

# WORLD LINE DANCE NEWSLETTER



## TAMPA BAY CLASSIC 2006



Wow!! Another great event in the lineup of premier line dance events that we are so fortunate to have now. There was an international cast of instructors and guests. The Oriental theme added a touch of elegance to everything from the vendors to the fabulous show on Saturday night. I was just proud to have it in our little area of the world and I hope all of the guests enjoyed visiting the Tampa Bay area. You really should take time next year after the event and spend an extra week so you can share in the festivities following this event.

The hospitality starts the minute you walk through the hotel doors and you are given your keys with a luscious chocolate chip cookie along with a greeting from the hotel staff and the greetings continue as you walk through the lobby to prepare for the weekend. Arline was there dressed in one of the many beautiful oriental outfits she wore throughout the weekend greeting people and it's just a very welcoming place to start a fabulous weekend.

There were previews every night for the next day's dances, which is always a big plus in my book. The FREE Thursday night party was really fun with great music, a wonderful floor and lots of room even though there was a large crowd for the Thursday night party.

Here's some things that made this event special: Very nice floors; water every minute of every day -- I never saw them run out even very late at night; easy access to breakfast and lunch set up outside the ballrooms, very reasonable prices in both the cafe and the bar area with a really nice staff even on one of the nights when they were very shorthanded in the bar area, free popcorn for snacks, Barney's Coffee bar in the lobby with flavored cream -- I LOVE flavored cream. LOL. Places to sit to eat and chat and review dances in a big room kind of in the middle of everything. Easy registration handled efficiently and cheerfully, as always, by Jennifer and her helpers; easy way to find out if you won anything in the raffles -- the results are posted in the hallway -- Arline being everywhere taking care of all requests and helping anyone who needed help.

Great DJs including Louie, who played an excellent mix all weekend; Big Dave in the review room and Olivia in the room with all requests for all levels. The floor in Olivia's room was large this year and was used a lot. The review room was very popular and it seemed to be full most of the time. The schedule for reviews was posted outside so if there were a dance you wanted to learn you would know what time to go there. Everyone commented on how much they liked this.

The raffle prizes were really super and included lots of passes to events and baskets and a bunch of lottery tickets. Thanks to everyone who donated prizes. I think everyone looks forward to the raffles. Lots of time for open dancing during the day (another must have for me to have fun at events).

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It was great having Neville and Julie, Shaz Walton (who was always accommodating every time someone asked her to review her dances.) This was the first time she has been to the US and I heard lots of nice things about her and her dances were very well received and done a lot, including the one that was a hit in Chicago, SEXY BACK.

It was also the first time in the US for Robin Sin and I now know why everyone always talks about him. He is so very nice and an excellent

teacher and his dance INFINITY was one of my favorites of the weekend. I hope we see lots more of him at events in the future. He will be at Worlds and if he teaches this dance I promise you will like it. It was also great meeting Khim who came over from Malaysia because I talk with her through e-mail all the time.

Peter and Alison were here once again from the UK and their classes were always well attended. In fact, I thought all the instructors this year were particularly accessible and were out dancing with us all during the day and night and just seemed to be enjoying the experience as much as we did. I know that instructors are paid to teach at events, but it means a lot to everyone to see them around and being able to meet you and dance with you and see you in a different light and it means a lot to the directors if you take the time to be accessible during the weekend.

Here's some dances I particularly noticed or liked:

INFINITY, Robin Sin; LESS COMPLICATED, taught by Kathy G. (this won the choreography competition in Chicago.)

FAIRYTALE LIFE, taught by Bill McGee (I just LOVE this dance and kept asking him if we could do MY dance all weekend so thanks for doing it a zillion times, Bill). Beautiful music and just a cool dance by Kate Sala.

SEXY BACK, Shaz Walton. This was taught in a late night quick teach and there's a reason it was a hit in Chicago. It's a fun, funky dance with great music.

LITTLE STAR, Maurice Rowe. Another hit for Maurice. His dances just keep getting better and better each time and this one is no exception. I also really like SWEET AND SASSY. What is setting Maurice's dances apart is that they will be classics for a long time to come because they are not too difficult but just challenging enough to keep them interesting and they can be done to lots of different music.

WIKKIDEST TING, Neville Fitzgerald. This was another hit of the weekend to great music and it filled the floor. A LITTLE CRAZY, Neville Fitzgerald. This is a faster waltz to beautiful music.

GALLERY, Junior Willis. I didn't take this class but many people told me they liked it a lot.

HOTLINE, Shaz Walton. This one was one of the hits of the weekend. Funky but not so funky that everyone can't do it.

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DON'T FEEL LIKE DANCING, taught by Marilyn McNeal. Her class

was packed and this dance was done over and over all weekend. It is also racing up the survey so you might as well learn it if you haven't already because it will be done at upcoming events. PON DE REPLAY, taught by Bryan McWherter. Another floor filler that will be done for a very long time to come. A cute, fun dance that kept everyone smiling.

