

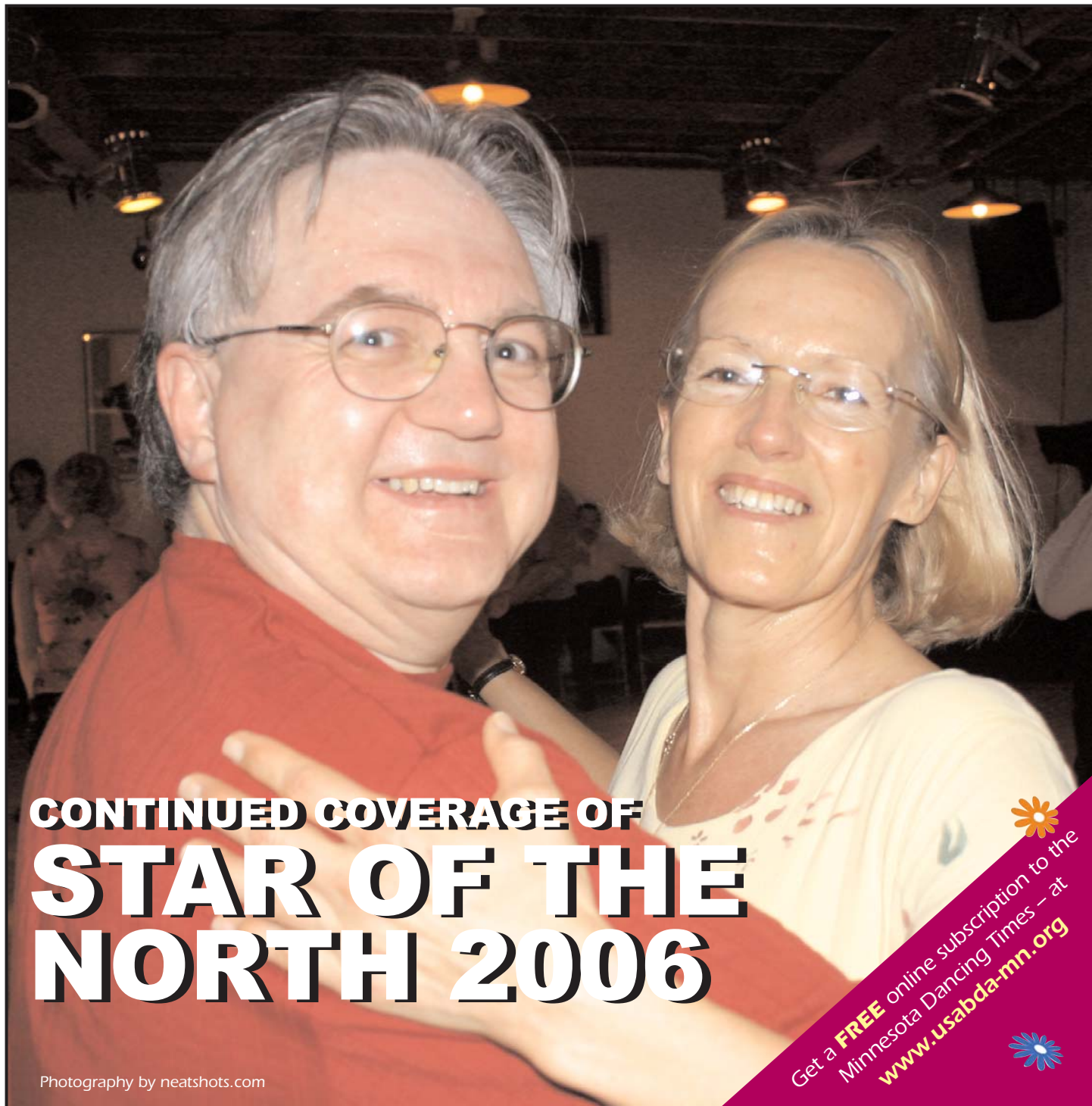
MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES



A publication of the Minnesota Chapter of USA Dance

April 2006



CONTINUED COVERAGE OF **STAR OF THE NORTH 2006**

Photography by neatshots.com

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Minnesota Dancing Times – at
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Inside this month's issue... Spring Forward:

Dancing and kids, speak of color, haute couture and more!



Dancers Nite Out



- 04/06-08, 04/13-15 @ 8pm, 04/08 & 15 @ 5pm, 04/09 & 16 @ 7pm: Beyond Ballroom Dance Company's show "Murder at the Green Lantern Saloon!" held at the Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis. For tickets, call: 612.340.1725.
- Fr 04/14 Friday Night Dancing at Cinema Ballroom from 8pm-12mid., 1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul: Ballroom and Latin dance party to pop music. FMI: 651.699.5910.
- Fr 04/14 Boogie Wonderland Band at 9:15pm at Medina Entertainment Center, 500 Hwy. 55, Medina; FMI: 763.478.6661.
- Sa 04/15 **USA Dance Monthly Dance** at Cinema Ballroom (see ad this page).
- Sa 04/22 Tango Milonga Argentine Tango dance party by Rebecca Abas from 9pm-12mid. at Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul. FMI: 651.699.5910.
- Su 04/23 Dancer's Delight Variety Dance from 2-6pm at Medina Entertainment Center, 500 Hwy. 55, Medina; FMI: 763.478.6661; Admission: \$ 5.
- Su 05/07 **USA Dance's Annual Tea Dance** from 1-4pm (brunch preceding @ 11am) at The Lafayette Club on Lake Minnetonka. See article for more details.
- Sa 05/20 **USA Dance's 5th Dance Extravaganza** from 7-11pm at the Dance Shoppe, 2800 Fernbrook Lane, Plymouth; 4 huge dance floors, 4 styles of dancing at the same time for 4 hours straight! Free snacks and free lessons all night long! Admission: \$7.

Arthur Murray Dance Studio (651) 227-3200
534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN. Salsa for beginners and advanced on Wednesday 8:15 pm/\$15. Date Night variety class for beginners on Friday 6:45 pm/\$25/couple.

Black Dog Cafe & Wine Bar (651) 228-9274
308 Prince Street, St. Paul Argentine Tango night every 3rd Saturday. Lesson at 7:30, dance from 8-11 pm \$3.

Cafe Bailar Dance Club (612) 600-5129
www.cafebailar.com Social dance club specializing in Latin and Ballroom dancing holding dances twice a month @ Fosters' Dancesport Studio, 816 1/2 Main Street, Hopkins. 2nd Friday and 4th Saturday every month. Lesson at 7:30 pm, dance 8:30-midnight.

Cheek to Cheek Ballroom (763) 755-3644
www.cheektocheekdancestudio.com 11415 Foley Blvd., Coon Rapids, MN, 1st Friday Dance! Lesson 8-8:45pm; Dance 8:45-11pm; \$8/non-studio members; \$5/studio members.

Cinema Ballroom (651) 699-5910
www.cinemaballroom.com 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, MN, Friday Night Dancing at the Cinema! Every Friday evening. Lesson 8-9 pm; Dance 9-12 am; \$10/general admission; \$6/with student ID.

Dancers Studio (651) 641-0777
www.dancersstudio.com 99 Snelling Ave. N. St. Paul, MN. Every Friday night, Beginning and Advanced lesson at 8 pm, Dance 9-10 pm. \$15-25/non-members.

Hidden Haven Country Club (763) 434-4626
20520 NE Polk St., Cedar, MN Every Sunday from 6-10 pm. Classic country and rock-and-roll, the band is Ringer.

DNO continued on page 23

Join us for USA Dance's April Dance



Saturday, April 15th

Group class 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Dance 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Cinema Ballroom

*1 Mile south on Snelling from 94 on the corner
of St. Clair and Snelling Avenues*

Free Lesson with paid admission to the dance!

\$7 USABDA members
\$10 non-members

USA Dance MN HOTLINE
(651) 483-5467

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Leave a message for membership information.

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USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a non-profit organization formed to preserve and promote ballroom dancing, both as an art and a healthful sport. The Minnesota chapter, USA Dance MN, was formed in 1991.

Membership in **USA Dance** is open to dancers of all levels. There are several categories to choose from: Social, Competitor, Junior (17 and under), Collegiate, and Associate (professional/instructor).

USA Dance MN sponsors monthly dances and other special dance events. Members are entitled to discounts on admission to the monthly dances, as well as access to a great network for meeting other dancers.

As a member, you'll have fun dancing and meeting many new friends. For more information, call the **USA Dance MN** **HOTLINE: 651-483-5467.**

The **Minnesota Dancing Times** is published monthly by the members of the Minnesota Chapter of USA Dance, providing information and news of ballroom dancing to members and friends.

