

# WORLD LINE DANCE NEWSLETTER



## WINDY CITY LINE DANCE MANIA 2007

This was my first trip to this event and I was more than happy. It was very easy and fast to get from the airport to the hotel on the free shuttle and the hotel itself has a nice, big lobby area where we became the "Lobby People" during the afternoon on Thursday and we could see people coming and going and chat and just enjoy relaxing before the weekend. We were playing a little game seeing how many names we could learn and how many we could remember so I learned a lot of new names and we would do little tests with each other all weekend. It's so strange to see people over and over and STILL not know their names but one great thing they did was have NAME TAGS that were your pass into the event so you actually kept them on all weekend because you needed to. I thought that was a great concept. They had your name, where you were from and the lettering was large enough to read. I loved that. Everything seemed to be so organized from the very first minute we arrived and Mark and Glen and Eve were just kind of mingling with people and not looking frazzled (which to me is always a good sign that it's going to be a good weekend.) The only complaint anyone had was something that only mother nature could have cured and that was a record heat wave that was a challenge to the air conditioning system but other than that I heard no complaints at all. The hotel is nice and there is a big food court right outside the lesson and dance rooms so you could take a break and get a drink or food or just relax with friends. There are a couple of other restaurants in the hotel and we would usually have dinner in the bar area and the menu was very good and we didn't have to wait forever to get served. Registration was convenient and fast, there was always water available for the dancers, the floor was very nice and I heard rave reviews from people who took the opportunity to be a tourist in Chicago. I kept hearing about what a beautiful and clean city it is and they just loved it. I wish I had taken a day or so to tour Chicago and next time I go I will do just that. There is a train that is very close to the hotel that you can take into the city and the taxis seem to be quite reasonable, also. I thought the entire setup for the dance event was just perfect. There were 30 instructors and 91 lessons during the weekend and everyone seemed to have good classes. There was a review room with the time of each dance posted and there were two rooms open at night for open dancing. Louie was in the main ballroom one and I have to say he played a terrific mix of music. I remember doing God Blessed Texas at about two in the morning and he played all the dances taught a number of times along with old and new stuff. Jill Babinec also did a terrific job playing all requests in her open dance room and people were meandering back and forth just for a change of scenery so the evening open dance was just great. I went to bed around 3 am each night but I heard they stayed open until 5 and 6 (but those people sleep in and I get up at 7 am so there). There were people from all over the world and a healthy contingent of Florida people including Sandy Albano and those people who tried to corrupt me by inducting me into BNS Club. I learned to do that really fast hip shake thing from Michele Jackson and I remember teaching George Winnegar to do it and telling him what a hit he would be on the golf course so ... Thanks, Michele, for teaching me that. It's good to have a new talent. You never know when you're going to need to bend your knees and shake your legs as fast as you can like you're nervous but I'm sure it will be put to good use by all who learned it. In fact we could even do that part in a couple of the funky dances. LOL. I also learned the arm movements to GYRATE so I can do the hips and the arms (thanks to Nicole) to one dance. It's not pretty but I can do it.

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A special thanks have to go to Mark, Glen and Eve for sponsoring this great event and a special thanks to everyone who helped them pull it together:

Tina Veliotis did the registrations and got the volunteers lined up and is the general troubleshooter for this event.

**Floor volunteers:** Michelle Long, Megan Houchins, Jocelyn D. Crouse, Melissa Daum, Marcia Rizzo, Jacquie Harloff, Sharon Carlson

**Registration Desk Full Time:** Peggy Hall & Amy Zack

**Volunteers:** Cody Bahr, Elaina Speas, Debi Pancoast, George Winnegar

Here is the schedule of all the dances taught

<http://www.countryside.com/Schedules/WCWorkshopSchedule2007.pdf>

and you can order the step sheets and/or video-DVD if you go to [www.countryside.com](http://www.countryside.com). There were a lot of dances taught that were excellent dances and I hope some of them don't get lost in the shuffle. I did an informal survey at the event and through e-mail after I got home and I will tell you about those and some of the ones that stood out to me but there were just many dances that might not get mentioned that are excellent dances and I hope when you see the DVD you will be teaching some of them.

The show was excellent and just the right length. We had Joey Warren's little group perform and Brian B. did his routine and Rachael McEnany did her competition routine in this most beautiful costume and as only she could do it. Part of the show was the Choreography Competition, which is quite unique at this event. The winner of the choreography competition has to teach the dance to the instructors (and anyone else who would like to learn it). During the show on Saturday the choreographer and the "students" perform the dance for the audience and then they are judged by both a panel of judges and the audience so it's pretty exciting. I'm glad I wasn't choosing the winner because I really liked Will Craig's dance, CLOTHES OFF, and also MORE THAN LIFE by Scott Schrank. I think they should have tied because they were both really good dances and one was funky and one wasn't. I hope they are taught or you will take a look at both of them. The winner of the choreography competition each year is invited to teach at the event the following year, which is a great opportunity for people who may not have been invited to teach and it also gives the people who are invited a chance to see how they teach and give them a little exposure. What a great idea!! I think the winner of this also got passes to a bunch of events. I know someone did. They also have the pro choreography competition. This year there were two teams. One team was John Robinson, Junior Willis and Bryan McWherter doing MEET ME AT THE PLAYGROUND. This is a fast little dance that was really fun. Maybe John will learn it a little better so he can teach at the next event. It's worth learning this dance to watch John crack up when Bryan does his special introduction moves. LOL. I liked it a lot and hope it's done in Tampa. The team that won the \$600 prize was Jackie Miranda, Maurice Rowe and Barry Amato doing SEXY OREOS. This was another really good dance and I will get the sheets for both of these posted as soon as possible.

