

An Official Publication of USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011

Tyler Bridges and Joy Davitt dance to a lyrical bolero fusion choreographed by Tyler at the USA Dance Minnesota #2011 Annual Tea Dance.

Photo by David Chin.

Dance or Ping Pong?

President's Letter

Monthly Events

Colors of Fun

Everyone is a Designer



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See the features at the bottom of the publication.



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Minnesota Dancer

An Official Publication of USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011

USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a nonprofit organization that promotes ballroom dancing. The USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 was formed in 1991. Membership in USA Dance is open to dancers of all levels. USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 sponsors monthly dances and other special dance events. Members receive discounts on admission to monthly dances, as well as other benefits.

The Minnesota Dancer is published monthly by the USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011, to provide information and news about ballroom dancing.

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Dance or Ping Pong? Assessing Midlife Goals



By Lorie Hurst

Lorie and her husband CJ are enthusiastic ballroom dance competitors!

Lorie is also a certified massage therapist and the owner of Thankful Body

Massage. More information about massage for dancers can be found at: www.thankfulbodymassage.com.

My husband CJ has been my dance partner our entire married life. We met at a group dance lesson, and as they say, the rest is history. But lately another sport has caught his attention. He has gotten into ping pong. He now looks at his ping pong paddle the way he used to look at his tuxedo.

A recent discussion with dance friends had us talking about how our dance journey ebbs and flows, and I found myself admitting we were in a valley. I had every expectation that we would be on another mountain top soon, but...then I caught CJ booking out-of-state tournaments and buying ping pong shirts and shoes. This is getting serious. Is it a dance medal or a ping pong trophy waiting for us on that next mountain top? And wait—there is no "us" in ping pong!

That got me thinking what I assume all of us dancers think periodically: Where exactly are we with our dancing? Considering the time, money, energy, and effort our sport requires, it isn't something we would coast on indefinitely if the foundations of enjoyment, achievement, progress, or passion weren't there. So I sat down and did some assessing.

I still remember the thrill of all those dancing "firsts". I had

never competed in anything athletic in my life. I had graduated valedictorian from high school, but wasn't permitted to pursue any sports during my high school career. Just seeing that my body could, with enough effort and determination, do something physical and even graceful, filled my heart with pride. Learning those first steps felt wonderful, and fed the hunger to keep learning more. Winning our first competition was a high from which I didn't come down for several days.

CJ and I were required to do pre-marital counseling at the church where we got married. The pastor stressed how



CJ and Lorie Hurst at American Classic Showcase.

Photo by Gary Westlund



CJ and Lorie Hurst perform at Mall of America.

Photo by Jana Rose Arts

important it was that we develop pastimes together. We both assured him we already had one. But he gave us our folder of homework anyway, emphasizing the brainstorming he expected us to do and the invaluable help it would be to our relationship.

When we finally got to explain that we danced together, and were literally in each other's space several times a week, his whole expression changed. "Well, I see you do have that part taken care of!" he concluded. Chalk up several more points to pride. Not only did I love my hobby, it was already marriage therapy.

I don't know exactly when dance's shine wore off. I'm sure it was a process. But not only was it inevitable, it was a beneficial

step. Like a good relationship, those initial stomach flutters and constant excitement gave way to something better—a deep solid love and commitment to something I wanted in my life forever. That made it easier to handle the ups and downs. And they most assuredly did come. The ups were wonderful: we won many competitions; we have learned countless new and fun steps; we have seen quantifiable progress as we rose through the ranks of syllabus into open choreography; we showed off our skills for family and friends who applauded like we were stars. But those downs were just as real: being so tired from long days of work and forcing myself to go to evening dance lessons when it was the last thing I wanted; feeling like months of choreography went down the drain on the competition floor when CJ forgot the steps and did the entire round with basics; spending four lessons in a row learning one three-second turn that I was convinced we already learned years ago; and swearing that, marriage therapy be damned, if he stepped on my foot one more time he was sleeping on the couch.

But this was just real life, right? Right. That is, until ping pong came waltzing in. We needed to talk.

I felt like a Harlequin drama queen when I came right out and asked, "Okay, Honey, what do you love more, dance or ping pong?" Because there WAS a right answer. Blissfully unaware that my question was anything but neutral, he thankfully chose correctly. And then there we were, discussing dancing goals with proficiency that would make our pastor proud.