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Advertising

DISPLAY ADS: To advertise your event or professional service, submit a digital file (**high quality pdf or jpeg format ONLY**) or camera-ready artwork to **Cathy Dessert (651-415-0375 or cathydessert@comcast.net)** along with payment to **USA Dance MN**. Advertising for charge cards, insurance, or travel cannot be accepted. Ads can be typeset or designed for a small fee, contact Janie or Eileen. Payment to accompany ad.

Full page	7.5" wide x 10" high	\$130
Half page	7.5" wide x 4.75" high OR 3.5" wide x 9.5" high	\$80
Qtr. page	3.5" wide x 4.75" high	\$60
Business Card	3 consecutive months	\$50

CLASSIFIED ADS: Free 3-line ad in Swaplines available to subscribers (dance merchandise only).

DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIALS:
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What You Gain From the Star of the North DanceSport Competition

By Theresa Kimler, Event Co-Chair

Minneapolis, MN — The ninth annual Star of the North State Games DanceSport Competition was

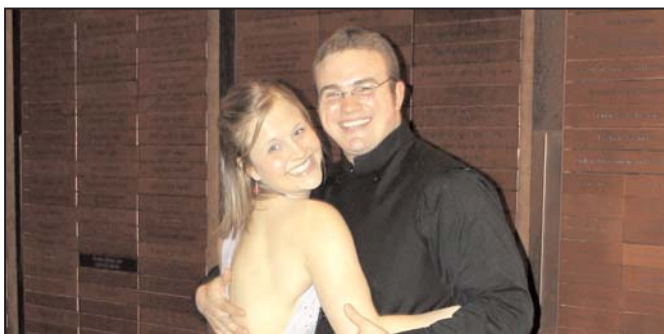
held on February 17-19, 2006 at the stunning McNamara Alumni Center on the University of Minnesota Campus

If you missed this event, it was a serious loss for you. From a competitors' standpoint, the event was a supportive environment and a gorgeous venue with over \$9,000 of cash and prizes awarded. With \$2,800 of trophies awarded, the event was the best-trophied event in amateur history. From a spectator standpoint, it was a high-energy, beautiful event with ample opportunity to socialize and social dance. The only downside was the chance of hearing loss during the collegiate team match competitions. Nowhere else in the world can you watch world-class dancing for \$10.

Star of the North has been the first competitive introduction to ballroom dance for over 2,500 competitors. This event acts as the most amazing introduction to ballroom dance for more competitors and spectators than any other event in the 5-state region. It was a Cracker Jack affair, beautifully produced on virtually no budget. The unpaid committee that produces the event is truly remarkable. A special thank you goes out to the amazing committee, led by Mike Youngdahl. They are very professional amateurs aided by blessed sponsors (foremost being Bill Dessert of Rapit Printing).

Top 10 reasons to mark your calendar for next year's event.... February 16-18, 2007!

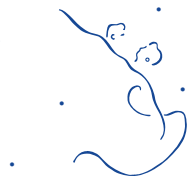
1. Create memories to last a lifetime



2. Watch fun dancing and dancers having fun
3. Promote the art and sport of Ballroom Dance
4. Try out those dance shoes on a competition floor
5. Socialize and do some social dancing
6. Learn something new about dance through seminars
7. Take home one of those scholarships, watches, scarves, or trophies
8. Give out one of those scholarships as an event sponsor
9. To have FUN, FUN, FUN!
10. And Whitnie Noxon, first-time competitor, says it best.... "I decided to dance at Star of the North for the exercise. I came away with so much more...great friends, great fun and, most of all, great memories!" (Look inside this issue to see what other first-time competitors had to say about the event.)

Be prepared next year for more fun, excitement, Rolex momentum watches, and Pashmina scarves. With your help, there will be more scholarships to help blossoming dance stars continue on their journey to discovering the joy, art and sport of Ballroom Dance! I invite you all to help share this hobby you love with others. Please help us grow. Refer to the website www.usabda-mn.org for the Star of the North link and sponsorship opportunities.

USA Dance – MN, the U of M Ballroom Dance Club and the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission as part of the MN Winter Sports Festival, sponsored this event. ■



Jack Frost Didn't Nip Our Noses

By Mike Jones

Well, maybe we got nipped a little on the way to our parking spots. I'm referring to the weekend of the Star of the North Competition. Little things like

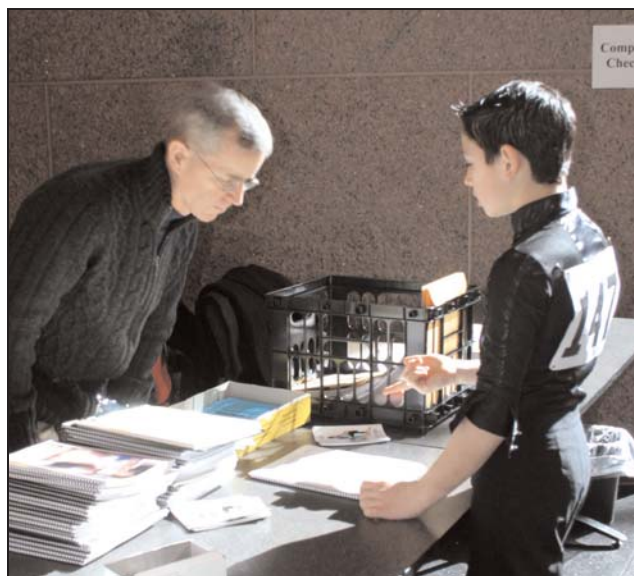
below-zero temperatures didn't deter a fabulous crowd from attending the SOTN's 9th annual event.

The McNamara Alumni Center proved to be an accommodating and inspiring venue that's located in the thick of the action at the University of Minnesota.

In addition to the competitors and spectators there were all of those volunteers. The SOTN needed some helping hands and they came through for us. The SOTN Committee members were all working hard. Over the course of the weekend, we also enlisted the services of almost 50 additional volunteers that staffed over 70 volunteer shifts which added up to over 350 hours of volunteer services. We extend our gratitude to all who contributed their time and effort.

Other recent USA Dance-MN activities include our Monthly Dances, The "Groove" Dance, and The Dance Extravaganza. It seems that we keep sponsoring events that are turning out to be consistently smashing.

For upcoming news and events, be sure to keep in touch via "The Minnesota Dancing Times Newsletter", our web site www.usabda-mn.org, or our 24-hour telephone hotline (651-483-5467). In addition to our regular activities, you don't want to miss hearing about the fun new stuff we have coming up. ■





S • T • A • R
OF THE NORTH
STATE • GAMES
DANCESPORT
COMPETITION

Mixed Proficiency Couples Shine!

Photos by NeatShots.com





Springing Forward

1st Time Competitors at Star of the North

By Anne LaTourelle

For many of our collegiate dancers the Star of the North is time to put a little spring into your step and push yourself to do

something you've either hardly done or never done before...compete!

For most people, even those who are comfortable at the front of a room, putting themselves out there for public scrutiny and possible humiliation takes more than a little spring it takes a big leap.

Even those of us who have gotten used to what it feels like to be front and center and have all eyes on you remember what it feels like the first time. I checked with the U of M Dance team to get their impressions on how it felt to reach past their comfort zone.

Here are their comments:

Sasha Choulenina

"Star of the North" event this year was my first real competitive dance experience. During training, for the first time I became aware of the constantly required effort to keep my chin up, my back straight, my shoulders still and of course, the pinnacle of all concerns was to keep that butt IN. I was taught to emphasize the movement of the lower body with upper body stillness. A tough technique to master, I soon realized that my tongue developed a curious habit of moving in tact with my newly acquired hip motion! This is something I was strongly encouraged to pay attention to by my coach.

Our green and naïve U of M group was confronted with a merging of two worlds. Before, dance was a way to relax and strip away the anxieties of school and work. Now an element of structure and discipline entered this space. I must admit that initially it was very hard for me to preserve a balance between the spirit of the dance and the process of learning new technique. I found myself THINKING too hard about the details of foot extension and connection, while often losing the most important element of any dance: that smile. For a good month I terrorized my poor partner Jay.

I am glad to say that I was soon able to discard that attitude and replace it with a more genial appreciation of what hard work dance is and what great fun improvement can be. Here we were dancing around that studio, moving our hips all around, using fancy dance terms like "my center" or "the four-quadrants of my body" and spinning faster and faster while sometimes even being able to preserve our balance. It was cool! Then we had a riot while trying on and hurriedly



discarding competitive costumes that were way beyond our comfort level. Some guys just could not handle the macho low V cut of Latin shirts. I personally still have nightmares about a certain little red velvet dress with a front cut down to my navel and a ruffled, an enticing tail trailing behind.

