

MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES



A publication of the Minnesota Chapter 2011 of USA Dance

January 2007

*"All Wrapped Up" a Holiday
Treat to Remember!*

The Starettes in "Let it Snow"

See page 12-13 for details

Photography by Neatshots.com & Courtesy of Minnesota PerformDance Productions

WE'VE MOVED!
Check out our new web address at
www.usadance-mn.org

Inside this month's issue...

Dancing is a Spectator Sport, Holiday Shows and more tidbits!



Dancers Nite Out



- Wed 1/3 "Dancing with the Stars" at the Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul; call TicketMaster @ 651.989.5151 for tickets.
- Sat 1/6 SnowBall Competition at the DoubleTree Minneapolis Park Place – see 5-time World 10-Dance Champions Alain Doucet and Anik Jolicoeur!! FMI: call Donna Edestein or Paul Botes @ 7763.557.6004 or www.thesnowballcomp@msn.com.
- Sat 1/13 The Classics (50s-80s music) at the Medina Entertainment Center, doors open @ 9:30pm; 500 Hwy. 55, Medina; FMI: 763.478.6661
- Sat 1/20 **USA DANCE HOSTS DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA!!** 7-11pm at the Dance Shoppe, 2800 Fernbrook Lane, Plymouth; 4 studios, 4 hours of great music, free mini-lessons and dance demos!! All for only \$8/person. It's the greatest party in the Twin Cities!
- Fri-Sun, 2/16-18 **The 10th Annual Star of the North DanceSport Competition** to be held at the Shakopee Ballroom, 2400 East Fourth Ave., Shakopee – come and cheer your friends on! Larger venue, more scholarships, more prizes, more excitement and more fun! FMI: www.usabda-mn.org.
- Notice:** December 15th will be the last 3rd Friday country dance at Shakopee Ballroom. Starting January they will be only be held on the first Friday of the month only. Starting Saturday January 20th the second dance of the month will be at Harmonies Dance Center. They will be BYOB, potluck food and variety dance music format.

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.

Babalu (612) 240-9053
800 Washington Ave. N., Minneapolis. Monday Salsa Caliente Night; dance from 9pm-1am; cover \$5. Saturday Salsa Live Music Night; free salsa lesson at 9:30pm, dance to live latin music from 9pm-2am; cover \$10.

Black Dog Cafe & Wine Bar (651) 228-9274
308 Prince Street, St. Paul Argentine Tango night every 3rd Saturday. Lesson at 7:30 pm, 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 at 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 8-8:45 pm; Dance 8:45-11 pm; \$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.

DNO continued on page 23

Celebrate the New Year USA Dance Hosts the 7th Dance Extravaganza



Saturday, January 20th

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

The Dance Shoppe

2800 Fernbrook, Plymouth, MN
From 494, West on 55, Left on Fernbrook

Free Lesson with paid admission to the dance!

\$5 Age 25 and under
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\$10 non-members

USA Dance MN HOTLINE
(651) 483-5467

Call for information on dance events.
Leave a message for membership information.

Theme of the Month...

Dancing is a Spectator Sport!



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From the Board

Minutes of the Monthly USA Dance Board Meeting – December 3rd, 2006

Members present: Mike Jones, Erik Pratt, Debbie Thornquist, Steve Vespested, Gary Stroick, Jannelle Huff, Frank Kohlasch, Min Chong, Janie Nordberg.

Location: the Lexington Apartments conference room, Roseville.

Call to order: A quorum was established. Agenda was approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's: The November dance was held at the Dance Shoppe and was well attended.

Monthly Dances: The December dance will be at Cinema Ballroom. Members are encouraged to bring food donations for our annual food drive. The profits of our December dance will all go towards the Sharing and Caring Hands Organization.

Tea Dance: Scheduled for Sun, April 22 at the Lafayette Club.

Dance Demos: Dan Viehman found info on a new sound system for demos – the Board moved to approve its purchase. Thanks for looking into it, Dan – it looks very versatile!

Upcoming demos:

- 1) Fri, Dec 29 2:30-3:30 pm location details pending (assisted living residence?)
- 2) Jan 25 10:15 am Middle school in Bloomington
- 3) Feb 7 7:10pm St. Louis Park. Watch the newsletter or call the Viehmans for more info.

Old Business:

Minnesota PerformDance: Reviewed ads placed in their show program. Those of us who attended thoroughly enjoyed the event!

Board Elections: The Nominations Committee headed by Min will be contacting the rest of the Board members up for reelection and continuing to try recruiting new Board members. The process of elections is still being reviewed.

Nationals: 2nd part of an update by Gary: Discussed some changes at the National level, including transitions in defining our competitors, change in age categories (Senior II is 45-55 and Senior III is 55 plus), loosening of some costume regulations, and moving Nationals to April instead of August starting in Baltimore in 2008.

New Business:

Year-end chapter retrospective: We reviewed some of the exciting changes and challenges that our chapter faces as many of the founding members are no longer on the Board.

Locations: We will be shifting each month and reassess in April.

Next meeting:

Tuesday, January 2, 2006 at 7:30 pm

Erik's house, Minneapolis. Further details on Board meeting locations will be e-mailed to Board members.

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.

EDITOR: Anne LaTourelle (763) 550-1223, annelatourelle@comcast.net

Design/Layout: Janie Nordberg (763) 797-5230

Copy Editor: Betsy Phillips (651) 415-2874

Marketing/Ads: Cathy Dessert (651) 415-0375

Mailing: Yvonne Viehman (763) 553-1202

Contributors: Nathan Daniels, Donna Edelstein, Theresa Kimler, Mike Jones, Anne LaTourelle, Tom LaTourelle, Lois Lane, John Lippert, Marcy McHenry, Clarissa Odin, Yvonne Viehman, Marsha Wiest-Hines, Mike Youngdahl, Tricia (Parker) Wood

Contributions: Articles submitted may be edited for length, clarity and content. Photos will be returned. Please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope or send high quality jpgs to Anne LaTourelle.

Subscriptions: \$22/year. Make checks payable to USA Dance MN and send to Anne LaTourelle, 6130 Ives Lane, Plymouth, MN 55442.

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	\$80
	OR 3.5" wide x 9.5" high	
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:
10th OF EACH MONTH
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Dancing is a Spectator Sport *from Anne LaTourelle*

The definition of hell for me would be to listen to wonderful music, watch others dancing to it and NEVER get to dance myself. Yet for others, they have no desire to dance and watching is their cup of tea. There are a variety of reasons why some people choose to watch rather than do.

Some used to dance and for various and assorted reasons have stopped. Some have never danced, and perhaps don't feel they have the ability to ever learn. Some watch dancing under duress, perhaps a spouse enjoys watching it on TV and they just happen to be there.

Many are dancers watching to gain inspiration, support friends, get new ideas and appreciate the hard work that goes into the end result. Whatever the reason, for those of us who dance having an audience to watch us is critical. Learn more in this issue about the fine art of watching dancing. ■

Grab Those New 2007 Calendars

Submitted By Mike Jones

I have to keep remembering that this article is written about a month before it's distributed to the readers. So wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year might sound a bit passé. But, belated happy thoughts anyhow.

