



The original judges are reunited for series five

Step in time

NEW ENTERTAINMENT

GOT TO DANCE HD

Sky1 • Sat & Sun

You're never too old to dance – and the talent show that once featured a sprightly 97-year-old is back to prove it!

Dancer Adam Garcia returns to the judges' panel after a year off, alongside former Pussycat Doll Kimberly Wyatt and Diversity's Ashley Banjo. But this series sees competition between the judges as well as the contestants, with each one picking six acts to mentor.

'We seemed to be fighting over people all the time!' smiles Ashley, recalling the auditions, which were filmed over the summer. 'After five series, we've sat through around 2,500 performances, and while

"cynical" is a strong word, you do start to know what's going to happen when someone comes out on stage. It's the ones who make me sit up and say, "Wow! That's not what I was expecting!" that I look for.'

Contemporary dancer Lukas McFarlane, who won last year's competition, falls into that category, Ashley admits.

'Before he started, if you'd asked me whether he'd win, I wouldn't have put a pound on it,' he says. 'You think, "Oh, I've seen this a hundred times" – and 90 seconds later, after he'd danced, I thought, "This is the winner."'

Davina McCall returns as presenter, and the top prize is a whopping £250,000. But Diversity's success on *Britain's Got Talent* in 2009 led to an explosion in 'street' dance, with BGT judge Amanda Holden

even complaining that the show had been inundated with street dancers. Has *Got To Dance* had its day?

'No,' says Adam. 'The variation is extraordinary. You've got street dance, and all the different types of contemporary – from theatrical to African to tap. There's something for everyone.'

Adam famously stripped off back in 2000, for the movie *Coyote Ugly*. With the judges – including Diversity – set to perform, is there any chance he'll reprise his triumph?

'You read my mind!' he jokes. 'I've wanted to do that for so long. Luckily the budget covers doing CGI of my original body and face!'



Showing off his moves: Adam in *Coyote Ugly*

Natalie Dye