this final. With continued development, she has every opportunity to challenge for even higher placings in the future.

4th Place – Sophia Gallagher Sophia gave an enjoyable performance and showed many positive qualities throughout her dancing. Going forward, I would encourage her to project her movements with a little more confidence and allow her actions to settle and develop fully. This would help create greater use of the hips and body action, giving her dancing a fuller and more expressive quality. She has a solid foundation and I look forward to seeing her continued progress.

5th Place – Abbey Reilly Abbey is a lovely dancer and I felt this placing was a fair reflection of today's final. She fully deserved her place amongst a strong group of competitors. Compared to some of the dancers placed above her, she currently shows slightly less maturity in her overall presentation, but she possesses plenty of potential. At times she appeared a little reserved in her delivery, and as her confidence grows, I am sure she will become even more effective in communicating her dancing to the audience and adjudicators.

6th Place – Angela Hei Tung Yip I was pleased to see Angela reach the final. She performed with a lovely personality and maintained an engaging presence throughout the dances. To continue developing, I would encourage her to focus on completing her dance actions more fully, particularly through the legs and feet. Greater attention to leg straightening and maintaining pressure through the back foot before releasing into the next movement would improve the clarity and quality of her technique. She presented herself very well and showed considerable potential for the future.

UNDER 16 SOLO LATIN LINE UP



IT'S ONLY A FEW WEEKS TO THE FABULOUS DPA SUMMER FESTIVAL ALL ENTRANCE TICKETS TO THE PURBECK HALL ARE AVAILABLE DIRECT FROM THE BIC BOX OFFICE



Dance Promoters' Association [®]

Stars of the Future 2026 Cont'd...

Kevin Allcott reports on the Under 16 Solo Ballroom

- 1st Evie Crofton Martin. Very strong performance well deserved winner.
- 2nd Ula Auguste very nice free moving dancing with a lot of energy.
- 3rd Faye Basham lovely posture with nice upper body strength.
- 4th William Powell good strong frame and nice smooth action.
- 5th Daniela Passov good strong feet and legs nice to see
- 6th Nikita Krekels great waltz today good energy shown
- 7th Olivia Granville danced with a lot of confidence keep up the good work.
- 8th Abbey Reilly good body shaping with good changes of foot speed.



DPA Dance Promoters' Association [®]

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DINNER & DANCE

SATURDAY 25TH JULY 2026

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Bournemouth
BH2 5BH

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DPA SUMMER FESTIVAL
Pre Festival Training Day

DPA SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2026

BALLROOM & LATIN TRAINING DAY WITH LIVE MUSIC BY THE NEW DPA SUMMER FESTIVAL BAND, THE PAUL BARRY BIG BAND

- BALLROOM WORKSHOPS
- LATIN WORKSHOPS
- COUPLES & SOLO
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BALLROOM

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LATIN

PAUL BARRY
DIRECTOR OF THE PAUL BARRY BIG BAND

Live Music

Quick Quick Slow Dance Studio, Blythe Business Park, Cresswell Lane.

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It's not long now to the eagerly awaited

50th Anniversary of the DPA Summer Festival

This year promises to be a fabulous week
of great dancing

Which this sees the new and exiting
DPA Championships



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Stars of the Future 2026 Cont'd...

DAVID TRUEMAN REPORTS ON THE UNDER 12 SOLO LATIN

The U12 Solo Latin was a superb event with so many young exponents dancing at their very best and many were using open choreography which has been a great initiative from from the DPA

1st Karina this was a fine display of action rhythm and technique. This young Lady really offers so many wonderful dance ingredients and it is all presented with a wonderful level of enjoyment.

2nd Lucia Choma Here we have a dancer of great talent and such an elegant style too. Each dance was beautifully performed and the choreography selected was executed with considerable flare and accuracy

3rd Brooke Bailey Full of action energy and dance charisma. There was a constant stream of action and powerfully produced movement. The young Lady has exquisite use of arms too.

4th Evelina Shevchenko such a delightful array of action and style. At no time did this young Lady appear to be over dancing, in fact the whole performance was superbly measured in strength, stamina and timing.

5th Mia Jacyszyn there are so many wonderful points in this young lady's dancing, one area that always stands out is the delivery of action and technique.

6th Elizabeth Vaicekauskas it is so good to see this terrific dancer now making strides into these excellent finals. There is a constant level of action and rhythm and the foot and leg actions are good to watch

UNDER 12 SOLO LATIN LINE UP