Now for 2007, grab your calendars:

It's time to get start getting serious about the **Star of the North DanceSport Competition**. Elsewhere in this newsletter is detailed info about competing and/or volunteering. Some of you might also just want to come and watch and hang out for a while. Personally, I suggest volunteering because; first of all, it's my job to help rustle up an assemblage of volunteers. Secondly, because it's great fun. And thirdly, it's the right thing to do. There's something about a volunteer that's, well, hard to describe. But let's just sum it up by saying that they're swell. And who doesn't like a swell person? Therefore, contact us at: SOTNvolunteers@USADance-MN.org.

In any case, don't forget your dance shoes, because there's opportunity for all to get some floor time.

Dancing With The Stars: I had the pleasure of attending a couple of workshops with Tony Dovolani at the Cinema Ballroom. It was fun, informative and I think a little of that Hollywood stardust actually rubbed off on me. Or maybe, it just was some glitter that stuck to me when I bumped against some Christmas decorations.

How about that 2006? Got any stories? The "Dancing Times Newsletter" is looking for articles that represent the pinnacle of "danceatory" literature. Actually, as long as it's dance related, send us what you got. And don't worry about being the pinnacle of anything. After all, they keep printing the stuff that I write, don't they?

And for the rest of you. What are you really thinking? I bet that none of you have any opinions and that all of you are perfectly content with all that is going on in the dance world. No? Then sound off via email to me at InMyOpinion@USADance-MN.org.

In case you missed it last month, InMyOpinion@USADance-MN.org is new and is your chance to express yourself. I may or may not respond to your email but I'll definitely read it. And if I respond publicly to your plight, rest assured that I will maintain and protect the anonymity of your identity. I will not divulge my sources even if they find me to be in contempt and throw me in jail.

Note: There were only a few days between when the last month's newsletter went out and when this month's was written so we didn't have much time to accumulate feedback. But, watch out for many exciting developments in next month's newsletter.

See y'all at USA Dance-MN's "Dance Extravaganza" January 20th at the Dance Shoppe. ■



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Countdown to SOTN

By Mike Youngdahl

It's coming and it's less than two months away! In case you have been living in a cave, the event of which I speak is the 2007 Star of the North State Games Dancesport Competition. This year the event will be held at the beautiful Shakopee Ballroom February 16-18, 2007.

The mission statement for Star of the North is simple. Our goal is to provide an affordable and fun way to promote ballroom dancing and dancesport. The competitor prices of \$30 per person for three dances or \$70 per person for an unlimited number of entries is a bargain. For the 9 hour day session on Saturday, the spectator's price is \$10 for adults and \$ 5 for students. The Friday and Saturday evening session are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. We work very hard to keep the prices at a level where other excuses have to be made for not wanting to be there.

Having been involved with Star of the North for many years, one thing that impresses me is the varying reasons that people dance. Some competitors use Star of the North to practice for other competitions. Others compete just for the love of dance. Still others compete for the challenge of putting themselves out there in front of everybody. Tell your friends that you are considering being a ballroom dance competitor and see what they say. My guess is they will think it's pretty cool, but something they would never try. Why not try it yourself? There is nothing prohibiting you from dancing with more than one partner.

The mixed proficiency events have been successful at enabling dancers of less experience to compete with competitive dancers. I have had the good fortune to dance with Theresa Kimler at a number of Star of the North Competitions. I wouldn't blame you for thinking it was a mercy dance on her part, but it was actually her idea. Tom Sheehan looked at me walking off the floor and said, "How on earth did you manage that?" I just shrugged. If you are feeling courageous, get up the nerve and ask an experienced competitor if they would consider dancing in the mixed proficiency events with you.

Contrary to popular belief, you do not need to be gussied up in fancy clothes or gowns. This is not a national championship where appropriate costuming is taken into account. At Star of the North, you will see plenty of stoned dresses and spiffy clothes, but it's not a prerequisite to dance. I will be dancing in slacks, dress shirt and a tie. Since it is the only time I compete, and I use that term very loosely, I'm unwilling to spend resources on typical competitive clothing.

Much effort has gone into making Star of the North one of the premier non-sanctioned amateur competitions in the country. I encourage all of you to get involved in one way or another.

In conclusion, let me take a moment to thank Nels Petersen and Theresa Kimler for their efforts. They truly have been the prime movers and shakers for the recent Star of the North events. It's been a privilege working with them. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call. I can be reached at 763-274-1691. ■



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more excitement,
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Cheer on your friends and bring your dance shoes for the special social events!



Information

**For more information call the
USA Dance HOTLINE (651) 483-5467**

www.usabda-mn.org

(Click on Star of the North)

*Sponsored by the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission,
USA Dance MN & the U of M Ballroom Dance Club*

2007 Star of the North Volunteer Information

Submitted By Mike Jones

The 10th annual Star of the North DanceSport Competition is coming February 16-18, 2007 and here's some important information.

By popular demand we are again making it possible for people to participate in this extraordinary event as volunteers. That's right, you can be right in the thick of the action and you don't even need to be a competitor. (Although many SOTN competitors also enjoy volunteering during their available free times.)

The location of the competition will be the Shakopee Ballroom, 2400 4th Avenue E., Shakopee, MN 55379.

The volunteer shifts are as follows and the times can vary slightly depending on how the competition is going:

Friday Evening: 5:30 PM – 12:00 AM

Saturday Morning: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Saturday Afternoon: 1:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Saturday Evening: 7:30 PM – 12:00 AM

It's fun and easy to volunteer. We just need a few bits of information including your: **Name, Email Address, Phone Number(s) and Available Shift Times(s)**

Please forward your info to SOTNvolunteers@USADance-MN.org **As Soon As Possible!**

Many of the volunteers have so much fun that they insist on staying around for multiple shifts. We're a pretty easy bunch so we allow the volunteers to enjoy themselves as much as they want.

Other Frequently Asked Questions:

Can I bring someone with me? Absolutely, however, we would prefer to know they will be coming ahead of time so we can assign you tasks where you can work together.

What do I get for volunteering? You get to watch some great dancing during your shift and you get FREE admission to another session of your choice. We'll have some freebee beverages for all of those thirsty volunteers. Plus you'll feel an inner glow that will last and last. (Some people are still glowing from last year).

What should I wear? We recommend you dress comfortably and wear something that would be considered business casual. The evening sessions tend to be more formal. Some positions will require you to be on your feet more than others. For those positions you may want to wear comfortable shoes. Don't forget your dance shoes. During the day there are occasional opportunities for some general dancing and at the end of scheduled events each evening the floor opens up for lots of general dancing.

What will I be doing? Will I have to do that the entire time? Do I get any breaks? Some assignments are predetermined ahead of time; however, most assignments are made at the competition. Sometimes this assignment will be the initial and primary position you will be holding during the competition. Sometimes positions may be rotated. We will have people to relieve you periodically and there may be opportunities to move around if there are others to take your place.



The following are examples of available volunteer tasks:

Admission Table: Selling tickets to spectators.

Competitor Check-In: Assist the registrar on checking in competitors and giving them their competition packet which will include their tickets to the floor as well as any other information they may need.

