

THE DANCE PARTNER

Camilla Dallerup, 32, is a professional ballroom dancer and has most recently been seen on screen as part of the *Strictly Come Dancing* line-up. She lives in London with her boyfriend Fabio, 29, but shares a close working relationship with dance partner, Ian Waite, 35, who lives in Reading.

As a dancer, you get to know a lot of people on the competitive circuit and Ian is someone I've always had great respect for. I've known him since I was about 12 when I would come over to England from Denmark, where I lived, to take part in contests.

I came to admire Ian more and more, both as an extremely friendly person, and as a brilliant dancer and competitor. Although we met up at events and got on well, it wasn't until a few years ago that we decided we should dance together. It was an obvious partnership, really – but it took us both to be in the situation of looking for a partner to realise we should compete as a pair.

We speak on the phone every day, even though we see each other at least three or four times a week because of our training. And he'll often come and stay over, just so we can go out socially in London. I can talk to Ian about anything and I miss him when something like *Strictly Come Dancing* gets in the way of our usual schedule.

Everyone adores Ian because he's so lovely to be around. All my friends and family are really fond of him.

Ian is very artistic and emotional, whereas Fabio is more of a stable 'rock' in my life – but they get on really well, so we all end up spending a lot of time together. I'd actually go so far as to say Ian is like family to me. I know he will always be in my life. 🐾

'Ian is like family – I know he will always be in my life'