Hannes Emrich Reports on the 2014 WDC German Open

After the excitement and historical battles of the Blackpool Dance Festival, the European WDC circuit continues with the WDC World Super Series Events for Professionals and WDC AL German Open for Amateur in the beautiful Rosengarten in Mannheim. Whoever has had the privilege of competing in this venue surely remembers its special atmosphere and the organiser Stefan Ossenkop on behalf of m:con has done his utmost to provide competitors with all the conditions that have become the WDC and WDC AL Trademark.

A great audience, live orchestra in a fabulous venue and an outstanding panel of expert judges to evaluate the performances. No less that 61 World Titles are held within the panel of adjudicators: Caterina Arzenton (Italy), Hannes Emrich (Austria), Gaynor Fairweather MBE (Scotland), Hansi Galke (Germany), Richard Gleave OBE (Great Britain), Marcus Hilton MBE (Great Britain), Evelyn Hörmann (Germany), Markus Homm (Germany), John Kimmins (USA), Gary McDonald (USA), Leonid Pletnev (Russia), Svein Røtvold (Norway), Sergey Ryupin (Russia), Mirko Saccani (Italy), Augusto Schiavo (Italy), Igor Soronovych (Ukraine), Rudi Trautz (Germany), Michael Wentink (South Africa), John Wood (Great Britain), Snieguole Wood (Lithuania).

This, coupled with over 5000 overall entries in the entire Festival makes this one of the biggest Festivals in the World.

To the events and the finalists of the 4 main events:
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WDC WORLD SERIES PROFESSIONAL BALLROOM

1. Andrea Ghiglarelli & Sara Andracchio-Ghiglarelli (Great Britain)
Danced at their usual best, giving a champions performance. Andrea has the ability to create a lot of light and shade in the performance keeping the interest of the spectator.

2. Sascha Karabey & Natascha Karabey (Germany)
Sascha and Natascha have long been the exponents of excellent dancing quality when it comes to movement and they did not disappoint on home ground. Natscha is in my opinion amongst the very best ballroom ladies of all times, personifying the highest quality of postural awareness.

3. Eldar Dzhafarov & Anna Sazhina (Azerbaijan)
Eldar and Anna are one of the most improved couples in the Ballroom field and Rising Stars of the Professional Ballroom scene. Big powerful movement and their dynamic qualities make them now a force to be reckoned with and came in a clear third.

4. Steffen Zoglauer & Sandra Koperski (Germany)
A couple with an excellent Tango and Quickstep and a musical awareness that is coupled with great quality feet and ankles, which gives them great control. The reigning World Professional 10-Dance Champions created a good performance today, but were pushed very hard by Gaetano & Manuela.

5. Gaetano Iavarone & Emanuela Napolitano (Italy)
They are newcomers to the Professional field and already making a big impact. After their inclusion in the Quarter Final of the British Open they have now taken on the challenge of attacking the established Professional couples and with a mix of Italian flair and very classical English styling, they managed already to the Foxtrot of Steffen and Sandra, with a very close result in all remaining dances.

6. Rudger Homm & Julia Nienann (Germany)
Rudy and Julia danced a good competition after a rather quiet British performance and were rewarded with the inclusion in the final. Further improvement in the topline to present a clearer picture will help to complement their quality movement.

WDC WORLD SERIES PROFESSIONAL LATIN:

1. Michael Maltowski / Joanna Leunis (Great Britain)
Michael and Joanna are great exponents of a dynamic approach to Latin dancing and Joanna’s ability to spin and control her movement is of the highest order. Unfortunately the focus on their strengths has resulted in a lack of lack of authentic action and precise use of timing and this could be improved.

2. Andrej Skufoa / Melinda Torokgyorgy (Slovenia)
Rhythmical and dynamic, with a totally different approach to that of the winners, Andrej and Melinda concentrate on a more traditional approach based on sound technique and Melinda’s trademark kinetic style. For me they challenged very strongly in some dances and very clear runners-up.
3. Emanuele Soldi & Elsa Nasato (Italy)
Emanuele and Elsa excite with a vivacious and rhythmic style and the sensitivity, especially shown in Rumba is of the highest order.

4. Dorin Frecaut & Marina Sergeeva (Moldova)
Dorin and Marina are a relatively new partnership, but that does not diminish the huge experience of Dorin as a high level male exponent of Latin Dancing. I feel with Marina he has found a partner that creates a solid base for his sometimes very artistic approach. Sometimes too soft for me in action, and creating a too even dynamic throughout the dance. Denis and Vika are bold and powerful dancers with a strong overall image and those qualities earned them a
final spot. Clarity of intent is now needed to create more refinement. Nevertheless an excellent performance.

5. Denis Tagintsev & Viktoriya Rudkovskaja (Russia)
Denis and Vika are bold and powerful dancers with a strong overall image and those qualities earned them a final spot. Clarity of intent is now needed to create more refinement. Nevertheless an excellent performance.

6. Valera Musuo & Ilma Trautz (Germany)
Valera & Nina work tirelessly to improve and it shows in their performance. The Depth of action is now of a much better level and Valera’s natural charisma is now serving them very well. Still need continued work on the Jive to create more tick.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE FINALISTS IN BOTH EVENTS FOR THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES.
The results of the 2 WDC AL German Open events are as follows:

**WDC AL GERMAN OPEN AMATEUR BALLROOM**

1. Marek Kosaty & Paulina Glazik (Poland)
2. Fedor Isaev & Anna Zudillina (Russian Federation)
3. Jacek Jeschke & Valeria Agikyan (Poland)
5. Maciej Kadlebowski & Maja Kopacz (Poland)
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WDC AL GERMAN OPEN AMATEUR LATIN
1. Litvinov Vladimir & Nikolaeva Olga (Russian Federation)
2. Vjaceslav Visnakovs & Tereza Kizlo (Latvia)
3. Denys Drozdyuk & Antonina Skobina (United States)
4. Oleksandr Kravchuk & Olessia Getsko (Ukraine)
5. Darren Hammond & Milla Lykke (South Africa)
6. Gleb Cherniavskyi & Maryna Steshenko (Ukraine)

Full marks and results for all events can be found on www.wdcdance.com

2014 WDC German Open Amateur Finalists
Photo courtesy of Hannes Emrich