Runners/Awards Assistant: Take scoring sheets from judges after each dance and give them to the scrutineer. In between heats assist judges in distributing awards.

Emcee/Judge/Scrutineer Assistant: Assist the emcee and judges with any requests they may have during the competition. Assist the scrutineer with the calculation of scores, posting of results and any other assistance the scrutineer will require.

Refreshment/USA Dance Info Table: Sell snacks and beverages to competitors and spectators, distribute information regarding USA Dance as well as sell, memberships and newsletter subscriptions.

On-Deck Captain: Make sure competitors are in the on-deck area before their heat and competitors for the next hear are on-deck. This position is only for experienced competitors.

Security: Oversee the general security of the area which will include making sure all people in the floor area have a badge and/or ticket.

General Purpose Go-Fer: Responsible for making sure any additional needs that arise are addressed as well as relieving other volunteers for breaks.

The following link will take you to the Official Star of the North website, which includes a veritable plethora of general info about the event including links to maps and parking.

<http://www.usadance-mn.org/Default.aspx?tabid=72> ■

Star of the North 2007!

Preparations are heating up for the **2007 edition of Star of the North**, to be held **February 16-18, 2007 at the Shakopee ballroom**. Planning meetings are underway to make Star of the North an enjoyable event for those new to dancesport, as well as experienced competitors.

What sets us apart from other competitions? We once had a couple dance at Star of the North who had been dancing for only three weeks! We knew we had done something right when they came back the next year. So, find a partner and start practicing. Be a part of one of the most fun dancesport competitions in the country. If you want to learn more about Star of the North, please call **Mike Youngdahl at 763-274-1691**.



Ballet Minnesota Nutcracker's Magical Moments *see page 9 for details*





Dancing is a Spectator Sport!

Backstage or Onstage, Ballet Minnesota's Nutcracker is Magical *By Clarissa Odin*

The cocoa steams in my travel mug as I open the massive stage door at the O'Shaunessy Auditorium and step inside. It is mid-December and time for the annual production of Ballet Minnesota's Classical Nutcracker. The dancers are arriving in warm up outfits slinging heavy bags. They greet each other with nods and hi-fives as they check posted lists for casting, curtain call information and dressing room numbers. In just under 2 hours, we will dance a story that since its debut in December of 1892 has been the most attended holiday ballet ever produced.

As I move towards the area for the stage I see stagehands making last minute touches. The air is filled with anticipation and purpose. On stage, barres are being set up. The guest artists, company dancers and upper level Classical Ballet Academy (CBA) students find places at barres as the younger ballerinas move in to the isles of the theatre to warm up. Some of the girls have their hair in rollers; some dancers have eye make-up on already. Everyone is tuned in to Andrew Rist, the Artistic Director for Ballet Minnesota as he warms up the company. I watch the more experienced dancers and admire their alignment and form. It is thrilling to know we will soon be on the stage with them.

After class, I hurry down a flight of concrete steps to the costume shop. Four women are seated at sewing machines working on colorful, textured cloth. Cheryl Rist, Director of CBA, is giving instructions to volunteers who are sorting bows and ears for the Reed Flutes. The costumes are all gorgeous. As I pull my costume from the rack, I feel incredibly fortunate. On my way back up the stairs, I hear voices that sound like angels singing. The Metropolitan Boys choir has arrived with their choir director, Bea Hasselman, and is warming up to sing with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra. Tonight we will be dancing to music provided by a live orchestra! How wonderful is that!

I enter the dressing room where dancers are chatting as they apply makeup and spray their hair. I sit down and begin wrapping white, first aid tape around each of my toes individually to prepare my feet for toe shoes. After my costume is on, I take some items to a quick-change area set up by the side of the stage. Many of the dancers will have quick changes during the show. Anna Betz, Kathleen Schaefer, and Rachelle Horowitz whom are all playing the part of Clara this year will have a costume change that must be done within minutes during the first act! As a dancer, quick changes are thrilling and fun. They make

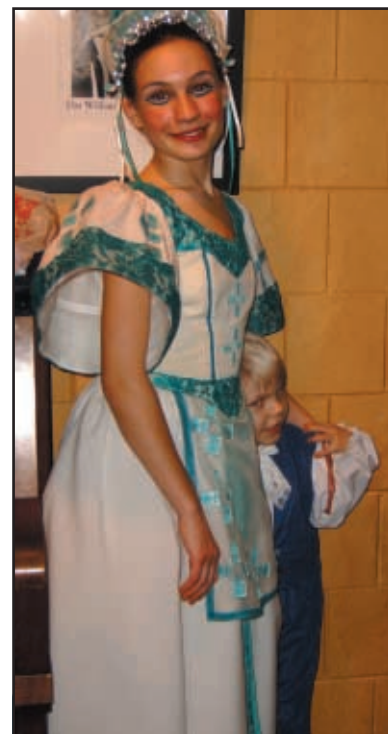
you feel like Clark Kent changing into Superman.

In a large back room of the theatre, the "rats" are showing the "mice" their masks, which are wired with red light bulbs so the eyes light up. Erin Warn, one of the company dancers passes by. She smiles and everyone giggles. One of her teeth has been blackened so she can play the part of Mrs. Ratheimer, the character who gives Clara a rat in a cage for Christmas.

We hear the call "to places". The dancers for the living room scene line up in the hallway behind the stage and Tchaikovsky's overture begins. The music from the show is broadcast in the backstage rooms and the younger dancers pretend they are Clara, porcelain dolls and soldiers. They create their own show, mimicking the moves of the dancers on stage.

On the stage, the dancers make difficult and demanding steps look effortless. When they step off, it is clear how much strength and endurance are required. The audience claps and cheers. The loudest cheering always takes place during the week when students arrive on buses for morning shows. We dancers live for that feedback! Every move is to please our audience!

After all the bows are taken and the curtains are drawn closed, backstage bustles. There are kudos, embraces, and flowers. Costumes are carefully packed away, props put in containers and bags packed up. The theatre empties slowly. Dancers say their goodbyes and all becomes quiet except for a few women in the costume shop making repairs. Tomorrow will be another performance and I plan to enjoy every magical moment! The Classic Nutcracker was performed Dec. 13-17, 2006 at the O'Shaughnessy Auditorium. For more information on Ballet Minnesota log on to www.balletminnesota.org. ■



Clarissa Odin is 14 years old. She is an 8th Grader at Lake Junior High in Woodbury, MN.



Dancing is a Spectator Sport!

By Marcy McHenry

The phone rang at 8am. It was the morning after the finale of "Dancing with the Stars" on ABC. "Did you see the show last night?" my mom asked, "I can't believe Mario didn't win! I am so upset; the show must have been rigged."

I told her that I had been way too busy to watch all the episodes – the rare opportunity I had to watch bits and pieces was with our newly adopted one and a half year old baby girl. We cheered for everyone; no judging, no critiquing, we watched for pure enjoyment of dance.

Millions of Americans watched "Dancing with the Stars" every week and, like my little one, most watched with an untrained eye for dance and they loved it!! They loved the music, the costumes, the passion of the tango, the romance of the rumba, and the beauty of the waltz. The even loved the drama that took place during the practice sessions between the dance professionals and the celebrities – something we are all too familiar with.