So by the time competition rolled around we were ready, energetic, and infused with a general spirit of camaraderie. The process of preparing for this competition and then the experience itself gave us a deeper glimpse into the complexities of dance but also the excitement and pride that comes with performance. For all this I am very thankful to the people who made it all possible.

Adrian Suncar

"Fabulous, loved every single second. Dancing with Whitney was an unbelievable treat! I can't wait for next year...we are already talking about team jackets for next year!"

Peter Westlake

"It was really fun." Would he do it again and why? "It was a great opportunity to train and gave me a goal date to have some technique and steps in good order by."

Mary Jaegar

"I appreciated the support of the more experienced dancers who helped our group (U of M Ballroom Dance Team) get to a place in our dancing where we really wanted to go out and compete. The event gave me a great goal and pushed me to work on my dancing on a regular basis."

Whitnie Noxon

"After dancing my first competition (Star of the North) I couldn't believe the change. My mom could not believe what amazing posture and movement I had developed in a short time."

FORWARD continued on page 9

Murder at Green Lantern Saloon!

Show times:

Thursday-Saturday, April 6-8 at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday-Saturday, April 13-15 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 8 & 15 at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 9 & 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets:

\$25 regular;

\$5 discount April 6 for prohibition-era costumes;

Pay-as-able Thursday, April 13

Call the Southern Theater box office at 612-340-1725.

More ticket information is available at the Southern Theater Website.

Location:

Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN
1420 Washington Ave. S.



Corruption and intrigue result in murder at the Green Lantern Saloon! Join Beyond Ballroom Dance Company as they explore the gangster underworld of the 1920s and 30s, when St. Paul was home to some of the era's most notorious criminals: John Dillinger, "Baby Face" Nelson, Ma Barker and her boys. Enjoy the artistry of this ever-popular dance company as they find inspiration in the seedy world of prohibition-era crime, and take it from the streets to the stage!

Beyond Ballroom Dance Company

Stretching the boundaries of ballroom dance.
<http://www.beyondballroom.org>



DanceSport's Future

Photos by Theresa Kimler



FORWARD continued from page 7

Jay Cai

"SOTN 2006 was more exciting than I expected my first competition to be. It was just the push I needed to improve my dancing."

Darren Fredrickson

"The camaraderie I developed with my fellow team mates on the U of M Ballroom Team Match team really was amazing. I thought we were good friends before the event...we are

looking at how we can pull other dancers from our club into competing next year!"

Remember, mixed proficiency doesn't have to be just about experienced dancers mixing it up with collegiate dancers. If you are new to dancing and haven't tried competing give it a try. Reach out to the experienced dancers and see what having some new goals will do to spring you forward to the next level.

See you all next year! ■

Dancing + Kids = Happiness

By Yvonne Viehman

Secret Formulas for Families Who Dance!

The February issue of the *Dancing Times* revealed how many of Minnesota's dancing couples tied the knot after finding their common bond in dancing. This month we'd like to feature a few couples who not only are married and dance, but who also have children. We'll find out how some of those children have caught the dancing bug, too!

The Knickerbocker Family

Let's start with one couple who's been married for 18 years and dancing together for 5: Bridget and Jeff Knickerbocker. They have two children, Calvin, age 10 and Cleo, age 8. You may have seen this awesome foursome out on the floor dancing their energetic swing routine with ladies' poodle skirts and guys' muscle shirts. They are a delight to behold and receive rave reviews from any crowd of on-lookers!

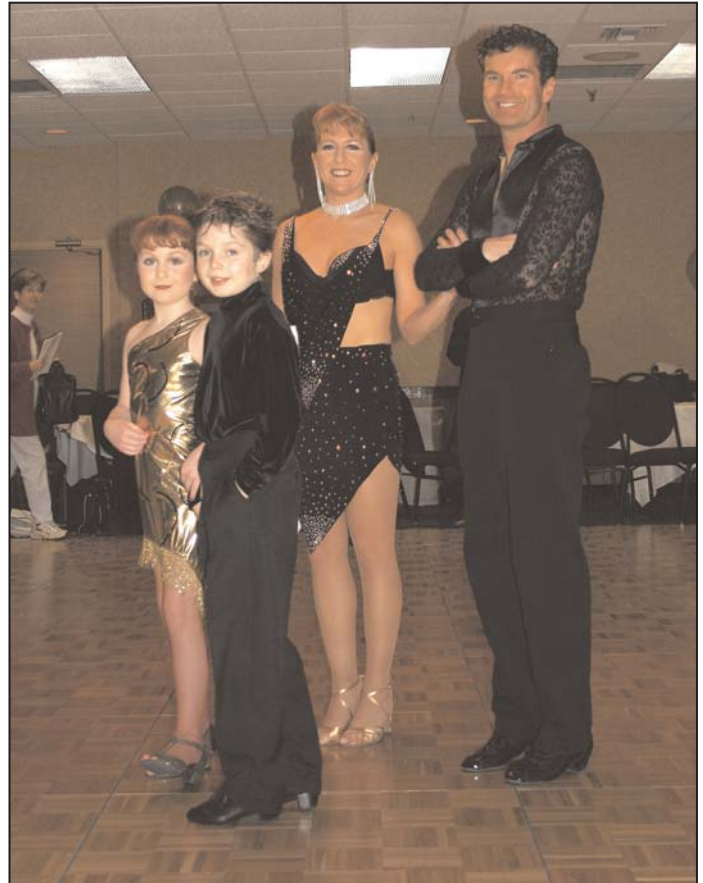
The Balancing Act

Juggling a family and dancing can be a very difficult challenge. The Knickerbockers resolved this issue by getting their kids into dance lessons. The kids were already spending a lot of time at the studio waiting for Mom and Dad. They worked out a schedule where Mom and Dad dance 5-6 days/week and the kids dance 2 days/week. On the days where they all dance, practice is close to two hours. Mom and Dad practice alone when the kids are at basketball, Girl Scouts, piano lessons, etc. Bridget says "the kids sometimes come to their practice and will watch movies on the portable DVD player (a MUST for any dancing family), but they try not to ask them to spend too much time hanging out waiting. Scheduling is sometimes CHAOS, but because it is important, we make it work." "Balancing everything is the hardest part. We are committed to giving our children a normal childhood. Riding bikes with the neighborhood kids is just as important as the next competition. Yes, the kids have sometimes missed school to attend a competition, but as long as their academics hold up, the family experience is worth it."

The Competition Begins

Calvin and Cleo have been dancing together for 2 1/2 years and their first competition was Twin Cities Open in 2004. Neither had any formal ballet-like training, but both have done a little gymnastics and Cleo has done a little jazz. Cal is patient and detail-oriented and grasps the steps and technique quickly. Cleo is artistic and spontaneous. Cal keeps Cleo on track and Cleo is the butterfly who draws in the crowd.

They first performed at Dancer's Studio in December 2003, with their parents, in a family Cha Cha. Bridget tells of this most memorable moment: "We started the routine with parents dancing with the kids, then half way through the routine, we traded and the kids got into frame. Cleo was 7 and Calvin, 9. They looked so small on that big floor. The crowd went wild when they saw the kids were going to dance with each other. The roar of the crowd put an



ear-splitting grin on Cleo's face, which lit up Calvin's face. At that moment, they were hooked on performance dancing. When we walked off the floor, I was so proud and happy, I was almost in tears. I put that moment as one of the highlights of my life...right up there with marrying my wonderful husband and the births of my gorgeous children!"

Giving Back as a Family

Bridget adds another fond memory: "Our family routines continue to charm and bring joy. On New Year's Eve day 2004, we went with a group of dancers to an assisted-living facility for the elderly. The residents had a special mid-afternoon meal and we were their New Year's celebration entertainment! Our family routine received a standing ovation (by those who could stand...). The joy we were able to give by sharing our family dance filled our souls. At the close of the demo, the floor was opened up for social dancing. All the dancers asked people in the audience to dance. Calvin, now age 10, wearing his smooth outfit, asked if anyone would like to dance. Two 80-90 year old women stood up and fought to take his arm. He led the winner to the dance floor and led her smoothly through a foxtrot and a waltz. No mom could have been prouder!"

DANCING + KIDS continued on page 11

A Time to Dance, A Time to Play

When asked what lessons they've learned from their kids regarding dancing, Bridget provided some great advice: "to keep things in perspective – it's just dancing for heaven's sake! In past issues of *Dancing Times*, you may have read articles by couples on the challenges of being both romantic and dance partners...take that challenge and multiply it by 4 when you are dancing as a family. As we all know, competitive dancing can become very serious, and we sometimes forget that we started dancing to have fun. Kids never forget about having fun. They help us remember that there is a time to be serious and a time to play."

