

GBF CONFERENCE – THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER 2007

PATRICIA GODFREY'S SPEECH

INTRO

- Good evening ladies and gentleman. As President of the Awards Jury, I would like to welcome you to the Twelfth GBF Annual Awards.
- In years gone by, awards have been made for both positive and controversial contributions to the UK/German dialogue. I am delighted to say that this year both prizes are for extremely positive contributions in business and the arts.
- This year the decision making process was an easier one that we had expected as the Jury had no problem in reaching agreement on our two very worthy prize winners this evening. So, in no particular order....

FIRST AWARD

(Dr Ulrich Bez, Chief Executive Officer, Aston Martin)

- Tonight's first prize winner could be called the "King of Cool" being largely responsible for the iconic Aston Martin brand being voted UK's 'coolest' brand for an unprecedented second year running by the CoolBrands Council.
- Born in Bad Cannstatt in Germany, he has a Doctorate in Engineering from the University of Berlin and more than 30 yrs experience in the motor industry. He is one of the world's foremost and innovative automotive engineers and strategists with worldwide experience of the design and manufacture of cars. Prior to taking over as Chairman and Chief Executive of Aston Martin in 2000, he was a business adviser to Ford Motor Company in the USA and was also responsible for product design and development at Porsche, BMW and Daewoo.
- He is the author of more than 40 scientific publications on subjects relating to passive safety, aerodynamics, material and design and in 1982 received an NHTSA Safety Award for his research into side impact protection and aluminium structures.
- I also understand that he is an extremely skilled test and development driver with a wide experience of racing and sports cars generally and I'll bet he enjoyed road testing this one!

[Film clip shows for two minutes]

- I am delighted to welcome Dr. Ulrich Bez to the stage to accept this year's award from the GBF for his excellent contribution to British-German relations.

Dr. Bez comes to the stage and makes a brief acceptance speech.

SECOND AWARD

(Royston Maldoom, British Choreographer / award to be accepted by Toby Beazley, Executive Director of Dance Umbrella)

- Our second award winner is an international choreographer known particularly for his work in the field of ‘community dance’ about which he is passionate. He particularly enjoys working with groups that are inter-cultural, differently abled and across the age ranges. His aim as an artist is to initiate and deliver dance projects that widen access to contemporary dance and enrich the art form.
- His career as a choreographer began in 1972 when he received a major Gulbenkian Foundation award for his work in a Royal Ballet Workshop. Since then he has created works for companies all over the world, and worked extensively in the UK and Germany.
- His achievements have been many, numbering among them:
 - funded by the British Council, he created a partner programme between Glasgow and Berlin and set up a Deutsch-Britischer Jugendtanz-Austausch. This resulted in exchanges between young Glaswegians and both East & West Berliners and led to similar between dance groups from Liverpool, Fife and Berlin.
 - He has also worked as a visiting choreographer with the Hochschule für darstellende Kunst Ballet School, Frankfurt and most recently with the Berliner Philharmoniker.
- Through his work with young people, he has been in a position to recommend individuals for training at the Rambert Ballet School in England and one of his protégés, Volker Eisenach, with whom he has since worked, went on to become the artistic director of the highly regarded Faster-than-Light youth dance company in Reineckendorf.
- Our award winner most recently featured in the film “Rhythm is it” which documented his work with Sir Simon Rattle, the Berlin Philharmonika and 250 young Berliners.

I’m sure you will wish to join me in congratulating Royston Maldoom on successfully promoting the life enhancing activity of community dance as a means of bringing people together. Unfortunately, Royston cannot be with us in person this evening as he is working on a new project in the USA but he has sent us a special message here this evening.

[Film clip of Royston speaking – pause at end of him speaking...]

Unfortunately, time does not permit the showing of both clips but here is a small excerpt from the well known film “Rhythm is it”.

[Short clip of dance and Sir Simon Rattle conducting]

I am delighted to welcome Mr Toby Beazley, Executive Director of Dance Umbrella to the stage to accept the award on Royston’s behalf for his outstanding contribution this year to German British relations.

[Toby Beazley comes to the stage and makes very brief thank you speech]

To conclude, may I once again congratulate our two worthy award winners and last but not least, thank my distinguished Jury members for their valuable contributions, all of which have made my task tonight so much easier.

Thank you for your time, and in case you were beginning to wonder whether you would ever get any more food tonight dinner will now continue!