Most viewers weren't focused on the couples' footwork, dance hold, musical interpretation, nor if their centers were lifted. They didn't care if the man's elbow was up or his hand was placed properly on the lady's back. They didn't care if the rise and fall in the waltz was perfect or if the Latin motion was correctly executed in the rumba. They just enjoyed the dance!

As ballroom dancers, it is our quest to acquire as much knowledge as we possibly can about our craft. We know this is ultimately what makes our sport beautiful so we spend countless hours training, working out, and competing. We learn what to do and what to emulate in other dancers to help us develop our skills and reach our goals. This is how and why we develop a critical eye for dancing. This is why when we watch shows like "Dancing with the Stars" it is very natural for us to critique the

dancers and offer suggestions on what the dancers should have done.

Because ballroom dancing is our passion, critiquing others is an easy thing to do, but sometimes it is nice to just sit back and simply enjoy the beauty of the dance.

On another note, it's January! As we begin the New Year, it is time to reflect on the many wonderful things in our lives. Shinya and I are blessed with much. We have three wonderful teenage boys who love and adore their new baby sister, Jessica. She is another blessing in our lives bringing us joy and smiles each and every day. We have an unbelievable studio staff, probably the best in the nation, and many wonderful students.

The Dancers Studio celebrates the completion of its 20th year in 2007 and we would like to express our appreciation to everyone who is or has been part of our studio. Thank you all and have a wonderful new year! Keep dancing a part of your life and continue to love it weather you are out there on the floor or enjoying it as a spectator sport! ■



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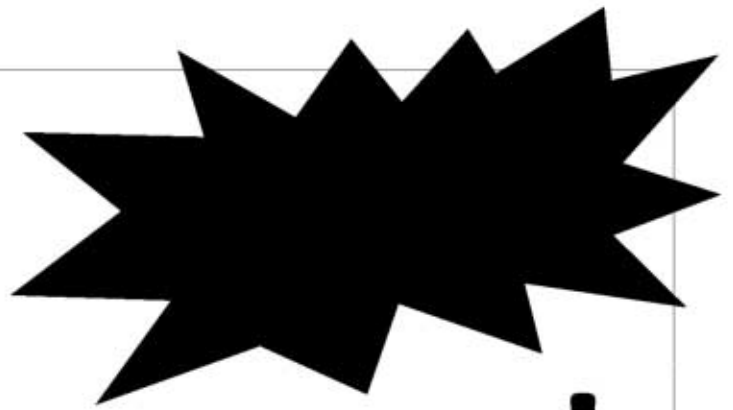
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Presenting the 7th

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This is a one-of-a-kind dance where you can enjoy four huge dance studios with a different style of dancing in every room. Choose any style at any time. Enjoy four hours of non-stop dancing, free mini-lessons, free food and hot dog demonstrations, too! Try out new dances and learn what's happening at every club in town. It's a dancer's dream! Come on let's dance.

Saturday, January 20, 2007

at the Dance Shoppe in Plymouth at 2800 Fernbrook Ln. N.

• 7:00 - 11:00 Dance • \$8 admission • Great music • All styles

All are welcome. USA Dance welcomes everyone -- beginners to advanced. This event is facilitated by USA Dance, Cafe Bailar, TC Rebels Swing Club, MN West Coast Swing Club, the Tango Society of MN and the Social Dance Studio.

The Dance Shoppe is located at 2800 Fernbrook Lane in Plymouth. Please DO NOT CALL the Dance Shoppe for dance details. Call our hotline at 651-483-5467 instead. Directions: The Dance Shoppe is located one block west of Hwy. 494 and Hwy. 55. Go left (or south) at Fernbrook from 55, go one block and the Dance Shoppe is on the left. For more info call 651-483-5467. Carpooling is recommended. Free parking. Don't miss out!



Dancing is a Spectator Sport!

A Review of "All Wrapped Up"!

By Lois Lane

On Friday, December 1st I had the opportunity to attend MN PerformDance's production of "All Wrapped Up." I recall seeing flyers for this show way back in July and it piqued my curiosity back then.

The performance was held at a very nice facility, the Maplewood Community Center, and the actual theatre created a cozy atmosphere. From the opening number, my toes were tapping as the great singers introduced us to one of my favorite Christmas tunes, "Happy Holidays." It reminded me of growing up playing my Andy Williams Christmas album over and over again! One of the singers was Jennifer Eckes, who apparently sings out at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre. She really knew how to draw in a crowd with her great vocals, her beautiful smile and her excitement. I could have listened to her all night long.

A group of eight talented ladies dressed as reindeer (the "Starettes") added a "Radio City Rockettes" style with their precision kicks, fun formations and ever-glowing smiles.

Of course the highlight of the show for me was to see my friends from the ballroom world on stage dancing their hearts out to great tunes like "All Wrapped Up," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"! It was really fun to see Tom & Anne LaTourelle, Mike Heise & Rebecca Kanner, and Janie Nordberg & Tom Nyberg dancing in their pajamas for the "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" number – I never knew ladies could dance so well in slippers... they must have had Velcro or duct tape on the inside to keep the slippers on!

The Christmas theme was woven through all the numbers magically creating a delightful and upbeat quality. The "Nutcracker Suite" opened the second act and a group of very talented jazz and tap dancers performed in wonderfully colorful costumes! This was followed by my favorite dance of the night, the "Christmas Waltz," when the ballroom dancers came back out bearing gifts and breaking into a beautiful Viennese waltz. Gorgeous and glittering!

Lynn and Frank Kohlosh master-minded a wonderfully seamless show that included singers, dancers of all kinds, and even a "bah, humbug" curmudgeon who added humor to the whole event! They deserve many kudos for all their efforts! The elegant lighting, the fun go-bos, the live 3-piece orchestra added so much, and a dedicated cast made for a very memorable show. I think Janie Nordberg deserves the "Dancer of the Night" award for her playful child-like nature in the "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" number, and her grace and poise in the "Silent Night" number as

she and Andy danced impeccably while Kevin Werner sang. A fellow dancer told me "Janie was in her element tonight" and I couldn't agree more!

As the show came to a close with the entire cast singing, a tear ran down my cheek, as I didn't want it to end. Music, especially Christmas music, has a way of touching one's heart and this performance certainly touched mine!

Editor's note: The cast of "All Wrapped Up" included: Alesso's Dance Spectrum Company; Minnesota PerformDance Ballroom Ensemble – Jeff & Yulia Chinn, Mike Heise, Rebecca Kanner, Frank & Lynn Kolasch, Tom & Anne LaTourelle, Andy & Janie Nordberg, and Tom Nyberg; The Starettes; and Singers – Jennifer Eckes, Tari Karbula, & Kevin Werner.

Choreographers included: Phil Alesso (Dance Spectrum), Scott Anderson (Christmas Waltz, I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm), Paul Botes (Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree), Nathan Daniels (All Wrapped Up, I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm), DeeAnn Englund (Starettes), Julie Jacobson (Santa Claus Is Comin To Town), Benjamin Johnson, Deirdre Murnane, and Mariusz Olszewski (When it Snows, Silent Night) ■





Dancing is a Spectator Sport!