An Embarrassing Moment

Bridget recalls an embarrassing moment in the dressing room as she's reminded that children are very curious and brutally honest...She and Cleo were changing costumes and Cleo's wide eyes were absorbing all the activity and trying to make sense of it all, she said in a stage whisper, "Mama, why is that lady wearing that funny bra and why does her fat poke out under the bra?"

Bonding Time

The Knickerbockers enjoy the unique family bond that dancing provides. Although they have their individual interests: Jeff likes to cross-country ski, Bridget is into digital photography, Cal plays basketball and track and Cleo is a Girl Scout, the shared experiences create a common history that brings them closer as a family. Out-of-town competitions turn into family vacations! As a family, they also love to go camping and climbing. Rock-climbing lessons may be their next adventure. You need to be 10 years old to take lessons and Cleo turns 10 in August. Bridget notes that keeping things in balance is important and that the kids would burn out on ballroom dancing if that were their only hobby.

Kids Say the Darnedest Things

The family has come up with a phrase when they screw up on choreography or do something really stupid, "UGH!" Bridget recalls that they've all had their "UGH!" moments, like the time they were doing their family swing routine for the first time at a *Dancer's Studio* showcase. She wanted to start leading Calvin back to the center of the floor ahead of the correct timing. Calvin stood his ground, planted his feet, and said, "NO MOM, NOT YET," much to the amusement of the judges and the audience. After the showcase, all three judges wrote on the scorecards, "MOM, FOLLOW YOUR SON!"

Dancing in sync with children is an experience – especially with a new routine. Jeff usually has one eye on Bridget and on eye on Cal. If Cal changes choreography, Jeff makes a quick switch too. However, Bridget can't watch the kids as she gets too nervous.

Is Dancing Cool at School?

When asked if any of Cal and Cleo's friends have learned to dance as a result of seeing them dance, Bridget responded, "Cal and Cleo are half proud and half embarrassed about their dancing. No other kids in their schools ballroom dance. Lots of other kids hip-hop and jazz, but they are the only ballroom dancers. This doesn't stop Cal from leading the girls through some cool moves at the 6th grand

dance however! And he never refuses to perform at school functions, so I guess it is sort of cool. It makes them special and everyone likes to be special."

The Kortshagen Family



Our next featured couple is Uwe and Dagmar Kortshagen. They have been married for 13 years and dancing for 14 years. Shortly after they started dating, they signed up for a group class since they both liked to dance. For years they strictly danced socially. Their first competition wasn't until 1997 or 1998 at the *Dance Shoppe*. Dagmar thought they'd signed up for two show dances, but to her surprise it was a competition. Everything must have gone well that day, because they were hooked on competing from that moment on! They practiced 3-4 times a week and when a competition was looming, practice time increased. Like every other competitor at the Championship level, their time was divided between work and dancing. Dagmar felt sometimes that the dancing was the harder part. They loved dancing and still do, but after so many years, they wanted something more meaningful in their lives than chasing after a trophy...

Family First

They decided to adopt. In November 2004, they became instant parents to four daughters ages: 16 months, 3, 6 and 10 years old. Life as they knew it changed big time! Has Uwe, the scientist, gone mad? Were Dagmar's fancy dresses destined to become extinct in the back corner of the closet? No, but Dagmar's dresses had been replaced by anything that looked sturdy and stain-resistant! Their dancing days were reduced to none for the first few months as their energy levels were depleted due to...parenthood. When family life

settled into a routine somewhat, Uwe and Dagmar reclaimed a life beyond parenthood, however small. They arranged for a babysitter once a week and started to practice again. Where dance practice before tended to be like a chore, it was now a very special treat to be savored. They practice 1 1/2 hours/week, but they found it to be more efficient than what they had done previously. No time to waste with pointless arguing, just put on your dance shoes and dance your best. Since dancing is no longer their top priority, Dagmar says their dancing is more relaxed and maybe even better! They gave up competing nationally as it would require too much time away from their family, but they are happy to dance at local competitions.

The Honest Truth

On weekends they take their daughters with them to the studio and they have a blast. First, the girls zoom around the place, then when Uwe and Dagmar are done dancing, they all hop around together. Kids are tough critics. Dagmar adds, "trust your kids or your coach to find your weaknesses and rub it in, like one daughter told her, 'Mom, aren't you supposed to smile?' and 'Why did you wiggle around on that foot?' or 'Dad, what did you say to mom when you passed by?'" They also can be their greatest cheerleaders, "Go Mom! Go Dad!" and the girls give them a pat on the back when they hang exhausted and sweaty over a chair after a practice round. Dagmar says that so far "our daughters have been supportive of our dancing."

Playtime is a Necessity

Dagmar continues, "We do things and go places they want to go. In return, Mom and Dad get to do their stuff once a week. Everybody needs to have playtime! All of our daughters like to move around to music and the whole family can be seen dancing together in the living room or pretty much everywhere else." As far as any of the girls taking up dancing, Dagmar and Uwe say that's fine, but they're certainly not pushing for anything.

The Boole Family

Lance and Karen have been married for 18 years. They met ballroom dancing at Medina Ballroom 22 years ago. Karen says, "we saw each other 'across a crowded dance floor' – no lie! We had a fantastic wedding dance with ballroom, country and polka dancers all sharing the floor.

Circle of Love

About four years later, their son, Adam, was born and two years later came Emily Ann. Karen claims their kids were dancing since in utero! She danced when she was pregnant (even did some honky tonkin' back then) and then when the kids were babies, they took them to family-friendly dances at Tapestry, outdoor summer concert/dances and Shakopee Ballroom. They danced with one baby on a hip and the other in a front pack. Sometimes people would offer to hold their babies so they could dance, but according to Karen, "nothing beats that circle of love you get when you're dancing with your family!" They continue to take their kids to community dances and they both love wedding dances.



A Passion for Ballroom Dancing

Since their kids grew up around dancing, they've always been really comfortable dancing and were both eager to take lessons in tap/jazz/ballet. Then when they were in 2nd and 4th grades, they became involved a kid's ballroom formation team at On Your Toes School of Dance. The team broke up after a few years, but Emily retains a passion for ballroom. She recently competed with her dad and did very well! She takes ballet three times a week and this will prepare her for any kind of dancing she chooses to pursue.

In Search of the Hat

Karen shares one of her favorite memories: "When the whole family competed at Star of the North, we cheered wildly for each other. Friends and family have supported us by attending these events over the years. We have a funny cousin who wears crazy hats and we always have fun picking out crazy Steve in the crowd; kind of like 'Where's Waldo?' but it's 'Where's cousin, Steve?' in the moose or chicken hat!!!"

Seeing that Joy for Life

According to Karen, "Dancing is such a metaphor for life. Sometimes it's difficult and frustrating; other times, joyous and exhilarating. It's been one of the biggest thrills for us to share our joy and passion for dance with our kids. Kids need to see your joy for life and dancing is a great way to express that. Dancing teaches great life lessons about pursuing a goal, handling disappointment, humbling yourself, sharing your passion and rising to the top of

your abilities."

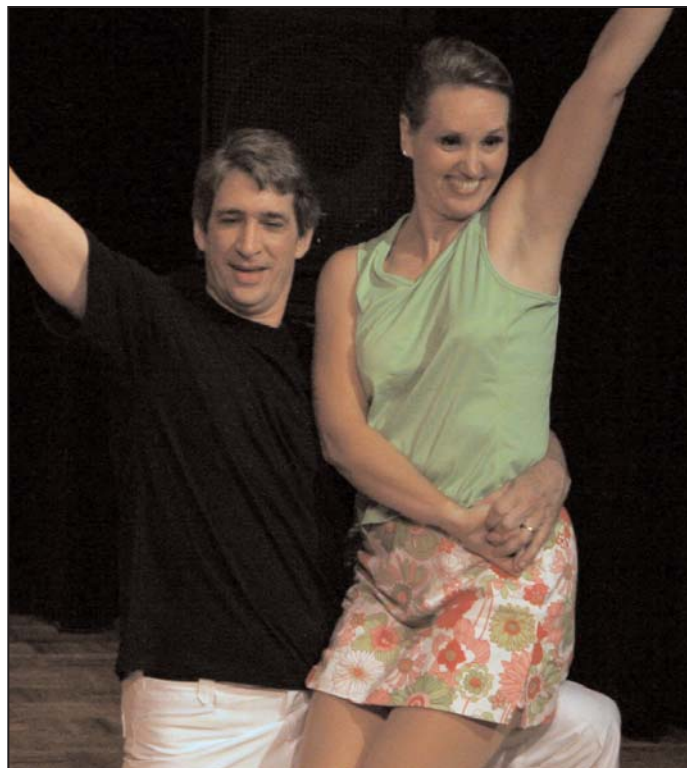
Having It All

The biggest challenge for the Boole family is how to juggle it all. Karen imagines some families/couples do nothing but dance, but they like to diversify to have a full life with active pursuits in church, swim team, Girl Scouts and friends. Karen and Lance say that they will have more time to pursue their dancing passion when the kids are older, but they'll never get back this time with their kids. "Life is good!"