Dance lessons can be tough, but they are "the process". And we have got to enjoy the process. The end goal of actually performing comes only for us in competitions and showcases. That's a few times a year. Lessons are twice a week. On the

balance scale of quality-of-life assessments, if we aren't enjoying the process, it isn't worth it. Sometimes it takes effort to keep lessons upbeat, or refrain from berating ourselves when we still haven't gotten it. We have to give ourselves credit for getting out and doing it, because the alternative would be sitting on the couch with novels or laptops. Sometimes we need to work on something new instead of going over and over something that has become tedious. Every step can always use improvement. But if enjoying the process means we need something refreshing, we have to give ourselves permission to do that. Lastly, we have to be gracious in correcting each other. Marriage therapy can quickly turn into marriage threat in a dance lesson!

As well as taking steps to make sure we are enjoying the process, we talked about the end goals too. As ladies know, getting dressed up for competitions and showcases is no small task. After hours of preparation, we get to shine in that spotlight for a few minutes. How can we get the most enjoyment out of that? CJ and I concluded that it really means a lot for us to have a personal audience at showcases. In the past, we have seen the value of simply getting floor time. But after more than ten years, we know we could accomplish that in much easier ways. We need to do a better job of inviting people in our lives to come to showcases. Those occasions are a chance to share something we love with people we love.

We have become pickier with our competitions too. We enjoy beautiful venues and well organized events. We have found from experience that it makes a huge difference to us to have the hotel room and the competition in the same building. We also prefer hotels with restaurants in them. We look for competitions that are big enough so we aren't dancing uncontested. We are

thankful that there are enough competitions out there that we can choose several each year that give us the most possible enjoyment.

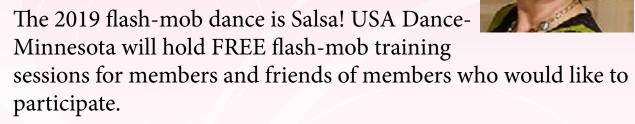
It will be different for everyone. But it's important to assess periodically if dance's role in your life is still what you want it to be. It turns out CJ and I still share our goals and priorities. But after years of doing something routine, it's good to verbalize that. When a friend recently discovered that CJ was into ping pong, she exclaimed, "You are married to Forrest Gump!" Yup. But now, his tuxedo and I both feel a lot better.



President's Letter

By Joyce Thompson

Joyce Thompson is a long time volunteer of Minnesota Chapter #2011, and is current President of the chapter.



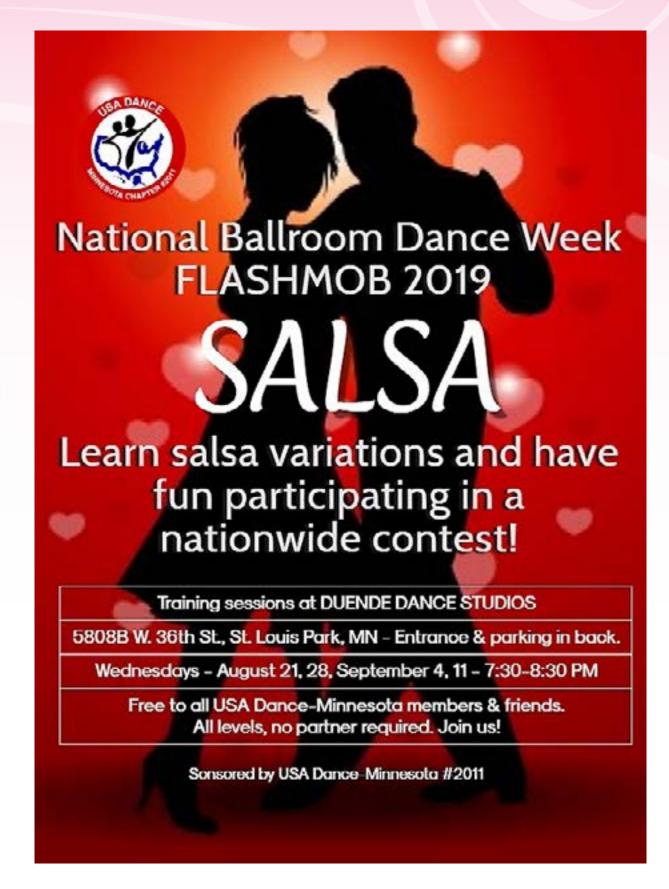
Mark your calendar now to learn the flash-mob Salsa choreography on August 21, 28 and September 4 and 11, from 7:30-8:30 PM. Lessons will be held at Duende Dance Studios in St. Louis Park with instructor Byron Johnson.