Photography by Neatshots.com & Courtesy of
Minnesota Perform Dance Productions



Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree



I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm



Santa Claus is Comin' to Town



Christmas Waltz



All Wrapped Up



Silent Night



Santa Claus is Comin' to Town



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Dancing is a Spectator Sport!

A Study of Spectators By Anne LaTourelle

Dancing, most of us LOVE it! We can't understand why everyone wouldn't want to do it! We don't understand why people don't want to watch it! For us it's all good.

Through the years all dancers subject their family and friends to various opportunities to come watch them dance. There are recitals, shows, demos, solos, competitions, showcases and social dances. From this I've noticed there are three types of spectators:

The first one is the spectator that slowly but surely finds reasons why they don't come to watch anymore. You've probably heard most of their reasons; too far, other plans, kids, family, too expensive, have to work, etc. These people I understand. They came, they saw, they're bored. They might not understand the subtle differences in our improvements; don't understand the differences between rhythm, Latin, smooth and standard. They don't see why we come back out on the floor to do the same exact thing all over again minus one couple during a competition (different age group). In fact, they are still working on understanding one dance from the other. In other words, they're not sure what the fuss is all about but they tried. I get these spectators as I might not find interest in their

passion be it bowling or crafts. To each their own!

The second type of spectator is the one who becomes so well educated by watching that they could be judges. They recognize all the regular competitors by name and can tell you if the lady is wearing a new gown. They learn the different dances and know that at a dance competition it is common practice to yell and cheer your favorite couple and they do so with gusto. They celebrate the newer dancers and the seasoned competitor equally.

The last type are people who express an interest in dancing and want to be included in each and every event but have never managed to actually come and watch. Some go so far as to lament when they miss an event. I think they like the idea of coming to watch but may be intimidated or fear that they may be pushed into doing it themselves. I try to reassure them that plenty of people come to just watch. In the end I try to reassure them that it is "ok" if they don't share my passion for dance. After all, we dancers have plenty of other interests to share with our non-dancing friends; in fact, we heard all about some of these interests in a past issue of Minnesota Dancing Times when we explored the "Secret Lives of Dancers". ■

Our Perfect Wedding!

By Tricia (Parker) Wood

In our four months of wedding planning, there was always someone saying that not everything could be perfect. They were wrong, our wedding was perfect; there was nothing we would have changed!

We got married on Saturday, December 2nd, 2006 at Morningside Community Church in Edina. We filled the church full with 230 close family and friends. After we fed them a delicious buffet dinner at Shakopee Ballroom, we opened up our reception and dance (including the slideshow, garter toss, bouquet toss, dollar dance, and cake) to the whole Twin Cities dance community! We ended our evening after midnight with about 400 guests.

It was the best day of our lives, and the dance party of the decade! Our friends danced everything from a waltz, to a tango, to a country 2-Step, and salsa. Both the bride's and the groom's dollar dances had to be ended by the DJ after 30 minutes of nonstop dancing! Pictures will be posted soon: www.triciadancer.com.

James and I would like to thank you all for joining us, and for the hugs, kisses, cards, and gifts! It would not have been the same without all of our family and dance friends together. See you on the dance floor! ■



Enhancing Your Dancing!

Truth, Lies and Visual Conflict in Costuming: Telling the Truth

By Marsha Wiest-Hines

Your gown says mature, elegant, sophisticated and sexy. You are 18 years old, sweet and pure as the proverbial driven snow. If your look does not tell the truth about you, it cannot begin to support and enhance your dancing. So the first part of establishing the right competitive image is really simple: Know who you are.

Sometimes, it's possible to get a bit of something you do not have from the clothes you put on, but if you step too far from the truth, you create a visual conflict and observers are affected by that conflict, even if they cannot define it. It does not matter how absolutely astonishing a costume is, if it does not reflect and project who you are, it is not the costume for you. Your costume must visually describe you, with respect for your ability, personality, age, and body.

If you are a beginning dancer, buying a professional's costume may not be in your best interest. I would like to quote Canadian coach and judge Kerry Wilson, who talks about what he calls "physical promise." He says, "I like, at the earlier newcomer and beginner levels especially, for ladies not to be decked out like they are going to be on *Dancing with the Stars*. I don't think it's appropriate, because when you walk on to a floor, your dancing must fulfill your physical promise. If you look great, you had better dance great. If some couple, who is perhaps not as physically beautiful as some of the gorgeous people on the floor, goes out and dances well, they are going to get top marks. On the other hand, if someone looks stunning but under performs, the marks can drop dramatically, because they did not fulfill their physical promise." I could not agree more. And for me, this disagreement between what is presented as the truth and what is the truth goes beyond just dance ability.

Who am I?

Who decides what your gown should look like? You should. To do this, you do not need to be a costume designer. You do need to work with someone honorable, who will put your needs first, whether they are a custom designer or a seller of off-the-rack costumes. Some of my clients are convinced they design their own costumes, and although I believe I make an essential contribution, I would not want them to feel differently.

I love it when someone enters my studio, spots a gown on

a mannequin, and says "Is that for..." and guesses the correct owner. It tells me it's not just a great dress, it's a great dress for the dancer who will wear it.

So how do you get there? Respect your personal taste, as well as the expertise of your costumer. Say what you think, and then listen to what your costume professional has to say. Most dancers are intelligent, successful people, with a good sense of what they like. Don't be afraid of applying your personal style to the ballroom milieu, taking into consideration that it's a brighter, more visually aggressive world than your office, or the grocery store.

When you are not sure, don't despair. When a client tells me, "I don't know what I want," it's my experience, they generally do know exactly what they need, and it becomes obvious as they answer my questions honestly.

If there are other people who will figure in your decision, ask for input before you start shopping. Beware of the committee. Everyone who tells you what your costume should be will expect you to take his or her advice. If you ask your spouse, your friend, your teacher, a coach and two judges, and disappoint no one, you will discover why "design by committee" has a poor reputation. Choose one trusted individual to ask for advice, one who understands both you and competitive dance, but ask for a desired result, rather than design specifications.

Beware also of the salesperson or designer who is busy telling you what you need, or worse yet, what they would like to see on you. The most effective designer or salesperson is asking questions, listening to the answers and making suggestions, not telling.

A certain amount of self-confidence is necessary in this process, but not more confidence than it takes to walk out on the dance floor. Make sure that the final image you present reveals your personality, rather than that of your designer, your coach, or your dance hero. Finally, if you do not feel comfortable with a price, keep looking. Part of knowing yourself lies in knowing how much you have to spend.

The most essential job of ballroom competition dancewear is to allow judges to see your body in movement. So now, you must be just as honest about what you look like as you were about who you are.

If you are a size 14, there is no point in looking through the size 4 gowns for design ideas. Likewise, if you are 60, you need to consider your age when selecting a gown for yourself. Sexy at sixty is absolutely possible, but it looks

TRUTH, LIES... COSTUMING cont. on page 17

ASK DR. DANCE

Paul and Donna are popular coaches and adjudicators. They own Time To Dance in Plymouth and organize The Snow Ball DanceSport Competition. They can be reached at 763 557-6004.

Q I have been trying to find a partner to practice with, share lessons, and possibly compete. How do most people find their partners? I have been asking around but it seems most people that want one already have a partner.