The Viehman Family

Many thanks to these families for sharing their stories of family life and dancing. Dan and I have also found that while we still have a passion for dancing, it has become secondary simply out of necessity. The needs of our sons, Benjamin (age: 4) and Jonathan (age: 2), help us keep our priorities in line. Parenthood was a very difficult transition for us. Before kids, we were very spontaneous: danced a lot, ate out a lot, saw movies in a theatre, slept in late on Saturday mornings, and were able to take on monumental tasks, like running a dance show. Such is not the case now.

However, the boys bring us endless joy and many gray-haired moments. Each day we feel blessed by their beautiful smiles, their ever-constant questions, their silliness when we wrestle, their ability to sing and recall song lyrics, and their incredible hugs. These are all treasures we wouldn't trade for anything. On less-than-stellar days, we go for a drive in the mini-van with waltz music playing – Andy Williams and Johnny Mathis do wonders for cranky, restless kids! When we do get out and dance, we seize the dance! Social dancing



is a wonderful outlet for us. It rejuvenates our spirit and makes us better parents! We hope to get Ben and Jon into dancing some day. For now, you can find us dancing a waltz or polka all together in the living room! ■





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March Monthly Dance

Photos by Theresa Kimler



Color Speaks

By Lynn Kohlasch



Have you ever had a day where people are continually telling you that you look great, but you can't quite pinpoint what you did differently that day? More than likely it had much to do with the colors you chose to wear that day.

Color is taken for granted by most people. The average person doesn't recognize how color affects them physically and emotionally as well as how it impresses others. If you have the desire to make a positive impact in business, in social situations and even on the dance floor, then learning your best colors is the foundation.

The first step to identifying your best colors is determining if you have cool/blue under-toned skin or if you have warm/yellow under-toned skin. The draping of cool and warm based colored fabrics around the neck and shoulder area provides the best way to determine your coloring. (This should be done without makeup on the face and with a covering over chemically treated or dyed hair.) Good colors lift the face drawing attention to your eyes. Your skin will have evenness of color as though foundation has been applied. This creates an attractive, healthy and rested appearance. The wrong colors cause the face to drag down to the color. When this drag happens, your face either blends into the color or facial flaws darken and expression lines deepen. This dragging effect makes you look older, tired and unhealthy.

The use of colors is most noticeable to me when I'm watching the news on television. Television anchors must pay special attention to the use of proper colors because when it's wrong they look washed out, and when it's right they look dynamic. I also recognize how impressive it looks when both anchors wear their best colors. They look professional, bright and awake! They make an impressive team. Keep in mind individual color compatibilities as you experiment with different colors to make your best impression as a couple.

Be cautious about buying particular colors in clothing just because they're the current trends or because you like the color. People are not necessarily drawn to colors that compliment them. I'll use my dear husband Frank as an example here. He is visually drawn to warm-based colors such as rust, orange and yellow, even though he looks best in cool-based colors such as dark blue, hunter green and burgundy.

At first, when we were out shopping he'd say, "How about this one?" and hold the article of clothing up to his face. If it was the wrong color I'd answer, "It makes you look tired." When I first began educating him on this issue he'd look at me as if to say, "Are you off your rocker?" As time

has gone on, his experience in choosing better colors for himself has improved. He eventually discovered that he can wear yellow, but it should be blue-based yellow not gold-based yellow.

Beyond determining if your skin is cool or warm under-toned, you can go a step further and get a color analysis done. The Season Theory of Color designates a season (Winter I, Winter II, Summer, Spring or Autumn) as an effective way to understand and develop your best wardrobe of clothing, hair color, makeup, jewelry and accessories. I spoke with my colleague Lisa Farnham, a Crowning Touch™ Image Consultant, to get some thoughts on how color can affect your appearance, not only in everyday life, but also for us as performers and competitors.

Lisa says, "If you're wearing the proper cool-based or warm-based tone to compliment your natural coloring, you'll not only appear more energetic, but you'll also look like you have taller posture, look thinner, and it makes a more pleasing package from top to bottom for the viewer." She goes on to say, "It's just a little thing that can give you the extra edge in competition. We all want to put our best foot forward, so to speak, and color is just one component."

So, the next time you're choosing a performance or competitive costume, or if you're just at the store doing some personal clothes shopping, keep in mind the importance of color. And once you start wearing your best colors, you will not only look great, you'll feel great – and the world will take notice!

For color analysis questions feel free to contact Lynn Kohlasch at 612-240-5042 or lkohlasch@earthlink.net. ■



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What's Haute?

By Marsha Wiest-Hines, *Made for Movement*

Ballroom costume fashion trends can be explored using three design elements, color, texture and shape.

Color is arguably the most important design element of a costume. Color makes a quick first impression with the viewer, and invariably is the designation that is used for recognition. "Did you see that dress?" "Which one?" "The ___ one." Nine times out of ten, that blank will be filled with a color name. I think most people even designate dancers they don't know by the color of their costume. "Did you see that girl?" "Which one?" "The one in the red!" If there are two red dresses, our next designation is usually hair color, (the blonde in the red) so again, color is a defining element.

Recently, my new 2006 color cards arrived from Chrisanne, one of the largest ballroom costume fabric suppliers in the world. Colors change from year to year (sometimes even seasonally), and the ballroom fabric industry tends to follow the world of fashion, although the offerings are frequently brightened and purified for maximum floor impact. If you see it in the stores, you will likely be able to find a similar color for the competition floor. For 2006, fashion dictates deeper, richer, more intense and complex colors.

There are several new colors on the charts this year. First and foremost, there is a new "Gemstone Collection", featuring Amethyst, Amber and Peridot. The Amethyst is a warm, rich purple, and not surprising, following last season's success with Lupin and Orchid. Amber is a coppery, burnt orange, and especially luscious in the stretch satin. After a fall of gorgeous and plentiful greens in street wear, lovely celery, lime, eggplant and avocado, I was personally hungry for the ballroom versions. The Peridot is a middle value olive, and although I love it, I predict it probably will not appeal to many dancers. Please! Prove me wrong.

There is also a wonderful new coral, called Pink Grapefruit, that I think will be a huge success. It's deeper than Sunglow, with more pink than orange, and an outstanding addition. It is my favorite of the entire bunch.

Every other retail window at the mall displays brown clothes this spring. But brown in the ballroom? Two recent episodes of *Dancing With the Stars*, (images from which are certainly creeping their way into our American Dancer Psyche) have featured a brown suit, a brown ballgown, and a yummy set of brown Latin costumes. I also see LOTS of brown in European ballroom competitions. I am not promoting here, just observing and reporting.

Chrisanne has a wide neutral selection for this season, beginning with the new, dark Chocolate, and moving on through Latin Tan, Cappuccino, Ginger, Gold, Silver, Champagne and a pretty new cream, called French Vanilla. If you are tempted, beware the black and brown combo. It's not impossible, and I did see several brown gowns worn with black tails at the UK Championships, but this combination needs sensitive handling. I think Pink Grapefruit with Chocolate accents might be a winning combination for this year. (OK... that was promotion!) Browns also look great with Turquoise, and many bright, vibrant colors.

Texture is a very prominent element in current ballroom costume design. First, there are layers of texture visible in ball gowns. The single layer, sheer skirts of a few years ago are giving way to opaque looks, sometimes achieved through multiple layers. In one trendy new textural combination, satin, slit up the back, front and/or the side, rides along over the top of frothy chiffon.

On other ballroom looks, skirts are covered in flounces of the softest sheers. Both on ballgowns and Latin dresses, rows of feather fronds, or rayon fringe, applied one strand at a time, are providing movement as well as textural interest on skirts, bodices and even sleeves and floats. Latin and Rhythm gowns feature layer upon layer of beaded fringe, rayon chainette, spiral fringe, and wide fringe cut from strips of fabric. In the Latin, the crisp English twinkle flounces in the flamenco tradition are softening and lengthening, and often a bound edge adds another textural layer. Bits and pieces of textural elements are flying about dresses in clouds and swarms.

Satin Chiffon is a hot new fabric with a beautiful soft texture. It has the shine of satin, combined with the airy, soft movement of georgette. If you can remember the Perle Chiffon of the late '80s and early '90s, you know what this is. It combines nicely with stretch satin, georgette and dance crepe too.

