

The 2012 DanceSport NZ National Championships were held in Christchurch at the CBS arena from 31 August to 2 September. Along with 2012 National titles and our second WDSF International Open Latin and Standard events, we were privileged to host the 2012 WDSF Asian Pacific Latin and Standard Championships.

30 couples representing 10 countries entered the WDSF Asian Pacific Championships. These couples were supported in many cases by coaches, families and other competitors. In addition we welcomed other top international competitors who travelled from Europe and Asia to compete in the WDSF International Open events in Latin American and Standard.

On Friday the inaugural Hip Hop and B Boy competitions were held attracting a large number of very enthusiastic and vocal young people. Xplosion was born!

Crews from a number of schools and studios competed in the Hip Hop style. A team of 10 North Island Bboys travelled down to battle the South Island Team and DJs Boz Boz and Danny III with MC Ra created an electric atmosphere which had the place buzzing. Celebrity judge Bboy Katsu from Japan via Australia was joined by other top judges from around the country.

A major drawcard was the internationally acclaimed choreographer Parris Goebel and her World Hip Hop Champion crew, ReQuest who performed for a very excited audience many of whom attended the full day of Hip Hop workshops run by Parris and the crew on Saturday.

Following the amazing success and enthusiasm generated by this event, we are looking forward to a major 'Xplosion' of interest for this style in 2013

Saturday saw a change to the more classical Standard and New Vogue styles with a full day of competition for National titles and the first rounds of the WDSF events. One of the highlights of the evening programme was a breathtaking display by visiting professionals Paolo Bosco and Joanne Clifton the WDSF World Professional Ballroom Champions who thrilled everyone with their amazing performance, Their elegance combined with tremendous athleticism was an inspiration for all aspiring dancers.

In addition we were treated to a wonderful Latin American display by Italy based kiwi Stefan Green with his partner Adriana Sigona. This demo was a great buildup to the Latin style events to be held on Sunday.

Tension mounted during Saturday evening as everyone cheered on their favourites in the deciding rounds of the Asian Pacific Standard Championship and the WDSF International Open Standard. The finals for each of these events produced some of the most exciting competitive dancing seen in New Zealand for some time.

Sunday moved into a different tempo, this time the Latin styles, including the traditional Latin American, Swing, Rock n Roll and Street Latin (Salsa etc).

Again the day included competition at all levels, including National titles and the first rounds of the WDSF events,(International Open and Asian Pacific.)

On Sunday evening who would have believed the dance style of Rock n Roll could be so spectacular. Our Swiss WRRC World No 3 demonstration couple, Mathias Ullrich and Verena Baumann showed us moves where Mathias tossed Verena metres into the air.

Later in the evening we were also treated to a dazzling fast paced performance by 6 times World Salsa Champion Liz Lira from USA dancing with well known Csaba Szirmai from Australia.

Once again anticipation built with each successive round of both of the WDSF events, the International Open and Asian Pacific culminating in fantastic finals for each event.

We wish to thank all those who helped in any way towards the running of this major event, too many to name but all very appreciated for their time and hard work.

Final placings were –

WDSF International Standard

1. Masayuki Ishihara & Saori Itoh - Japan
2. Antonio Micheli & Katerina Maximova - Australia
3. Seong Woo Park & SuBin Jo – Korea

WDSF International Latin

1. Goffredo Gabriele & Anna Matus - Moldova
2. SeJin Jang & Haein Lee - Korea
3. Yumiya Kubota & Rara Kubota - Japan

WDSF Asian Pacific Standard

- 1 Masayuki Ishihara & Saori Itoh - Japan
2. Antonio Micheli & Katerina Maximova - Australia
3. Seong Woo Park & SuBin Jo – Korea

WDSF Asian Pacific Latin

- 1 SeJin Jang & Haein Lee - Korea
2. Yumiya Kubota & Rara Kubota - Japan
3. Gerald Jamili & Cherry Clarice Parcon - Philippines