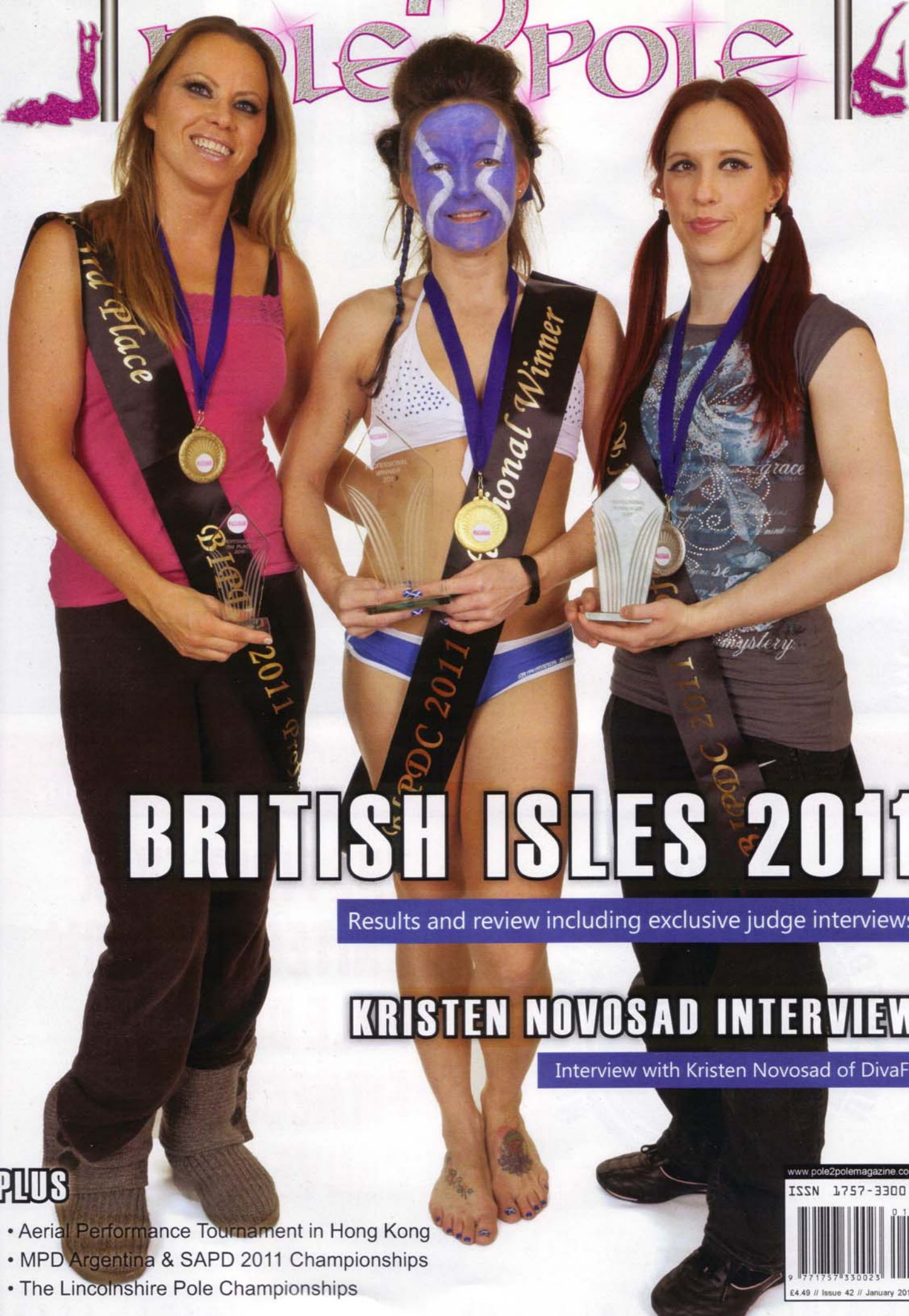


# Pole 2 Pole



# BRITISH ISLES 2011

Results and review including exclusive judge interviews

## KRISTEN NOVOSAD INTERVIEW

Interview with Kristen Novosad of DivaFit

### PLUS

- Aerial Performance Tournament in Hong Kong
- MPD Argentina & SAPD 2011 Championships
- The Lincolnshire Pole Championships