One of the hottest new looks is shading, which I believe is as much textural as it is colorful. Commercially ombred and shaded fabrics are plentiful, and many color combinations are available in a range of materials from satin to georgette. These shaded fabrics are expensive, but compared to custom ombre dyed silk, they are quite reasonable.

Lightly sequined fabrics are appearing again after a lengthy absence and embroidered, flocked and hologram laser dusted sheers are also in evidence. There are three swatch cards of prints in my new Chrisanne collection, and new prints have arrived from both of the other European suppliers I use regularly. There are animal themes, large floral motifs, retro inspired abstract geometrics, and tie-dye looks. Prints provide great surface texture but beware over texturizing. If you have fringe, skip the ruffles. If you choose a print, let it provide the texture, and keep the rest of the gown simple. Of course, rhinestones still provide our most important surface texture, and combine effectively with nearly any other texture.

On to shape. Twenty years ago, there was one silhouette, for Smooth and Standard and another for Latin and Rhythm and everyone wore some version of it. Styles changed slowly and predictably. Today, there are many fashionable shapes to choose from in every style, and new ideas appear constantly. Dancers are more conscious of creating a look that suits their particular body and personality, and one style no longer fits all.

A description of the shape of a gown is vastly less informative than a picture. To see what is hot in Standard and Latin silhouettes (and color and texture, for that matter) pay a virtual visit to the 2006 United Kingdom Championships. Go to www.dancesportinfo.net.

On the left side of your screen, find Photo Gallery and click the link to 2006 UK Championships. On that page, search the event listing on the left for the style you want to view. Spend some time taking a look at both Latin and Standard. For me, the winning line-up shots are always telling, as those are the dancers most likely to have the best costumes and most trend-setting impact. Observe silhouette, neckline, hemline, details and obviously, color and texture in use. Although it requires a bit more effort, the advantage to this kind of search is that it allows you to see costumes from several different makers and countries, next to each other, rather than only one designer's take on what is currently hot. This is primary source research, and serious costume research is always done in this way.

Park West Photography attends many of the large competitions in the US, and uses Photo Reflections to allow their clients to view and purchase their work. You can see what top American Style US pros and amateurs are wearing in photos at this site. Choose the largest and most recent competitions listed. You may need to visit the individual competition web sites to find the date and time of the events you want to view to speed your process. Again, look at winning line-ups for the ideas most likely to be timely and trendy. Find the Park West listings at www.photorelect.com/scripts/prsm.dll?storefront?c=07DW. Sorry, I know that is a long and complex address!

The broadcast of the Ohio Star Ball competition, in the guise of "Championship Ballroom Dancing" is also a great yearly research tool, and easy to learn from, since you see the top 6 couples together without having to search through rows of photos to make comparisons. This year's finalists in the Smooth really illustrated my point about there being many styles fashionable concurrently. No two gowns were the same style, although there was a general tendency toward lots of visible skin, and the hip area is generally still fairly sleek. Fortunately, last years thigh-hugging skirts are loosening to allow a better range of motion. Even the men danced to the beat of their own drummers, wearing everything from tone-on-tone vest and trouser combinations to a tail suit with a funky Tuxedo lapel.

The Rhythm too, showed us six different shapes and design ideas, with a unifying fringy theme (texture in action!) and lots of leg to be seen. Now that you know how to do primary source research, let me give you some secondary source ideas. Rhythm gowns should, for me, have a sassy, playful feel, and I thought this group very appropriate. I prefer Latin gowns with longer sleeker lines, and again, I was not disappointed.

For me, there also should also be a distinction between Standard and Smooth gowns. I like Smooth gowns to be clean and bold to reflect the freedom and responsibility of the open work. In this style, there is already a lot of visual information to digest, given the relationship between the dancers bodies as they weave in and out of closed position and expand and contract the spatial relationship they are creating. I think too many details, especially, details that move around the dancers bodies, are a distraction to the nature of the dancing.

In Standard, when the relationship between the dancers is somewhat more static, given closed position as a constant, I believe that extending the ladies movement through the design of the costume is an effective idea. Wings, lots of texture, and plentiful details belong in this style. I'm guessing that you can probably safely say that there was one Smooth gown in that televised OSB

final that I did not think was a great choice. It caught my eye, but I would rather have watched the dancing than the dress. I liked her choice for the earlier rounds. So maybe not every professional at every outing is wearing an optimum, style-setting gown... Something to consider. This is my opinion, and as such, secondary source information. It's a good thing to know this distinction.

When I design, I try not to simply copy what I have seen, unless that is specifically what my client is requesting. Frequently, I combine ideas from several gowns to create a new and unique look. For American style especially, I take cues from contemporary fashion. I comb through In Style, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar and W magazines, as well as GQ for images that I think will apply effectively to the ballroom. Many of my costumes are based on ideas found this way.

I have one final word of advice. Top professional and amateur dancers display new styles to their best possible advantage on their beautiful, young and fit bodies. When these ideas are translated to less than perfect bodies, they can play havoc with round tummies, large hips and thighs, or older backs and sides. It is very easy to fall in love with the body and dancing inside a gown, and believe it is the gown you love. Do not feel pressured to look bad in the name of fashion. There are so many choices that it would be sad to choose a style that did not flatter your particular shape, age, personality and dancing.

Just like the dancing itself, choosing a costume should be fun. Enjoy your ballroom fashion quest! ■



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I'll Never Get Married Again

By Victor Kluck & Katja Fullard

Victor Kluck uttered these famous last words in New Orleans only a month before he met Katja Fullard at a party on Friday the 13th of October 2000. They were married only 9 months later. "I had no idea that I'd meet someone as wonderful as Katja," is the only thing he can say now when questioned about his Decatur Street declaration. "He beeps when he backs up like that," adds Katja, laughing.

Unlike Katja, who loved to dance, Victor did not think of himself as a dancer. "My whole life, believe it or not, I'd avoided dances like the plague. At wedding receptions, I'd bolt as soon as the music started!" However, the dancing portion of his life began in Katja's living room on a Saturday, when Katja's 13 year-old daughter, Myriam, pulled him up off the couch with the words, "Release your inner child, Victor!"

After that, Katja & Victor started locally with beginning ballroom lessons via St. Paul Continuing Education. "Our first dance teacher was Skye Paine. She was terrific, and there was something about being in a large gym with 20-30 other people that settled me down. 'They'd couldn't all be looking at me.' was what I was thinking as we started out," says Victor. "Skye took things slowly, which is what I really needed." "And we practiced at home every night before we went to bed," Katja adds. "It was something we really enjoyed doing together."

Katja & Victor like many different kinds of dances, but they both love salsa. "We started with Esther Granbois' introductory lessons at the Rendezvous Dance Studio",

they remember, "but Salsa was a real challenge. We were completely intimidated by the dancers in the Minneapolis Café. We'd be in the dark corner of the dance floor doing our 2-3 moves, but what we were really doing was watching the other dancers in awe. A few years later, they

feel more comfortable with their Salsa. "We still aren't in the same league as the wonderful dancers who frequented that hot spot, but we don't draw the 'other' kind of stares, either, thank goodness. Does anyone else miss the Minneapolis Café as much as we do?"

Today, Katja & Victor coordinate Viennese Waltz lessons at St. Paul's Germanic-American Institute (GAI). "To me, that's the most beautiful dance of all," says Katja. When Victor began to contribute more of his time to the GAI, they decided to align their goal of learning the Viennese Waltz with the GAI's mission, which is maintaining and promoting German cultural traditions. They started offering

Tuesday night classes at the GAI's historic Summit Avenue facility in Spring 2004, with Tom & Anne LaTourelle as instructors. "Now we're into our 3rd year of lessons for both beginners and intermediates."

"Today, we're still offering these lessons at the GAI, and always in springtime," says Victor. Why? "Because our favorite social dance event of the year is the Emperor's Ball of St. Paul. We'll never miss it. As a former non-dancer, it's the greatest of thrills to be able to dance that most beautiful of dances with my favorite person, my wife." ■



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Dede Ouren
651-452-4340

or

Melanie Helvig
612-722-8480

Spring Time Dancing

By Anne LaTourelle



For most of us springtime in our dance club means the wonderful Tea Dance held at the fabulous Lafayette Country Club in Wayzata. This year the dance is being held in May on the 7th. If April showers truly bring May flowers this could be one of the best Tea Dances ever! Our new hosts are DeDe Ouren & Melanie Helvig! We are thankful they have stepped forward to plan this event after the many years of volunteering by Karen Kettler Tepley. She's a hard act to follow!