She Said:

You don't say if you are a man or a woman, but generally it is harder for women to find partners because fewer men than women dance. Asking your teacher or coach to recommend a partner is a great idea because they know your dancing, as well as who is around town.

Sometimes people find partners by dancing pro-am. Then you are seen to be a good dancer and successful competitor. Others put an ad in a dancing publication like "Dance Beat". Make sure to go where the action is. Attend all the local competitions – The Snow Ball, Twin Cities

Open and Star of The North to see who is competing and who might be looking for a partner. Decide if you are willing to travel or move for a partner.

It is not easy to find a partner – let alone the right partner.

I believe that if you prepare yourself your time will come. Take lessons, improve your own dancing, compete pro-am to be seen, and don't be afraid to approach someone you'd like to dance with (as long as they are not already in a partnership) and ask if they'd like to try out.

Good luck. ■



TRUTH, LIES... COSTUMING cont. from page 16

different than sexy at 20. After you have been brutally honest with yourself about your particular age and shape, you may give yourself permission to bend that truth just a bit.

Little White Lies

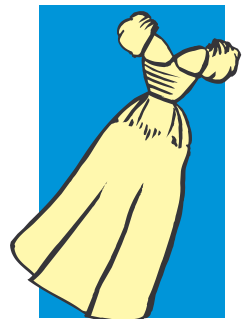
A great costume will reveal the best parts of your body and accent your dancing strengths. It will also conceal or de-emphasize your less appealing aspects. But costumes cannot change the truth. They can only tell little white lies, and these lies must be small, convincing tweaks of reality, because the inquiring mind will see big lies for exactly what they are.

No costume can make you look thin if you are not. No costume will make you taller than you are. But well-cut flesh mesh can disguise skin that may not be perfect. The careful placement of design features can disguise a round tummy. Certain silhouettes and color choices can create an illusion of height.

If you have a lovely feature, and move it well, and your costume emphasizes it, perhaps less attention will be paid to features of less visual merit. But again, these are little lies, illusions and distractions. As such they should not be the focus of your costume design, just part of the support staff.

Contradictions

Speaking of support, I will tell a story. I once sold a great used rhythm gown to a girl with impressive ability. It suited her personality, fit her well, and was age appropriate, but when I saw her on the competition floor, her competitive image was full of contradictions. I neglected to ask her some of the peripheral questions.



She seemed experienced and knowledgeable, and had been dancing for years, so it did not occur to me to ask, "What will you be wearing on your legs? Which tanning process will you use? What will you do with your hair? Do you know how to apply false eyelashes, and do an appropriate makeup job? Great grooming is essential to a successful ballroom image, and if you need help with grooming details, make sure you get it.

Take a long hard look in the mirror. Take an equally long look into your heart. Judges see both of those things when you dance, and you want to be sure there are no contradictions in your presentation. Make a physical promise you can keep, from the tips of your twinkling toes to the smile that is a reflection of the joy you feel when you dance (and dress) from your heart. ■

Dancing With The Stars – The Results

By Nathan Daniels

If you didn't watch the show – you may be a bit lost in this article – and SHAME ON YOU for not watching the phenomenon that is 'Dancing With The Stars'! It is a great show for our ballroom industry and should be supported to the fullest!!!

On to the show... Well, either Mario or Emmitt could have won and it would have been fine either way. Based on pure dance – of course Mario won, hands down. There was no comparison between him and any of the other competitors. He had had more athletic training in varied disciplines than the rest – and it showed!

Based on popularity – Emmitt won, because of the number of fans he has through his football prowess. One would think that Mario would be the fan favorite because of the gorgeous factor, but apparently not so! Emmitt has his own 'masculine, big guy, relatable' factor. Both Mario and Emmitt danced really well through the run of the show, as well as on the final night. Mario was consistently great – the best technical dancer.

Emmitt was the epitome of 'don't judge a book by its cover' – the big man can Dance! At the final showdown – Emmitt WON – Mario was stunned, but tried not to show it!!!

Several people have asked me who I thought should win. My answer, I'm sure, surprised them. I thought that the

third place recipient Joey should have won!!! I thought that he did a great job throughout the show and was the most hard-working. Unfortunately, he did not have the best teacher. That is not to say that Edyta is not a good dancer, but as a teacher, not so great.

As a female teacher, you need to choreograph to the strengths of your male student, and then not out dance them. This causes the student not to look as good as they could because the focus is on the girl and not on the boy – where it should be! When you out-dance your student, it doesn't show them in the best light. Joey is a much better dancer than he was shown to be, because of the lack of 'pro-am' training in his teacher. Cheryl Burke, on the other hand, is the head hen when it comes to female 'pro-am' teachers. She takes all of the strengths of her male students, displays them to the fullest, and dances at the level that will show off her student the best – without spotlighting herself – Kudos!!!

As a final thought...

Maybe it isn't a dance competition at all...

Maybe it isn't who wins or loses that counts...

Maybe it's who makes the most money for the show
Maybe...

Thanks, Nathan Daniels ■

A Brief History of... the Waltz

By Tom LaTourelle

The waltz is a dance that was born in the suburbs of Vienna. In the 17th century waltzes were played in the ballroom of the Hapsburg court. Before that time, waltzes were danced by the peasants in Austria and Bavaria. Johann Strauss' "The Blue Danube" is traced back to peasant yodeling melodies.

Prior to the waltz, dance sequences were elaborate and required frequent lessons to master. Dance within the ballroom focused on groups, rather than couples. Furthermore, men and women remained at "safe" distances and physical contact was limited to the momentary touching of gloved hands at arms length.

During the middle of the 18th century, the allemande form of the waltz was very popular in France. Originally danced with arms intertwined, eventually the close-hold was introduced. By the end of the 18th century, this old Austrian peasant dance was here to stay.

One must also cite the contribution of many gifted composers who carried the waltz beyond the ballroom to the ballet and concert hall, such that any music composed in time has come to be identified, by default, as a waltz.

Dance masters immediately saw the waltz as a threat to their profession. Court dances demanded considerable practice and instruction, whereas, the basic steps of the waltz could be learned in a relatively short time, and often by observation.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WALTZ continued on page 19



Dancing is a Spectator Sport!

More Than a Spectator By John Lippert

In September of 1999, I read a personal ad. The woman said she loved ballroom dancing, that it made her feel alive. I don't dance, so I moved on to the next ad. After a while I read the ad again and decided to call.

I met my wife at the Mall of America that night. I guess she didn't have a lot of hope for our future, as she made plans to go to a Rebels dance right after our dinner. I liked the way she lit up when she talked about dancing, so I tagged along.

West coast swing is not a dance to be learned quickly on the dancefloor, but I tried. Mostly I watched her dance. That night I met a bunch of people that I liked. I had a nice time.

The next week we went to the Medina Ballroom. I sat at a table with her and six other women. She still remembers that I never looked up to admire her fine dancing as I was having too much fun talking to her friends.

It is now seven years later. I'm still not much of a dancer, but I encourage my wife to dance as often as she can because it makes her happy. (Not enough can be said about having a happy wife.) Being able to encourage and support her in this passion of hers is fulfilling for me as well.