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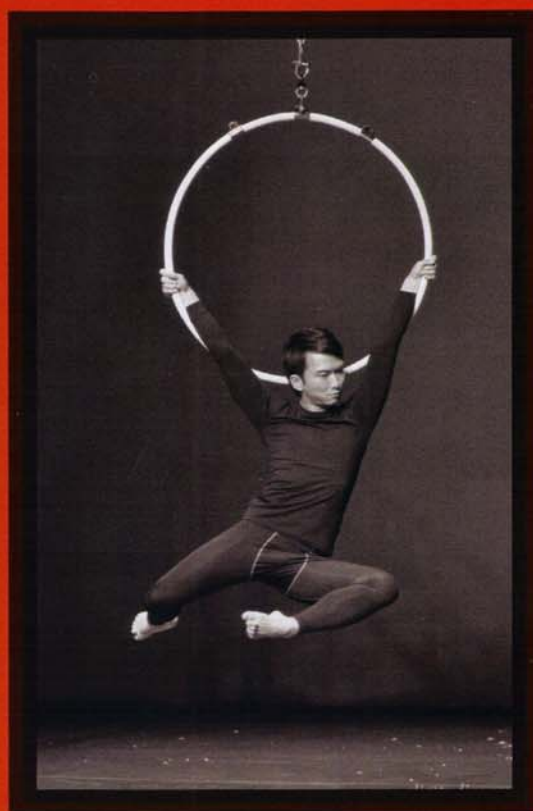


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# Aerial Performance Tournament In Hong Kong



*Photos of event by Ali G*



This was the second year that Pole Paradise Studio had hosted the PPS Aerial Performance Tournament; however, this was the first time that the tournament went global. This is the only tournament in the world that combined the different aerial skills - pole dancing, aerial hoop and aerial silks – and had them competing against each other.

Each category had one winner and from those three winners an Ultimate Aerial Champion was chosen. As well as these winners there were also winners in the following categories: Best Costume and Best Showgirl/Showboy Potential. The event was hosted in Hong Kong and joining the local Hong Kong contestants were athletes coming from USA, UK, Switzerland, Italy, Russia, Japan and the Philippines.

In the lead up to the event there was a welcome dinner hosted by PPS for all of the contestants. As well as dinner there were also workshops hosted at PPS with guest instructor Alena Downs of Pole Junkies in Canada. Many local PPS students, as well as some of the international contestants, attended the workshops. There were workshops on flow and grace for advanced aerial tricks on the pole as well as a spinning pole workshop.

The judging panel consisted of a world-class line-up, including Alena Downs (owner of Pole Junkies, Canada), Stephanie Hoggerl (aerial silks world travelling performer), Suzette Ackermann (owner of Desert Mermaids, Hong Kong) and Denise Hou (2010 Ultimate Aerial Champion). The event was hosted at the prestigious arts and performance location of the Sheung Wan Civic Centre, right in the heart of the central business district. The evening's MC was PPS owner Symone Dolai.

The evening kicked off with the winning routine from the previous year. Denise Hou took to the stage and repeated her Mario Brothers inspired aerial hoop routine and reminded us why she was crowned champion of the 2010 event. This was a great opportunity for people who were not at last year's event to witness the routine that made her champion. After Denise's performance, all contestants were invited onstage to answer questions and allow the audience to get to know all the contestants a little better. The judges were next introduced one by one and the evening of competing began.

The first section up was for pole dancing. There were six contestants competing, starting with Issei from Japan followed by Heidi

from the US, Julia from Russia, Mel Mel from Hong Kong, Job from the Philippines and ending with Masayo from Japan. Each competing section was intermitted with performances from other dancers in Hong Kong showing off their different dance skills as well as each of the judges also taking to the stage. After the pole section, Les Dasneurs performed a contemporary dance piece followed by Stephanie Hoggerl on the silks and The Vixens, Hong Kong's only Burlesque troupe. The next section was the aerial hoop contestants consisting of Zoey from Hong Kong, Byron from Hong Kong and Jo James from the UK. After the hoop section the next group of performers was The Hong Kong School of Capoeira, Suzette Ackermann - who performed with the Desert Mermaids doing a belly fusion number - and Ilsabeth Hidalgo performing flamenco. The last competing section were the aerial silks contestants starting with Becca from Hong Kong, Ilaria De Novellis of Italy, Nick from Switzerland, Lena from Russia and Cassman from Hong Kong. The final guest dancers were Princess Natasha and Ms. Viva troupe, Alena Downs on the pole and Cecilia Farkas performing Salsa. After the judges deliberated, the winners were announced.



## Pole

3rd place: Heidi, USA

2nd place: Job, Philippines

Winner: Masayo Okamoto, Japan

## Hoop

3rd place: Byron, Hong Kong

2nd place: Jo James, UK

Winner: Zoey, Hong Kong

## Silks

3rd place: Becca, Hong Kong

2nd place: Lena, Russia

Winner: Ilaria De Novellis, Italy

## Best Costume:

Zoey, Hong Kong

## Best Showgirl/Showboy:

Masayo, Japan

## Ultimate Champion:

Masayo, Japan

We would also like to thank all of the following sponsors for their support and prizes for the event's winners:

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*For anyone interested in taking part or even wanting to become a sponsor for the world's only combined aerial tournament (the PPS Aerial Performance Tournament 2012), please contact: [info@poleparadisestudio.com](mailto:info@poleparadisestudio.com).*