No partner is necessary, all levels are welcome, and did I mention the lessons are free? Learn some great variations on Salsa and have fun participating in the nationwide flash-mob contest. The flash-mob group will perform the opening number at the Mall of America in our annual USA Dance-Minnesota demo.

In addition, if you would like to further enhance your salsa skills, the USA Dance-Minnesota Sunday Project Dance sessions in August and September will also feature Salsa. These are progressive lessons and offer additional opportunities to increase your skills in this popular dance. Project Dance sessions will be held August 4, 11, 18, 25 and September 8, 15, 22, 29, at 1:30 PM. Project Dance is held at Tapestry Folkdance Center, Minneapolis. The cost is \$5 per session per USA Dance-Minnesota member/\$10 per session for non-members.

We hope to see you all at either the Salsa Flash-mob training sessions and/or the Project Dance progressive salsa lessons.

Happy Dancing!





National Governing Body of DanceSport, Member Organization of the US Olympic Committee, and the World DanceSport Federation

MINUTES FOR CHAPTER 2011 BOARD MEETING May 7, 2019		
Voting Member	Title	In Attendance
Joyce Thompson	President	Yes
Leland Whitney	Vice President	Yes
Carol Post	Secretary	Yes
Russell Alliev	Treasurer	Yes
Bonnie Burton	Board Member at Large	Yes
Stephanie Clausen	Board Member at Large	Yes
Marla Heisterkamp	Board Member at Large	No
Gary Stroick	Board Member at Large	Yes
Leslie Whitney	Board Member at Large	Yes

Roll Call: There are currently 9 filled seats on the Chapter Board. A quorum consists of 5 or more members in attendance. A quorum is present as 8 members are in attendance. Any motion requires a simple majority of the filled seats which is half of the board rounded up to the next highest whole number so 5 votes would be required to pass any motion.

Lund's and Byerly's, 3777 Park Center Blvd., St. Louis Park Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

- 1. Agenda approved unanimously
- 2. Board Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2019 approved unanimously as amended
- 3. Treasurer's Report approved unanimously
 - a. Tea Dance Project improved profitability over 2018
 - b. Project Dance

- i. Increased profitability attributed instructing same dance for two months rather than a one month period
- 4. Board Membership
 - a. Accept Marla Heisterkamp's request for a leave of absence as a resignation. Approved unanimously.
 - b. Solicitation for new members will be published on web site and next Minnesota Dancer.
- 5. Communications Coordinator Report
 - a. Minnesota Dancer
 - i. Paul Stachour sold four ads
 - b. Monthly News Email (Constant Contact)
 - i. The May 1 monthly news was emailed to 300+ subscribers
 - ii. 165 recipients (55%) opened the email as of May 7. After opening/reading the email
 - 1. 33 recipients clicked the link to the lead article about the 2019 Flashmob
 - 2. 44 recipients clicked the link to view the interactive publication (Minnesota Dancer)
 - 3. 7 users clicked through to view the chapter website

c. Facebook

i. Each monthly dance will be set up individually as a Facebook Event on the USA Dance-Minnesota Facebook group. This group currently has 602 members. The advantage to doing this is each event will "pop" up automatically at the appropriate time to remind the group members of the event.

d. Website

i. The Chapter website is up to date through June, 2019 with USA Dance Minnesota events.

