



British Open Dance Championships and Junior Blackpool Dance Festival to be rescheduled.

It is with great regret that Blackpool Council and Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited announce that The British Open Dance Championships and The Junior Blackpool Dance Festival 2020 will be rescheduled due to public health concerns linked to the Coronavirus pandemic. The 95th British Open Festival and 73rd Junior Blackpool Festival will now be staged in 2021.

Uppermost in our mind has been the health and safety of all of those who come together to make the Blackpool Festivals happen including our employees, partners and visitors from around the world as well as our broader responsibility to society's efforts to tackle this global challenge to our way of life. Since the emergence of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in January, we have followed guidance from the UK Government and public health authorities in relation to our year-round operations at The Winter Gardens Blackpool. Our considerations are particularly related to the concerns brought about by mass gatherings and the current implications of social distancing. With the likelihood that the Government's measures will continue for many weeks, it is our view that we must act responsibly to protect the large numbers of people who attend the festivals.

Michael Williams, Managing Director of the Blackpool Festivals, commented: "Following a series of detailed deliberations this is a decision that we have not taken lightly, and we have done so with the highest regard for public health and the wellbeing of all those who come together to make the Festivals so successful. Following thorough and extensive consideration of all scenarios, we believe that it is ultimately the right decision to now reschedule this year's Festivals."

Michael added: "While in some ways this has been a challenging decision, we strongly believe it is in the best interests of everyone at this time to reschedule the Festivals. I appreciate the

support of Blackpool Council in coming to this decision and I would like to thank the UK Government and public health authorities for their guidance and advice. At this time, we are still planning to stage the Blackpool Sequence Festival, The Freestyle Championship and the British National Championships and updates will be provided on a regular basis. The launch of the Blackpool Education & Competition Consortium will be announced very soon and this promises to be a very exciting new initiative. I would like to thank all those who support the Blackpool Festivals for their understanding in these unique and unquestionably challenging circumstances. It is their passion for The Festivals that has shaped our events over the years and will continue to do so in the future”.

Dates for your diaries:

Blackpool Freestyle Championships:	11 October 2020
Blackpool Sequence Dance Festival:	18-20 October 2020
British National Dance Championships:	19 – 21 November 2020
Champions of Tomorrow:	8-10 January 2021
Blackpool Junior Dance Festival:	5-11 April 2021
British Open Championships:	24 May – 4 June 2021

Details of how to transfer ticket reservations to the rescheduled dates in 2021 or to apply for a credit note or refund will be issued on our website: www.blackpooldancefestival.com

We thank you for your patience whilst we deal with all enquiries and transfers to the rescheduled dates.