LET IT SWING, taught by Stella Cabeca. I think the title tells it all. Fun, upbeat swing-type dance that makes you have to get on the floor. HOLDING BACK THE OCEAN, Peter and Alison. I heard many good comments about this one.

CROOKED LETTER Y, Guyton Mundy. Another hit for Guyton along with SMACK DAT and the group competition dance by Guyton, Joey and Rachael from Chicago CRYING DOVES. Another of the group competition winners from Chicago that was really fun was COMIN' OUT by John Robinson, Bryan McWherter and Junior Willis. I think this one will be done a lot. The sheet might look a little scary but it's very easy to learn. This one won the group choreography in Chicago. CROWN ROYAL, taught by Marilyn McNeal. I meant to take this class and forgot the time but I liked this one a lot.

CHAMPAGNE ON ICE, taught by John Robinson. Another of my picks of the weekend. A BEAUTIFUL waltz that just feels great to beautiful music. Even if you don't like waltzes, I know you will like this dance so learn it so I can do it a zillion times at the next event I go to. John did a great job of teaching it like he always does a great job of teaching every class I've ever taken of his. He's one of the few people that never make me bored when I'm taking a class and I HATE being bored!!!! He can even take an entire hour to teach a dance and maintain my interest so I call that real talent. I think every instructor in the world should put him under a microscope and figure out what he does that makes him a master at teaching classes because he's just really excellent.

I couldn't take every class but the entire schedule is posted on this site and we will post the comments that others have sent in about the weekend so you can see their picks because there were lots of good dances that I saw after they were taught and just didn't have the time to take the classes.

The dinner was served in a timely manner and the food was very good, as it was last year. I always enjoy buffet meals at events so you can choose what you want to eat. There were two times for dinner so you could choose to have early or late seating and dance when you weren't eating. I have to comment on the show. It was truly one of the best shows I've seen.

Bryan McWherter was truly the perfect MC for this show. He was funny and kept everything moving and just did a superb job, as he always does in this role. I think being MC is one of his hidden talents.

We had the Joy Luck Club Dancers from our area. They are friends of mine from Roundup but I had never seen them perform and they were EXCELLENT. They really set the tone for the beginning and ending of the show and everyone loved them. Guyton's Group, Pop Shop, were what line dancing SHOULD be about for kids. They were truly excellent and professional and just thrilled everyone who was there to see them. I was imagining them

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multiplied by about a hundred groups of kids and what it would do for line dancing. There were boys and girls ranging from probably about nine or ten through teens and they got a very warm reception. Thanks, Guyton, for sharing this well-kept secret with all of us and for doing such a great job with them. They obviously loved what they were doing. You will love seeing the pictures of the Sumo Wrestlers. They were hysterical and always stayed in character. Junior Willis and John Robinson kept everyone laughing with their routine. The Wilted Lotus Blossoms from the Villages (all instructors at the Villages) were truly entertaining and I loved the big lips!! Guyton and Natalie were great as usual. Celine Yee performed a lovely ribbon dance. I've always wanted to know how to do that so we're going to have to get her to teach us how!!! John Robinsin and Michael Barr did This Country's Rockin as a tribute to Jo Thompson. AJ Clayton and Christine, Big Dave's daughter, performed and entertained us all. Everyone had been asking about Zumba and we got to see it first-hand. The Zumba dancers not only danced for us but had some of the other people in the show join them for a demo. In case you don't know, this is a dance exercise program that is taking the US by storm and after watching them, I can see why. It's very high energy dancing done to Latin music and it was fun to see what it was all about. I heard many people asking about bringing it back to their studios and countries so look for a Zoomba class near you in the future. They are already teaching it around our area and many line dance studios are already offering it. There was a second performance by the Pop Shop and the Show closed with the Joy Luck Club Dancers doing an umbrella dance that was lovely. Thanks, everyone, for entertaining us. I loved it.

I just want to thank Arline and Jen Cameron (who is due any moment) and all the people who helped with everything from blowing up balloons to laying the floor to decorating to participating in this terrific line dance event for making it better and better each year. It means a lot to all of us who live in this area and it's great to see so many Florida people support this event and to see the guests from so many places coming once and then continuing to come and bring their friends because they had such a great time. There were many people who stayed over after the event this year to enjoy our area and to go out dancing at our clubs . Remember I keep a list of places to dance here and I also keep a list of all the tourist things to do in our area that you might not know about. The weather is fabulous, the hospitality is Southern so that should say it all, and you will be guaranteed to have a great time dancing at the Tampa Bay Classic next year so make your plans and join in the fun. Thank you, Arline, and see you all in Tampa next year. Carol