6. Social Dance Coordinator Report

- a. 2nd Friday Dance on May 10th co-hosted with Tapestry
- b. 3rd Saturday Dances
 - i. May 18-Cinema Ballroom-Hustle
 - ii. June 15-American Classic Ballroom-Tango
 - iii. July 20- Duende Dance Studio-Cha Cha Cha
 - iv. August 17- American Classic Ballroom-Waltz
 - v. Nov 16-Dancers Studio-Viennese Waltz
- c. Project Dance
 - i. May 5, 12, 19, June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 Duende Dance Studio Waltz
 - ii. August 4,11, 18, 25, Sept 8, 15, 22, 29 Salsa
 - iii. October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3, 10, 17, 24 TBD
- d. Dance Etiquette concerns exist regarding specific dance behavior which will be addressed directly by a board member with the individual

7. Special events:

- a. Tea Dance financially successful, but concerns expressed regarding other organizations scheduling their events on the same day
- b. Flash mob Salsa choreography released and project dance scheduled to teach Salsa. Need to find project manager.
- c. National Ballroom Dance week Mall of America performance in early October
- d. Dance camp considering a partnership and camp in 2020
- 8. Membership Report Membership at 267 holding steady relative to 2018 (261)
- 9. Marketing/Publicity Report no report

- 10. Collegiate Ballroom Dance Coordinator Report
 - a. Leslie, Lee, and Joyce will meet with St. Thomas students regarding potential board members.

11. K-12 Report

- a. Dancing Classrooms annual fundraiser is May 8 and Colors of the Rainbow Team Match is May 19. There are 40 classrooms committed for the fall.
- 12. Next Meeting: June 4, 2019 at Lund's and Byerly's in Golden Valley from 7pm to 9pm

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted, Gary Stroick Board Member at Large







USA DANCE CHAPTER #2011 MONTHLY EVENTS

July

2nd Friday Dance

Friday, July 12

Tapestry Folkdance Center

3748 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls. 7–8 pm lesson 8–10:30 pm Variety Dance

Monthly Dance

Saturday, July 20

Duende Dance Studio

5808B West 36th Street St. Louis Park, MN 7–8 pm Cha Cha lesson by Christine Miller 8–11 pm Variety Dance

Project Dance

No project dance in July

August

2nd Friday Dance

Friday, August 9

Tapestry Folkdance Center

3748 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls. 7–8 pm lesson 8–10:30 pm Variety Dance

Monthly Dance

Saturday, August 17

American Classic Ballroom

1495 Steiger Lake Lane, Victoria
7–8 pm Waltz lesson
by Paul Botes
8–11 pm Variety Dance

Project Dance

August 4, 11, 18, 25

Tapestry Folkdance Center

3748 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls.
Salsa
lessons by Byron Johnson
1:30-2:30 pm
2:30-3:00 pm is practice time

September

2nd Friday Dance

Friday, September 13

Tapestry Folkdance Center

3748 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls. 7–8 pm lesson 8–10:30 pm Variety Dance

Monthly Dance

Saturday, September 21

Cinema Ballroom

1560 St. Clair Ave. 7–8 pm Rumba lesson 8–11 pm Variety Dance

Project Dance

September 8, 15, 22, 29

Tapestry Folkdance Center

3748 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls.
Salsa
lessons by Byron Johnson
1:30-2:30 pm
2:30-3:00 pm is practice time

SPECIAL EVENTS

Flash Mob Training

Wednesdays, August 21 & 28, September 4 & 11

Duende Dance Studio

5808B West 36th Street
St. Louis Park, MN
7:30–8:30 pm
Free to USA Dance members and
friends.
All levels, no partner required.

Admission to Project Dance:

\$5 USA Dance Members \$10 Non-Members

You can sign up to become a member at Project Dance! Yearly membership is only \$35%.

Admission to USA Dances:

\$5 Students under 25 with ID \$10 USA Dance Members— \$15 Non-Members

If you join USA Dance at a monthly dance, you attend that dance for free!

Colors of Fun

By Sydney Schoeberle, Heart of Dance

Photos by C.J. Hurst



An empty ballroom can be a daunting place – a vast space, with room for hundreds of spectators to watch every move. But for students in Dancing Classrooms, it's a space filled with anticipation, and pride for all they have learned over just one semester. Plus, dancing's just plain fun!

At the Colors of the Rainbow Team Match on May 19, students shared the joy of partner dance with friends, family, and even strangers. Heart of Dance's spring partner schools also had the opportunity to see that they are part of a larger dancing community. Dressed to the nines and adorned with their team colors, ladies and gentlemen showcased respect for their teammates, and competitors, throughout the day.

"Being here today is a big privilege," said one student in anticipation of the Team Match. "I've been training a lot in my classroom, and just being here to dance and show what we've learned over the 10 weeks of Dancing Classrooms is just going to be really fun."

