



SMOKING GUN

Top ballerina takes Alton Towers Resort's record-breaking new ride for a SPIN ahead of opening

- Birmingham Royal Ballet Soloist Karla Doorbar has completed approximately half a million pirouettes in a glittering career
- Toxicator subjects thrillseekers to extreme spin patterns and heart-pounding centrifugal forces
- It is the park's latest addition and officially opens on March 15

One of Britain's leading ballerinas has been left in a spin - after becoming the first member of the public to experience the extreme thrills of **Alton Towers'** newest attraction - **Toxicator**.

Karla Doorbar, a Soloist with the world renowned **Birmingham Royal Ballet**, put the record-breaking topspin ride through its paces ahead of its official opening on Saturday (March 15).

The mother of one estimates she has completed close to half a million pirouettes in a career that has seen her grace some of ballet's greatest stages, including the Royal Opera House, Sadler's Wells and BRB's home base of Birmingham Hippodrome as well as multiple venues across Europe, Asia and America - making her an unrivalled authority on spin.

Toxicator is the only topspin ride of its kind in the UK - with its extreme spin patterns exerting heart-pounding centrifugal forces on those brave enough to ride it.

Standing at a record-breaking 78ft high thanks to its setting on a 16ft elevated platform within the park's Forbidden Valley. It is flanked by the ominous Nemesis Reborn, which was revamped last year after an incredible 18-month transformation.

Karla, 32, has had a lifelong love for Alton Towers Resort. Growing up in nearby Stoke-on-Trent she was a frequent visitor as a child - and as a mum to a 10-month-old daughter, is looking forward to many more trips in the future.

She said: “Throughout my training and career I’ve devoted countless hours to perfecting the pirouette - whether performing on world-renowned stages or in the studio.

“So when Alton Towers invited me to be the first to take on the unrivalled spinning power of Toxicator I jumped at the chance. Riding it is an incredible experience and very much left me in a spin!”

Karla enrolled at The Royal Ballet School in London at the age of 11. After graduation she joined Birmingham Royal Ballet in 2011. Her career has taken her across the globe to Japan, Spain, Germany and the USA. Notable performances include her dream role as Clara in The Nutcracker, a role she has performed annually.

Bianca Sammut, Vice President of Alton Towers Resort said: “Toxicator is the latest example of how Alton Towers continues to set new standards for heart-pounding attractions.

“As one of Britain’s most accomplished ballerinas there are few people who know more about spins and pirouettes than Karla - which is why we are so delighted that she was the first to experience the head-spinning thrills of Toxicator.”

To book tickets to be among the very first to experience the heart-pounding power of Toxicator visit altontowers.com.

<https://www.altontowers.com/2025/>

Toxicator Fact File

- The topspin ride will allow more than 500 riders per hour
- This double-sided version is one of only two in Europe
- Height restriction: 1.4m
- Green-lit water fountains on both sides of the ride

- Total height will stand at over 78ft tall. This is due to the ride being elevated on a 16ft structure, that guests walk underneath (a world-first)

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Alton Towers Resort is renowned for providing world-class attractions for guests of all ages, including Wicker Man, the UK's first wooden rollercoaster to be built in over 20 years, Oblivion, the world's first vertical drop rollercoaster and The Smiler, the world's first 14 loop rollercoaster, to name a few. The Staffordshire based theme park continues to welcome millions of guests from across the globe, delivering memorable and unique experiences and events each season.

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