As an added bonus at the end of the show we had the toy story and that included Guyton Mundy as Spiderman, Joey Warren as GI Joey and Barry and Dari Ann as Barbie and Ken. They were all

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terrific. I hope you get to see it somewhere in the next few months. It amazes me how much talent we have when they can pull together these shows and come up with a different idea every time. I would think after all the years I've been going to events that they would run out of ideas but they always surprise me. There was this one little kid there named Michael (about 3 or 4) who was absolutely fascinated with the dancing. I saw him trying to imitate a couple of things that Brian B. did in his performance. There's a picture of him on the site and he is watching the dancers and just stood there entranced through all the performances. He was so cute. I forgot to get his grandmother's name but she was there with him and his mom.

**NOW FOR SOME OF THE DANCES that I took notes about or saw or took the lesson or people told me about (in no particular order) and I know I'm not mentioning them all but others will write in their favorites:**

BLUE FINGER LOU, Max Perry. What a great dance this is still. Everyone was on the floor doing it and it will always be a classic.

POISON PARADISE, Scott Blevins. I loved the music to this easy-ish dance by Scott. I think this will be a hit for him.

TO LOVE SOMEBODY, Peter and Alison. Beautiful music and NC 2 and this dance was done a lot during the weekend.

FUEGO, Sparks and Spencer. The funky-to-the-max dancers loved this one.

SHIM SHAM BOOGIE, taught by John Robinson. What a fun dance this is and what a perfect person to teach it!! It's going to be taught in Tampa and you just have to learn it.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, Neville Fitzgerald. Another hit for Neville. I like this one a lot.

PHLOOR PHILLA, a classic by Bryan McWherter. It's good to see people bringing some of the older dances back

MY HEART IS DYING, Mark Cosenza. Nice dance to beautiful music.

FIRECRACKER, Robert Lindsay. I liked how this dance hit the music and it's a cute, fun dance.

DON'T MIND MESSIN, Barry and Dari Ann. Fifties music, cute and fun.

WORLD ON A STRING, by Patrick Fleming and taught by Bryan McWherter. I liked this dance. It's kind of soft shoe music and just flows.

DO IT, Gerard Murphy. I was surprised that everyone didn't know this dance but the class was full and it was requested constantly. This will definitely be played at upcoming events.

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GIVE IT BACK, Rachael McEnany. This was one of my top dances of the weekend. It's just a great dance.

FADED, Rachael McEnany. One of my all-time favorites and I'm so happy it's being retaught. If you didn't learn it the first time around you should learn it now.

DREAMIN, Barry and Dari Anne Amato. I missed this class but I heard lots of people saying this was one of their favorites of the weekend.

HICK CHICKS, Guyton Mundy. This was requested often as well as CHEATIN MYSELF. We've been doing these awhile.

ISLE OF PARADISE, nice dance to island-type music

ROCK WITH YOU, Michael Barr, Cute, easy dance

AIN'T GOT NO MONEY, Neville Fitzgerald and WTF by Bryan McWherter. Both are funky little dances to the same music and the floor was split on these two.

COME A LITTLE CLOSER, Joey Warren. I still haven't learned this dance but all my dance friends love this one.

FOOL IN LOVE, Barry and Dari Anne. I gave this one a bunch of stars and said great music and should be a hit with classes. It was also mentioned by many in the little survey I did.

FLY PAPER, Gerard Murphy. This is another really good dance from Gerard.

ZJOZZY'S FUNK, taught by Joann Brady. You know this is a very popular dance and it certainly was this past weekend.

BOARDROOM, Maurice and Zack. I just love this little dance and it just looks so cool on the floor when everyone is doing the turns and arms together.

LET'S GET SAVED, taught by Scott Blevins. This is a challenging dance that you will like a lot once you can do it. Marilyn McNeal is teaching it in Tampa so you will have a chance to learn it. Lots of people picked this one as a favorite.

DOORS OF LIFE, Michael Barr. This one was the favorite of a lot of people in my little survey. I wanted to take the lesson but forgot. Hope he teaches it in Tampa.

GYRATE, Definitely funky and definitely popular with all levels of dancers. The footwork is pretty easy and it's just such cool music. Rachael did a fabulous job of teaching it and it filled the floor every time it was played. I didn't think I would be doing this one but I just might do it when it's taught in Tampa because everyone had so much fun learning it.

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SUPERMODELZ, Kathy Hunyadi and Gerard Murphy. This one is so cute!!

COME ON AND CLAP, by Michele Jackson and Alana. This is a cute contra-type dance that could be done in any club.