Local nonprofit Heart of Dance brings the physical, mental, and emotional benefits of partner dance to fifth and eighth graders like this in schools across Minnesota through the global program, Dancing Classrooms. Dancing Classrooms is an inschool residency that teaches partner dance, and crucial life skills like confidence, cultural awareness, and conflict resolution. In classrooms of fifth and eighth graders, Dancing Classrooms engages students with these concepts at an age proven to make the greatest impact.

Purpose, a fifth grader from Meadowbrook Elementary School, was hesitant to start dancing at first. However, no one could tell that by her confidence on the dance floor during the Team Match. By the end of the residency, she could demo each dance perfectly – with a smile on her face of course. On the day of the Team Match, her parents excitedly danced together on the sidelines as they watched her perform.

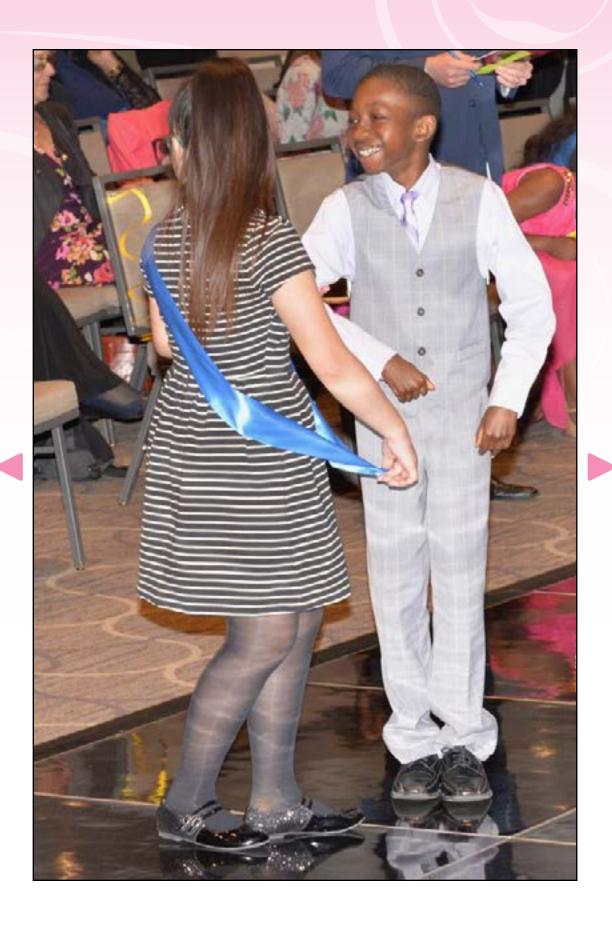
"Thank you for this dance competition," said one dancer's parent. "It gives kids a chance to meet other kids and learn dances of other cultures."

Hundreds came out to the InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront Hotel to cheer on their favorite fifth and eighth grade teams from 18 Twin Cities and Rochester schools. From teamwork in the Tango, to respect in the Rumba, it was easy to see how students learned so much more than dance steps over just 10 short weeks.

Heart of Dance is so grateful to members of the USA Dance Minnesota Chapter who have offered their support and time for these students over the years, including Chapter President Joyce Thompson, who also serves as Chair of the Heart of Dance Volunteer Engagement Committee and as a Classroom Assistant.

Heart of Dance always needs energized Teaching Artists and volunteers! Professional ballroom dancers and high-level amateurs are welcome to visit our classrooms and demonstrate their skills as Classroom Dance Buddies. If you want to bring this experience to a child or school you love, Heart of Dance is recruiting classrooms for the 2019-2020 academic year. Visit www.heartofdancemn.org to learn more about these opportunities.