What can we expect this year? Dancing to wonderful music played by our favorite duo of Pete and Joyce. You'll have the option to have brunch first (yum) or just come to the dance. In fact, it is easier than ever...if you are just coming to dance no need to buy tickets ahead of time. Just show-up and buy your tickets at the door after 12:30 p.m. The dancing runs from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

If you want to partake in the buffet you'll need to purchase your tickets ahead of time. Brunch is from 11:00-12:30. The menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, French toast, fresh fruits and dessert items. Many of the club members are selling tickets for the brunch so ask around. If you are not able to find tickets you can contact DeDe Ouren @ 651-452-4340 or Melanie Helvig @ 612-722-8480. Prices are \$35 per person including brunch or \$20 per person for the dance alone.

This event always starts spring out on the right foot. Get out from the dark and heavy clothing from winter and put on a spring frock to dance in (ok, guys need not wear "frocks" of any kind). The atmosphere is one that inspires and so is the dancing. Take someone new this year or invite a guest to return to this always-anticipated event. Put a little spring in your step...we'll see you at the Tea Dance! ■

The Vegas Showdown - Excitement All Around

By Debbie Thornquist

The first weekend in March is a great time to visit Las Vegas! Tom and I combined an exciting vacation with a dance competition, the Vegas Showdown. The Vegas Showdown is an NDCA competition that includes professionals, pro-am, and amateur couples like us. The emphasis is on the pro-am, since they feature the national Global B open scholarships, but there were still enough amateurs to keep it interesting for us.

This year the competition was held at the Riviera Hotel and Casino. Although the rooms and the casino area were just okay, the ballroom was fantastic! The Riviera ballroom is located on the Penthouse level and has huge windows that overlook the Las Vegas strip. The view at night was breathtaking! The ballroom has high ceilings and was decorated in the red and black Vegas Showdown theme, including dice and playing cards at the tables.

The atmosphere was exuberant, as we got to know some of the other competitors and cheer each other on. Tom and



I each got to bring home a 2nd place trophy, an official Vegas Showdown mug, and deck of cards (blackjack, anyone?). The highlights included a fantastic show by Bob Powers and Julia Gorchakova, who showed everyone why they were the 12-time professional American Rhythm champions. I've never seen anyone command the floor the way Julia does - it felt like she owned the town! Of course, the weekend wouldn't be complete without a visit from an Elvis impersonator on Saturday night.

Overall, the competition was a lot of fun, but the setting is what really made it exciting. We took time to explore the fancy new Wynn Resort and Casino and also did our fair share of gambling. Tom was the lucky one there, by the way. We went back to see the Monte Carlo hotel, the site of our wedding and reception six

months ago. It was a great weekend of fun, romance, and luck! Next year the Vegas Showdown will be held March 1-3 at the Las Vegas Hilton - hope to see more Minnesotans there! ■

➔ **Contact Cheri at artncheri@aol.com or 763-544-6724**

Flasy fushia silk dress with silver swirls featured in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. Size 2-4. This dress is very eye-catching on the floor. Asking \$675

Aqua and Blue silk and chiffon dress. Gown in long sleeved with heavily stoned bodice and three tiered chiffon skirt. The dress is soft and elegant. Could be used for smooth or standard. Asking \$1100. Size 2-4.

➔ **Contact Michelle at 651-286-6705 (day) or 763-572-0418 (eve)**

Sexy Bright Red Rhythm Dress. Size 4-8. Halter cut top, with stones all around collar. Beading on short flirty skirt moves well on the floor! Luxury Crushed Red Velvet very comfortable to wear. Gently used, in excellent condition - all loose rhinestones replaced by hand. Asking \$400

Sultry & Exotic Gold Latin/Rhythm Dress. Size 2-6. This sultry 2-piece costume has lots of straps and fabric pieces that make for great movement. TONS of rhinestones - on the floor it completely shimmers. Comes with: necklace, 2 arm bands, 2 wristbands, and large matching hoop earrings. Looks great on the floor, very sexy All loose rhinestones replaced by hand. Asking \$600

➔ **Contact Stacie at 612-251-8108 or PIER0081@umn.edu**

Beautiful Designs to Shine mango gown with multi-colored floral chiffon pleats on the skirt. Stones throughout with some brightly stoned accent pieces on the front and back. Less than 1 year old, only 1 owner. Stretchy material will fit sizes 2-6. Pictures available. \$3,400.

Bright fuchsia Dore standard gown. Can't miss this on the floor. Chiffon skirt & float slowly changes from Fuchsia into purple. Stones throughout the dress. Stretchy material will fit sizes 2-6. Pictures available. \$3,000

2-Piece white Latin or rhythm dress. Very playful, has decorative AB accent stones on the skirt, fringes and end of sleeve. The bra is heavily stoned. Material is very stretchy and fit sizes 2-6. Picture available. \$1,700.

Multi colored one-piece dress. Want great movement on the floor - this is the dress! - main color is orange. Colorful stones throughout. Size 2-6. Pictures available. \$2,400.

Aqua and black lace one piece dress. Great starter. Fun, low cut back with short skirt. Size 2-4. \$250 or BO.

➔ **Contact Lynne Schulz at 952-545-2989 or lynneschulz@cpinternet.com**

Red Satin Pumps with Rhinestones all over upper and lower heel area - gorgeous!, suede dancing soles, by Celebrity, 2 1/2 in. heel, USA Size 7 1/2 to 8N; great for holiday parties even if you don't dance!, \$50 or best offer.

➔ **Contact Lynn Kohlasch at 612-243-8800 or lkohlasch@earthlink.net**

Latin/Rhythm Fuchsia & Blue Dress. Beautifully stoned with sassy short skirt and open back. Size 4-8. Asking \$550.

➔ **Contact Theresa at 651-773-3511 or theresakimler@yahoo.com**

Size 2-6 Blue Beauty. Deep royal blue gown with elegant fit and stoning detail on bodice. Effortless movement, latest multi-tonal stones, fabric from London. Designed by LeNique just for USA Dance Nationals. \$2400.

Size 2-6 Grecian-inspired white ballgown. Effortless movement and beauty will be felt when wearing this gown. One arm bare, bell-sleeve on left, slits on hem with scarves for softness. Gold/AB stoning and accessories complete the look of a goddess. \$2000.

➔ **Contact Eileen @ 651-636-6306 or eileen@arcilla.net**

Bright Blue Satin Smooth/Standard Gown. Get noticed in a bright shiny satin gown. Full skirt and cut makes you feel like you're floating! Open back with fully stoned inset and skirt hemmed with satin band. Cut is flattering for many figures. Comes with matching earrings, hair piece, necklace and arm bands. Professionally designed/created by Flair Designs. Size 4-8. Asking \$1200.

Lavender Latin/Rhythm Dress. Lavender latin/rhythm dress with halter style top, ruffled hem and open back. Entire dress stoned in different colored stones which will make you sparkle! Dore Designs. Size 4-8. Asking \$2100.

Mint Green Smooth/Standard Gown. Elegant mint green dress can be used for both smooth/standard. Unique stoning and draped chiffon with stretch satin bodice and chiffon skirt makes this dress feel light as

a feather. Comes with matching earrings, necklace and armbands. Made for Movement. Size 2-6. Asking \$900.

➔ **Please call Anne @ 763-550-1223**

1st time offered, stunning hot pink American Smooth Gown which skims your body and creates great lines. Surplice look neckline with heavily stoned flounce, long sleeves with cut-outs and stoned flounce at wrist, V-back with stoned flounce. The lines of this gown are beautiful and the color really pops. Try it on, only 4 months old. Made for Movement. Size 6-10. Asking \$1200. Call Anne @ 612-280-7818.

Championship level gown. Get the latest style without paying full price! Brilliant turquoise American Smooth gown loaded with stones in a figure flattering pattern! Off the shoulder style with very sexy open back and side slit for great kicks. Slinky fabric really moves and is comfortable. Matching tie for the gentlemen! Can be tailored to fit! Call Anne for more information. Size 8-12. Asking \$900.

Beautiful bright coral standard gown. Size 8 to 12. Made by Marsha Wiest Hines who described this color as "yummy"! Velvet and chiffon with beautiful coral and gold sleeves floats, bodice accents decorated heavily with beautiful colored stones. Very light weight to dance in and with an open back and V-front will fit many sizes and figures. These gowns really stretch to fit a large variety of figures... so try it on! Asking \$750.

➔ **Contact Donna @ 763-557-6004**

Size 2-6 Dynamic deep purple ballgown with side slit has only been worn for Professional shows. Can be worn for smooth or standard. Two beautiful sets of accessories compliment this gown. One set has a rhinestone hip belt with matching cuff bracelets and neck scarf. The other set includes a fuchsia choker and cuffs. Asking \$850.