Watching dancing is exciting and rewarding. I get a great amount of enjoyment out of watching my wife and our mutual friends move beautifully across the floor. I have watched and learned enough in these years as a spectator to appreciate good dancing wherever I see it.

I've been to lots of parties, dances, weddings, competitions, and performances. I can walk into any ballroom dance event and see lots of people that I know. For me, dancing is a spectator sport, a social event, and always a great time to see friends. ■



John enjoying one of the many great social dance events!

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WALTZ continued from page 18

The waltz was also criticized on moral ground by those opposed to the closer hold and the rapid turning movements. It was regarded as crude and vulgar. Here is a quote from 1816 in *The Times*, London:

"We remarked with pain that the indecent foreign dance called the Waltz was introduced (we believe for the first time) at the English court on Friday last... it is quite sufficient to cast one's eyes on the voluptuous intertwining of the limbs and close compressure on the bodies in their dance, to see that it is indeed far removed from the modest reserve which has hitherto been considered distinctive of English females. So long as this obscene display was confined to prostitutes and adulteresses, we did not think it deserving of notice; but now that it is attempted to be forced on the respectable classes of society by the civil examples of their superiors, we feel it a duty to warn every parent against exposing his daughter to so fatal a contagion."

– *The Times*, London : 1816

The result of all of this bad publicity was only to increase the popularity of the dance. At the end of the 18th century, Paris had nearly 700 dance halls. The ballroom became the undisputed center of 19th century social life.

Today, the waltz is the stylish wedding dance that western newlyweds start their married life with. It's something to think about – close contact with your partner, trust (when rising and falling), and harmony.

Sources: <http://www.2leftfeet.com>, <http://ia.essortment.com>, <http://www.vienneseball.org>

A Shining Star – The Ohio Star Ball 2006

By Theresa Kimler

"There are no strangers here, only friends we have not met yet." This is the quote on the front page of the Ohio Star Ball competition program.

It rings true for this event, which drew over 20,000 entries this year. Sam Sodano is the organizer of the largest DanceSport Competition in the United States. Sam is truly a gracious host as he goes out of his way to greet as many competitors as possible. Nels Petersen and I have a close relationship with Sam, as holders of the Sam Sodano Trophy for the last 9 years. The USA Dance Amateur American Rhythm National Championship is named after him.

Sam also works with USA Dance to sponsor the USA Dance Collegiate Championships, which are held on the Saturday and Sunday of his event in the same convention hall. The Collegiate event is truly an exciting affair. The energy generated by these students makes me remember why I started ballroom dancing... for the fun and love of this amazing art and sport.

Coming back to compete at Ohio Star Ball after a 4-year break from the event, I saw that the faces and competitors had changed, especially in the professional championship divisions. However, the warmth and friendships still held true.

Probably the biggest change this year was in the TV filming segments. You remember "Championship Ballroom Dancing" on our local channel 2. Well, this is the backdrop and competition for the TV show. This year's filming took place Friday and Saturday nights with Marilu Henner as the hostess. The show is called "America's Ballroom Challenge" and will air on Channel 2 at 7:00 pm CT every Wednesday from January 31st through February 28th 2007. Each show will feature the professional competitions in a different style; International Latin, International Standard, American Smooth, and American Rhythm. In the past smooth and rhythm were only fillers. This year they will have their own featured hour-long show. In addition,

many pro-am and amateur couples, including our very own Adrienne Brown and Jeff Nehrbass, were filmed. These will be used as fillers each week to show the viewing audience the diverse spectrum of competitors.

As all of you ladies will appreciate, this is the place to see all the top vendors. Shoes, costumes, jewelry, practice wear, music CDs, nutrition products, and dance books are all well represented. I tried on 60 ballgowns before finding my next perfect gown from a designer who is new to the circuit. The only hazard was finding enough room in my suitcase to carry home all my new wares.

There were many Minnesota couples competing at this event and too numerous to list. Congratulations to everyone. This event is truly something you should experience. You can make a wealth of new friends in this sea of strangers. ■

Ohio from the Past...





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Etiquette of the Ballroom circa 1900

Etiquette Corner

The well-dressed person is the inconspicuous person and to be inconspicuous on any occasion, you must wear the same sort of clothes that adorn your neighbor.

For formal balls, dances and dinners, women wear evening gowns, sleeveless and décolleté. Long white gloves are coming back into fashion, although they are not yet universally worn. If long skirts, tights waists and the molded figure return in earnest, long gloves will doubtless join the reactionary forces. It is customary for women to have their hair waved for formal affairs, but severe bobs and straight long hair attractively arranged are equally acceptable in these days of individual types.

Cheap jewelry has a false glitter in the evening that does not enhance lovely frocks. It is a good rule to wear no jewelry in the evening if you have none that makes you proud of its possession. Young girls do not wear much jewelry of any kind.

In winter, fur coats may be worn instead of velvet or brocaded wraps. In summer, Spanish shawls, chiffon wraps, brocaded squares, etc., are worn. Needless to say, no hats are worn on such occasions, except metallic turbans and hats specifically designed for eveningwear. ■

She says: Did I mention I was divorced?



He says: Did I mention I was married?



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☛ **Contact Janet @ 763-389-9038 or kneadmyspace@yahoo.com for photos**
Size 6-10 excellent condition. (stretchy) fuchsia, heavily stoned bodice. Made by Marsha Wiest-Hines. Problem solver dress, open drape chiffon sleeves, drop-waist slims and elongates, chiffon back drape. \$650.

Two unworn dresses: Black form hugging stretchy dress, deep front V held closed with leather straps. Body has multi colored shiny circles. Very hot sz. 6-8 \$75. Royal purple contemporary dress with 1 shoulder, asymmetric hemline, lots of beading. Never worn, sz. 10, \$350.

Authentic vintage disco outfit! Sleeveless 1 piece gray jumpsuit with 1 shoulder, full long legs flare when you spin, glittered top and matching belt. Right out of the 70's very good condition. Sz. Med. \$50

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

Sunshine yellow smooth gown Size 2-10. Unique design, bracelet style cuff on one sleeve, matching arm and wrist band, drop waist belt solidly stoned, AB color stones throughout! Made for Movement. \$950.

Black/fuschia smooth gown Size 2-8. Striking gown with black stretch lace bodice, 3 layered chiffon skirt, dynamic fuschia chiffon wrap on one sleeve, AB color stoning. \$650 or BO.

Orange flame rhythm dress Size 2-8. This "one-of-a-kind" 2-piece dress has assymetric sleeves & skirt. Sun AB stoning, beautiful braid detail belt and straps, matching wrist bands and jewelry. \$850.

Stunning red rhythm dress Size 2-8. Feel like a champion in this showstopper! Bracelet-style cuffs on sleeves, AB stoning with matching hipster belt. Full open back and slit in assymetric skirt. \$750.

Gold/rose-red rhythm dress Size 2-6. Beautiful Rose-Red lace overlays shimmering gold, bell sleeves and flare skirt add great movement. AB color stones add extra sparkle! Rose hair piece. Steal deal at \$550.

Fuschia rhythm dress Size 2-8. Gorgeous Rose, fuschia, and Amethyst AB stoning, bell sleeves, asymmetric skirt, low back cut. Great movement on dance floor! \$350 or BO.