2019 COMPETITION CALENDAR

July

18-21

Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships

Minneapolis, MN Hosted by Scott & Amy Anderson

26-28

OKC Dreamcatcher DanceSport Championships-NOE

Oklahoma City, OK Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder September

7-8

Kansas City Dance Classic - Registered Event

Overland Park, KS Organized by Matt & Ellen Pansing November

16

California State DanceSport Championships - NQE

Hosted by NorCal USA Dance Chapter # 4004

October

4-6

2019 Carolina Fall Classic DanceSport Championships-NQE

Charlotte, NC Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder

25-27

Chicago DanceSport Challenge- NQE

Chicago, IL Hosted by Chicagoland USA Dance Chapter #2001



2020 COMPETITION CALENDAR

January

10-12

Snowball

Minneapolis, MN Hosted by Donna Edelstein

January-February

31-2

Southeastern DanceSport Championships-NQE

Dunwoody, GA Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder





Tickets & Schedule

All Sessions are Open to the Public

Tickets can be purchased at the Door Or ordered in advance at megamarc@frontiernet.net

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

Wednesday, July 11^h

EVENING – 7 pm\$15

"Night Club" Dance events & Championship

Thursday, July 12th

MATINEE - 8:00 am - 5 pm.....\$15

Pro/Am American Smooth events - Bronze & Silver - Championships & Scholarships

EVENING – 7 pm\$30

Pro/Am American Smooth events - Advanced levels - Championships & Scholarships; Amateur Multi Dance events: Solo Exhibitions

Friday, July 13th

MATINEE -8 - 6:30 pm.....\$15

Pro/Am American Rhythm events – All Levels – Championships & Scholarships

EVENING – 7 pm\$45

Formations: Pro/Am Advanced Latin events:

Professional Rising Star Events

Saturday, July 14th

MATINEE - 7 am - 6 pm.....\$15

Pro/Am International Standard events

Pro/Am International Latin Bronze & Silver events

EVENING – 7:30 pm\$50

Professional Open Championships

"TCO ROCKS!" Professional Show

THERE IS **SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT THE** TWIN CITIES OPEN!!

If you are interested in COMPETING in this event please contact your teacher or email us at

megamarc@frontiernet.net By June 15th!

Sunday, July 9th

Smooth & Rhythm lectures from Sam Sodano, Linda Dean, Rufus **Dustin, Forrest Vance, JT Thomas** And Tony Meredith! **COST: \$110**

10-3 pm





Lynne's Dance News

Dance events for every day of the week.

Updated daily.

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for a comprehensive list of dance events in the Twin Cities and surrounding area see:



www.lynnesdancenews.com



Love to dance? Do you like social dancing? **Interested in competing?** Do you want to learn more? Competitions Social Dances Group Lessons Performances **USA Dance does it all!**

Friendly!

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www.usadance-minnesota.org or info@usadance-minnesota.org

Dance Contacts

If you would like to be listed on this page, send your contact information to bonnieburton@ comcast.net

STUDIOS

AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM 952.934.0900

www.acballroom.com

ARTHUR MURRAY DANCE

STUDIO 651.227.3200

AWAKENED DANCE COMMUNITY

(at 'nMotion Dance Center)

www.awakeneddance.com

BALLROOM AND LATIN DANCE CLUB 952.292.0524

www.ballroom-club.com

BLUE MOON BALLROOM 507.288.0556

www.BlueMoonBallroom.com

CINEMA BALLROOM 651.699.5910

www.cinemaballroom.com

COSTA RICA BALLROOM DANCE STUDIOS

952.303.3339

www.costaricaballroom.com

DAHL DANCE CENTER 507.252.1848

www.dahldance.com

DANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT 651.605.5784

www.danceandentertainment.

DANCE WITH LOISA DONNAY 612.822.8436 www.mndance.com

DANCE WITH US AMERICA 612.564.5483

www.dancewithusamerica.com

DANCERS STUDIO 651.641.0777

www.dancersstudio.com

THE FLYING PIG DANCE STUDIO 612.598.1094 www.tfpstudio.com

FOUR SEASONS DANCE STUDIO

612.342.0902

www.fourseasonsdance.com

FRED ASTAIRE DANCE STUDIO 651.451.6300

www.FredAstaireMN.com

NORTH STAR DANCE STUDIO 612.799.4147

Facebook.com/northstar. dancestudio

STUDIO JEFF 320.266.4137 www.studiojeff.com

T 4 DANCE COMPANY 612-968-2401 www.t4dance.com

CLUBS

CAFÉ BAILAR www.cafebailar.com

LA DANZA DANCE CLUB 651.439.3152

Facebook.com/
LaDanzaDanceClub

LAKESIDE DANCE CLUB 320.763.6432 www.lakesideballroom.org

LATIN DANCE CLUB OF UMN

latindc@umn.edu

sua.umn.edu/groups/directory/group/3713/

MN WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLUB www.mwcsdc.com

REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB 952.941.0906 www.tcrebels.com

SOCIAL DANCE CLUB 952.475.0586 billcarlson@usinternet.com

STARDUST DANCE CLUB stardustdanceclub@gmail.com

SUBURBAN-WINTERSET DANCE CLUB 952.894.1412 www.suburbanwinterset.com

Continued on the following page.

TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

www.mntango.org

TAPESTRY FOLKDANCE CENTER 612.722.2914

www.tapestryfolkdance.org

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ARGENTINE TANGO

Miriam Lea Ziven. 847-340-6854



No Project Dance In JULY

www.usadance-minnesota.org info@usadance-minnesota.org Follow us @USADanceMN





USA Dance Minnesota offers dance instruction to members for \$5. Non-members pay \$10.

Become a member of USA Dance at membership.usadance.org or fill out a membership form available at class. A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a different location every month.

Everyone is a Designer These Days!

© Deborah J. Nelson/Satin Stitches Ltd.

Everyone is "a designer", whether a degree in design is involved, or having your Instagram account followed by thousands, with corporate sponsors... After all, you are a bona fide 'influencer', right?

Dancers start their own costume companies. Celebrities have their own clothing or makeup lines. They are "the designer". Models lend their name to clothing lines and may or may not have influence as to what is presented.

But what really is "a designer"? The old school definition of "a designer" would involve years of formal or informal schooling that includes the history of design, along with design concepts and experience putting those design concepts to use. Formal schooling can be a BFA degree (mine is from MCAD in Minneapolis) in fashion design or a BA in clothing apparel, coupled with an internship with a clothing designer/manufacturer or putting in your years, learning from a professional designer.

Current "designer" credentials are much less formal. A model or a celebrity maybe has 'an eye' for pleasing designs...perhaps they have a good color sense or good visual sense of what 'works' in a dress or costume. Generally a "designer" will hire staff to sketch, pattern, source fabric options and oversee the actual creation of new styles to offer in their 'line'.

These same chores can be outsources by bona-fide designers, when they have the funds to do so, or if they are lacking in some

of these talents. To me, a 'real' designer must have the talents to sketch or at least visualize new designs and be able to supervise their staff on the creative process for these new designs. And this is much easier, if that 'real' designer has a background on the technical aspects of designing and creating garments. Fashion design classes, coupled with interning or working for garment manufacturers from the first conceptions to the manufacturing stages of the business are very important.

Is it a 'high crime and misdemeanor' to refer to yourself as "a designer" when really, you just have 'a good eye' or have a certain taste level? Absolutely not. You want to start a costume business and put your name on dance costume designs? Go for it!

I just googled 'Celebrity fashion designers'. Rihanna, Lindsay Lohan, Victoria Beckham, Kanye West and Gwen Stefani are sprinkled in with the REAL fashion designers that happen to be celebrities. Kudos to any person to oversee fashions with their name on them. Having great business savvy is very important in the fashion/costume design world.

From an article ('Gloria Vanderbilt's Lasting Impact on American Fashion' by Ingrid Schmidt on 6.17.19) written after acclaimed fashion icon Gloria Vanderbilt passed away in mid-June, Ms. Vanderbilt has sometimes been listed as a fashion designer. This is an example of a celebrity, and former model becoming the face of a brand.

"Vanderbilt made her mark on American fashion by debuting what was arguably the first designer denim brand....Vanderbilt, who began modeling when she was a teenager, served as the face of the label....The line ultimately expanded to include additional women's apparel, footwear, jewelry, fragrance and

Continued from the prior page.

home accessories...." She is an excellent example of a 'celebrity designer', one who had 'a good eye' and who was very involved with her brand.

What does a dance costume designer need, to take into account when designing a dance costume? First of all: is the dance costume for one specific person? Or is the design for a group? Are you working with talented support help to be able to create the patterns, cut, sew, embellish and fit your clients (or are you working with a company that can do this for you)? There is much more than drawing pretty pictures, to create dance costumes!