➔ **Contact Janie @ 763-797-5230 or janienordberg@comcast.net**

American Smooth Sunshine Yellow! You'll feel the energy in this gown. Slinky fabric moves with you. Assymetrical design collar, one full sleeve has bracelet style cuff with matching arm and wrist band, dropped waist belt solidly stoned, multi color AB stoning throughout! Made for Movement. Size 2-10. Asking \$1000.

American Smooth Black & Fuschia ballgown. Striking gown with black stretch lace bodice, 3 layered chiffon skirt, dynamic fuschia chiffon wrap on one sleeve, AB color stoning. Size 2-8. Asking \$700.

Latin/Rhythm Orange Flame! Don't miss your chance to try this one! This 2-piece rhythm dress is "one-of-a-kind" with assymetrical style sleeves & skirt. Sun AB stoning throughout. Beautiful braided detail belt and straps with matching wrist bands, necklace and earrings. Size 2-10. Asking \$900.

Latin/Rhythm Stunning Red. You'll feel like a champion in this dress with bracelet-style cuffs on sleeves and AB stoned matching hipster belt. Has full open back and slit in assymetrical skirt. Size 2-10. Asking \$800.

Gold/Rose-Red Rhythm Dress. Get noticed in this one of a kind dress! Beautiful Rose-Red lace overlays shimmering gold, bell sleeves and flared skirt add great movement. Light Siam AB stoning adds the finishing touch to this fabulous dress! Rose hair piece. Size 2-6. Steal deal at \$600.

Fuschia Rhythm Dress. Gorgeous Rose/fuschia/Ameythst AB stoning, bell sleeves, asymmetrical skirt, low back cut. Shows great movement on the dance floor! Size 2-8. Asking \$400.

1/2 price Rhythm shoes! Sz 8W USA DanceSport Capezio. \$50. Worn once.

➔ **Contact Nora @ 651-489-4511.**

Unique White Latin/Rhythm Dress, size 2-4. Covered in stones and flower shaped beading with matching bracelets. Asking \$1400. Payment plan acceptable.

Elegant Black Latin/Rhythm Dress, size 2-6. Looks best on long bodices. Comes with matching bracelets and earrings. Asking \$900. Payment plan acceptable.

White and Black Smooth/Standard Gown, size 2-6. Open back with beautiful black sheer sash around the front. Stunning on the floor! Comes with long white gloves and matching bracelet and earrings. Asking \$1200. Payment plan acceptable.

Swaplines is a monthly feature offering members and subscribers the chance to sell their dance merchandise. Advertisements for partnerships are not published in this column. Please include your area code when submitting advertisements for Swaplines.

Competition Calendar

April 22-23, 2006

**NC Regional Championships/Heartland Classic
Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis**

Qualifying event for 2006 USA DanceSport National Championships.
For more information, contact Nancy Dew at: dewn@juno.com

May 20, 2006

**Chicago DanceSport Challenge
Sheraton Chicago Northwest**

USA Dance sanctioned event. Hosted by Greater Chicago Chapter.
For more information: www.usadancechicago.org

June 2-3, 2006

**South Central Regional DanceSport Championships
Baton Rouge, LA**

Qualifying event for 2006 USA DanceSport National Championships.
For more info, contact Ann Durocher, 504-722-4800 or 985-853-0030
or email: fliprann@aol.com

June 24, 2006

**South Western Regional DanceSport Championships
Anaheim Convention Center**

Qualifying event for 2006 USA DanceSport National Championships.
For more info: www.usadance-oc.org
or email: 2006Regional@usadance-oc.org

July 29, 2006

Southern Star Mid-Summer Classic – Rhapsody Ballroom, Tampa, FL

For more information, contact Michael Nolan at
mnnolan10@yahoo.com or 813-681-5275.

August 11-13, 2006

**The 2006 USA Dance National Championships
San Jose Civic Auditorium, San Jose, CA**

Hosted by NorCal Chapter. Contact info: James Kleinrath DDS
email: president@usabda-norcal.org phone: 650-591-6757.

January 28, 2007

**Royal Palm USA Dancesport Championships
Coconut Creek, FL**

Hosted by Royal Palm Chapter. Contact info: Bernard Matos 561-282-0899 or brny07@yahoo.com

DNO continued from page 2

Loring Pasta Bar

www.loringcafe.com/pastabar Sunday nights have tango or other latin music from 6-9 pm.

Medina Entertainment Center

(763) 478-6661

www.medinaentertainment.com 500 Highway 55, Medina.
Wednesdays, Big Band Dances, Lesson 7 pm, Dance 8-11 pm.

MN West Coast Swing Dance Club

(651) 777-5599

www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com, B-Dale Club, 2100 N. Dale St., Roseville. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays. Lesson 7:30 pm, Dance 8:30 pm. \$5/WCS members, \$8/non-members.

Rebels Swing Dance Club

(952) 941-0906

www.tcrebels.com Harmonies Dance Center, 10726 France Avenue South, Bloomington. Two Sundays per month, Dances 7 pm. \$5/Rebels members, \$8/non-members.

Shakopee Ballroom

(952) 445-0412

2400 East 4th Avenue, Shakopee. Every other Friday they offer either ballroom or swing or dance bands; lesson at 7:30 pm and band begins at 8 pm. Other dances scheduled occasionally.

Social Dance Studio

(612) 869-2158

www.socialdancestudio.com St. Paul and Minneapolis, 1st Fridays-Latin Dance Parties 9-12 midnight. \$5/person.

Tango Society of Minnesota

(763) 576-3349

www.mntango.org 2nd Saturdays, DanceSport Studio, 816 1/2 Main Street, Hopkins. Introductory lesson 8 pm, Dance 9 pm - 1 am. \$10.

Tiburon Restaurant

1201 Harmon Place, Minneapolis **Band:** Salsa del Soul playing Salsa every Friday! Big wood dance floor, reasonably priced late night menu and drink specials and valet parking; cover charge starts @ 9:30 pm.

Twin City Ballroom Dance Club

(651) 735-2233

twincityballroom.com 7166 10th Street North, Oakdale (corner of 694 and 10th St. N.). M-W: Lessons 8 pm, Fridays: Lesson 9 pm, Dance 10-11:30 pm, Sundays: Lesson 8 pm, Dance 9-10:30 pm. \$7/\$2 off with Univ. ID.

Wabasha Street Caves

(651) 224-1191

215 S. Wabasha St., St. Paul. Thursdays are "Swing Night" with big bands! Lesson 6:15 pm, Dance 7-10 pm. \$7 cover charge.

Correction:

A special apology to Marsha Wiest-Hines of Made for Movement for misspelling her name in the last issue. Marsha's website is www.made4movement.com

May Issue Teaser

Don't miss next month's coverage of...

Pro/Am Dancers

MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES

A publication of the Minnesota Chapter of USA Dance

6130 IVES LN N
PLYMOUTH, MN 55442-1247

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dance Contacts

Pros

Scott Anderson.....	612-816-4446
Paul Botes & Donna Edelstein, Mpls	763-557-6004
Nathan Daniels	763-545-8690
Wendi Davies.....	973-449-7654
Robert & Jennifer Foster	952-938-0048
Donna Frykman, St. Paul	651-777-5447
Michelle Haley	651-699-5910
David Hanson	218-722-0742
Eric Hudson	651-699-5910
Julie Jacobson	651-261-6442
James M. Krolak.....	763-229-9852
Jay Larson	651-699-5910
Monica Mohn	612-874-0747
Mariusz Olszewski	612-242-5159
Eric Remsen	612-724-3156
Mary Rosentiel.....	612-720-2584

Services

Made for Movement: costume design, production, tailoring (Marsha Wiest Hines)	952-595-0003
Satin Stitches Ltd.: custom designed dancewear (Deborah J. Nelson)	763-323-9507 or 1-800-48SATIN

Studios

Arthur Murray Dance Studio St. Paul	651-227-3200
Cheek to Cheek Studio, Coon Rapids	763-755-3644
Cinema Ballroom, St. Paul	651-699-5910
Dahl Dance Center	507-252-1848
Dancers Studio, St. Paul	651-641-0777
Foster's Dance Sport Studio, Hopkins	952-938-0048
On Your Toes, St. Louis Park.....	952-928-7803
Social Dance Studio, Mpls	612-869-2158

Clubs

Café Bailar	612-600-5129
MN West Coast Swing Club	651-426-8658
REBELS Swing Dance Club	952-941-0906
Tango Society of Minnesota.....	763-576-3349
USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter	651-483-5467

**USA Dance MN HOTLINE
(651) 483-5467**

www.usabda-mn.org

Next Newsletter Deadline: April 10th, 2006