☛ **Contact Kate VanAlstine at 651.214.0906 or yolanda4life@yahoo.com**

Asymmetrical orange & blue smooth dress size 2-6 Cool, one-of-a-kind design looks great on the floor. \$300 negotiable

Green & blue rhythm dress size 4-10 Green body and skirt with blue belt, lots of rhinestones all over, matching arm/wrist bands. Great for new competitor! \$300 negotiable

Red-belted rhythm dress size 2-6 Super low V-neck, hot-red belt design. Very sexy! \$400

Black lace rhythm dress size 4-6 Sexy see-through long-sleeved look, lots of stones and pearls on the body with cool black and pearl fringe on skirt, matching earrings. \$700

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

Red Ballgown size 4-6: Inspired by Hilary Swank's Oscar dress and created by Designs to Shine. Elegant cut open back. Crisscross design with full coverage in front. Long sleeves with necklace and cuffs. Skirt accentuates movement thanks to 3-layers. Pics available. \$2,200.

☛ **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, neckband 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.

☛ **Contact Rhonda @ 952-935-7810**

Assorted Celebrity smooth & rhythm shoes. US 9-10N and split sizes. Practice shoes & 1 pr. Supadance rhythm sandals also available. Best offer.

☛ **Contact Amy at 608-835-5666 or email albishop@charter.net**

Latin/Rhythm Beautiful dress by Dancewear Designers by Julia Gorchakova. Size 8-12 for ladies 5' 4" to 5' 9". Unique royal blue dress covered in swarovski stones with fringe angled at bottom of dress. Fringe longest point falls just below knee. Halter straps with open back with built in bra/bodysuit. 1 yr old, worn twice. Originally \$2400 asking \$1800.

Latin/Rhythm. Size 8-12 for ladies 5' 2" to 5' 6". Black lycra material with white, gold, black sequins and beads all over dress. The mid section of bodice is open and fringe hangs over open section as well as on bottom of dress. Originally \$200 asking \$70.

Smooth Size 10-14 black chiffon circle skirt with one layer of black chiffon lined, elastic waistband. Brand New. Originally \$100 asking \$50.

Shoes Size 7 1/2 (American) pair of Diamant Champion round toe 2" latino heel, elastic court std shoes, flesh satin. Brand new. Originally \$110 asking \$50.

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

Flashy 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, is 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**

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 2-8. Pictures available. \$2,400

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. \$1,400.

☛ **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.

☛ **Please call Anne @ 763-550-1223**

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. Made for Movement. Size 6-10. Asking \$1000. 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. Can be tailored to fit! Call Anne for more information. Size 8-12. Asking \$750.

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.

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

January 6, 2007 – The Snow Ball DanceSport Competition

The largest single day competition in the US featuring fabulous pro-am and amateur competitions. Pro show by 5-time world champions Anik Joliceur and Alain Doucet. Doubletree Park Place Hotel, Mpls. Contact Donna Edelstein or Paul Botes at 763 557-6004. thesnowballcomp@msn.com

Jan 12 - 14, 2007 – USA Dance Manhattan Amateur Classic Pace University, New York City

Organized by Greater New York Chapter. Sanctioned by USA Dance. For more info: <http://nyusabda.org/mac/aboutmac.html>

January 27, 2007 – Royal Palm USA Dancesport Championships Coconut Creek, FL

Hosted by Royal Palm Chapter. Sanctioned by USA DanceSport. For more information contact Patti MacDonald at 561-740-9589 or dancinmacs@adelphia.net

Feb 2 - 3, 2007 USA Dance Triangle Open

Talley Student Center, Raleigh, NC. Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder. For more info, dancingwithwolves.org/triangle/main.htm

Feb 9 - 10, 2007 – Smoky Mountain DanceSport Championships Downtown Marriott, Knoxville, TN

Organized by Greater Knoxville Chapter. Sanctioned by USA Dance. For more information contact Tim McGhee, 865-386-7843, or www.usabda-knoxville.us

Feb 16 - 18, 2007 – Star of the North DanceSport Competition Shakopee Ballroom, 2400 East Fourth Ave, Shakopee, MN

Sanctioned by USADancesport. For more information, contact Mike Youngdahl at 763-441-0646.

Mar 17 - 18, 2007

Heartland Classic USA DanceSport Championships Indiana Convention Center, 100 S. Capitol Ave, Indianapolis, IN
Sanctioned by USA DanceSport. Organized by Heartland Chapter (#2022). For more information, Ron Wright, (317) 257-4954, rt2dance@comcast.net, or Nancy Dew, (317) 849-6373, dewn@juno.com. Website at <http://indyusabda.org>

Mar 23 - 25, 2007 – USA Dance NE Regional DanceSport Championships/NJ Dancesport Classic Hackensack, NJ

Organized by Mario Battista and Wendi Davies. Qualifying event for 2007 USADance National Championships. Info: NJDSC or by e-mail at questions@njdancesportclassic.com or by phone at 973-325-1399.

DNO continued from page 2

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.

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.

Naar Grille Salsa Night (952) 946-6227
11528 Leona Road, Eden Prairie. Every Friday is Salsa Night from 10pm-2am.

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) 418-4046
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.

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.

Dance Demo News

Submitted by Yvonne Viehman, Dance Demo Coordinator



Thursday 01/25/07 – 11:30 am-12:15 pm, Dance demo at Olson Middle School, 4551 W. 102nd St., Bloomington – we need many dancers to showcase smooth and rhythm routines for 8th Graders at this school as a part of their Phy.Ed. class; they want dancers to perform and then judge a student dance competition!! Call Yvonne at 763.553.1202 for more information.

Wednesday 02/07/07 – 7:05 pm-7:45 pm, Dance demo at Menorah Plaza, just off of Ottawa Ave. and Minnetonka Blvd., (next to City Hall), St. Louis Park – smooth and rhythm dancers needed to entertain this great bunch of seniors! Call Yvonne at 763.553.1202 for more information. ■

February Issue Teaser

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

"Anatomy of a Dance Lesson"

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

Instructors

Jill Ableman	651-641-0777
Scott Anderson.....	612-816-4446
Paul Botes & Donna Edelstein, Mpls	763-557-6004
Modie Chehouri.....	651-641-0777
Nathan Daniels	763-545-8690
Wendi Davies.....	973-449-7654
Joy Davina	612-418-4046
Robert & Jennifer Foster	952-938-0048
Donna Frykman, St. Paul	651-777-5447
Michelle Haley	651-699-5910
Christine Hallberg.....	651-641-0777
Jeff Halverson	651-641-0777
David Hanson	218-722-0742
Eric Hudson	651-699-5910
Julie Jacobson	651-261-6442
Jay Larson	651-699-5910
Deanne Michael	612-508-9255
Monica Mohn	612-874-0747
Mariusz Olszewski	612-242-5159
Todd Paulus	612-968-2401
Eric Remsen	612-724-3156
Mary Rosenstiel	612-720-2584

Kate VanAlstine.....651-641-0777

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	612-418-4046

Clubs

Café Bailar	612-600-5129
MN West Coast Swing Dance Club	651-777-5599
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: January 10th, 2007