- -If it is for one specific person, then the designer needs to consider the likes and disliked of the client. The client's body silhouette and shape, the purpose of the costume is it for a competition or for a social dancing event? The skin and hair tones of the client are important, as well as the background for the performance, if the costume is for a performance.
- -If the dance costume is for a group, then the design needs to be flattering on all members of the group. The costume needs to be suitable for the style of dance that the costume is for, and details need to fit within the group's budget. Matching dancer's color or shapes is less important because of the group design, but you must be aware of any issues with the group that will need specific styling for good fit for all, or is specific colors, textures or silhouettes would be unflattering for all.

Other things to consider, when designing dance costumes, whether for an individual or group, would be if the costume will be part of a 'quick change' scenario, or if easy on/easy off is very important or not. Also, a dance costume needs to be able to

perform and dance, WITH the dancers – design details cannot be restrictive. A dance costume design may be lovely on a dancer who is standing still, but may not 'work' at all, when dancing! (Yes, these are thoughts for my preliminary design concepts.)

In conclusion, whether a dance costume designer is classically trained or simply has a 'good eye' coupled with personal talents or talents of their associates, fabulous dance costume design adds to dance performances, and is just as important as the moves performed by the dancer.

"Any kind of dancing is better than no dancing at all."

-Lynda Barr

* * *

"Dancing is creating a sculpture that is visible only for a moment."

-Erol Ozan

* * *

"If you hit a wall, climb over it, crawl under it, or dance on top of it."

-Unknown

* * *

"The job of feets is walking, but their hobby is dancing."

-Amit Kalantri

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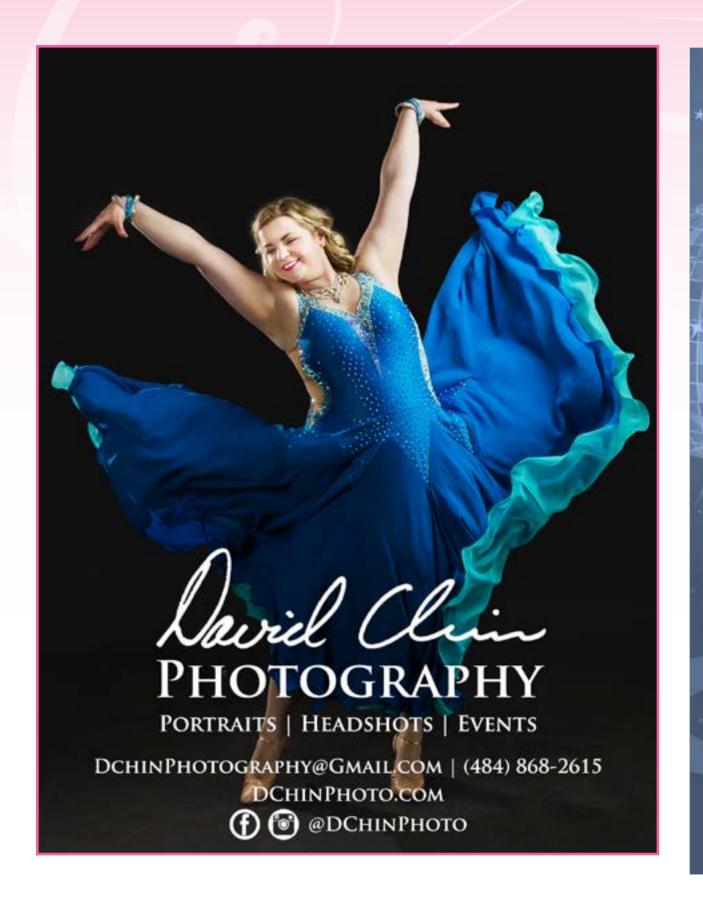
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I'll Be There

- D. Arthur Tsang -

You and I must have a dance,
We must bring our best moves back,
Where there is music, I'll be there. (I'll be there)

I'll reach out my hand to you,
I'll stay in step with you too,
Just call my name and I'll be there (I'll be there)

I'll be there to lead you,
Build my dance moves around you,
I'm so glad you will be there.

I'll be there with a frame so strong, I'll be your lead, You know I'll keep holding on.

Let me fill your dance with spins and dips,
Togetherness on the dance floor,
Just call my name, and I'll be there.

If you should ever find a better dance partner,
I know they better dance nice with you,
Cause If they don't,
I'll be there...



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