

Celia Orr Atholl Clasp Award 2013

Dancing has been my life and passion since the age of 3.

I was born and brought up in the village of Forth on my parents Farm with my brothers George and Sandy and sister Rita.

Rita and I attended the local dance school run by Isobel Orr (no relation) until Isobel was married and moved away to Ayrshire. My new teachers Cissie Tucker and Marjory Rowan of the Tucker/Rowan school Edinburgh gave me an excellent highland training and technical knowledge. Marjory remained my teacher until I passed my Judges exam at the age of 25. I am very grateful to have had such good teachers.

I won many Championships from Juvenile to Adult, culminating in winning the Juvenile World Championship at the age of 12 and becoming the Oscar winner in 1966.

Ballet is my other great passion. As a pupil of the Scottish Ballet School in Edinburgh, from the age of 9 my path was set. Dancing and teaching dance was what I was going to do as a career. After a 3 year professional course in Ballet, Tap, Modern dance and Jazz I became an Associate of the Royal Academy of Dance. In 2011 I was made a Life Member.

I was a professional dancer for 3 years working in the Theatre and on TV with many of the great old Scottish actors, singers and dancers.

Teaching is my passion. I love working with children who know nothing about dance and see them blossom into beautiful dancers. Lots of children can be good technicians but it is the child who performs from the HEART that makes the true dancer. I have been privileged to teach children who have gone on to become champion dancers, teachers and Judges.

In 2003 the Rotary of Lanark presented me with "Citizen of the Year" for my charity work. The school has raised over £100,000 for both local and national charities. My school celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2012.

I was made a Burgess of the Royal Burgh of Lanark in 2013 for services to the youth of the Town and promoting Lanark through dance world wide.

Dance has given me the chance to travel the world making many friends on the way while both Judging and Teaching.

I am a Life Member of the BATD and the UKA.

As an Independent Member of the SOBHD I have served on the Technical, Judges, Registration and Disciplinary committees for many years.

I have never been afraid to say what I think at meetings but always for the good of the Dancer and the Board.

I was delighted, honoured and very overcome to be presented with the ATHOLL CLASP for services to Highland Dancing and the Board.