DANCE AND SHOUT, Frank Cooper. This is a really good dance that you might have missed if you didn't really watch it. I always pay attention to Frank's dances because he gives them a lot of thought and they are usually really good dances and this one is no exception. I understand he has a brand new one coming out too and I'll pay attention to that one, also.

MY ROCK, Doug and Jackie Miranda. I just loved this rousing gospel music and this dance. I hope this one doesn't get lost because it really should be taught and if it is it will be very popular.

HEY BIG SPENDER, taught by Carole Daugherty. I told you a long time ago I liked this little dance. It would be great for a show routine.

SCANDALOUS, Neville Fitzgerald. This is an oldie but goodie by Neville. I think I need another lesson on this one. It's hard!!!!

I GOT IT LIKE THAT, Judy McDonald. I really liked this dance. It's fast and reminds me of a couple of Judy's dances that became big hits and I think this one will be for her, too. I want to learn this one.

PUCKER UP, Scott Blevins. This one was requested and danced many times this weekend. I almost have it now.

GET ON THE BUS, Guyton Mundy. I love the the hopscotch move that Guyton put in the this easy little dance and I know this will be another hit for him. Cute music and easy enough for everyone to do.

CHARANGA, Rachael McEnany. Great music and fun dance. I was also surprised that more didn't learn this on but they will after Chicago. It's just infectious, Latin music and a dance that anyone can do.

## **DANCES DONE A LOT:**

Zjozzys Funk/Petra Van Velden/Lower Intermediate

Charanga/Rachel McEnaney/Intermediatetka

A Gigolo/RobbieMcGowanHickie/intermediate

Cry to Me/PaulMcAdams/Intermediate

Not Like That/RobbieMcGowanHickie/Intermediate

Show Me Wot You Got/Neville Fitzgerald/Intermediate

To Love Someone/Peter Metelnick & Alison Biggs/int

Butter Beans/Petre/Beginner/Intermediate



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Burning/Larson/Int-Adv  
Do It?/Murphy/Intermediate  
GuardianAngel/MaggieGallagher/intermediate  
Last Minute/Warren-McEnaney/Intermediate  
Nimby/Maggie Gallagher/Intermediate  
One/Willis&Brockman/Beg-int  
Pucker Up, Scott Blevins

**A lot of the oldies on this video/sheet page we keep for dances done at events.**

<http://www.worldlinedancenewsletter.com/EventDances.html>

## **HERE'S SOME OTHER FAVORITES AND COMMENTS SENT BY OTHER PEOPLE OR TOLD TO ME:**

Let's Get Saved

Ain't Got No Money

Poison Paradise

Firecracker

World On A String

All Over Again

Dreamin

Poison Paradise and Give It Back. I also liked the classes I took for Boardroom, You're My Destiny and Get on the Bus. There were many dances I already had learned which were taught that I really like including Zjozzy's Funk, To Love Somebody, Dance & Shout, Charanga and Cheatin Myself. The dances I am sorry I did not get a chance to learn were Pucker Up and Ain't Got No Money.

Gyrate

Will You Still Believe

Frank Cooper taught us a brand new dance at his class on Sunday, thought the name will be No Place Like Home. The music is Michael Buble, Comin Home Baby. He promised a step sheet this week.

competition choreography

More Than Life

Charanga-Rachel McEnaney

Funkified Blues-Jo Thompson

Shim Sham Boogie-taught by John Robinson

Firecracker-Robert Lindsay

Lyle Loves It-taught by Carole

Across the Universe-Metelnick-fast one small tag

To Love Somebody-Metelnick-Night Club 2

Some other dances that people from my area said they liked were:

Knock Knock-Metelnick

Blue Finger Lou-YEAH maybe we can get this one going again in our area.

Isle of Paradise-Watson taught by Petre

Fool in Love-taught by Amato's

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Funkabilly-taught by Amato's

Fly Paper-Murphy

Doors of Life-Barr

A couple of dances that no one I know took but looked interesting on the floor were

Do It- Gerard Murphy

My Rock -Miranda's-polka

Supermodelz-Hunyadi

Snap, Crackle & Pop-Metelnick-Firecracker by Josh Turner (love his voice)

There were some really good looking dances in the choreography competitions.

Jill Babinec's- Duff Love-1 easy tag

Judy Teh-Congratulations-cute fun but too many tags for most dancers in my area

Will Craig-Clothes Off -funkier type dance (competition winner)

Scott Schrank-More Than Life-1 tag (competition runner-up)

Johanna Barnes-Can't Stop-phrased

Evelyn Haling-Turnip Greens Although it placed 4th in her heat I think Turnip Greens is a dance worth looking at. The dance starts off making a sideways figure 8 then it ends with a U turn.

From the pro's competition I really like the Sexy Oreos dance.

No Doubt About It

Poison

Pucker Up

Give It Back

Dreamin

Shim Sham Boogie

Blue Finger Lou

Fuego

Poison

Get On the Bus

Give it Back

Another big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this such a wonderful line dance event. Thanks to everyone who came up and introduced yourselves or said hi. We are so lucky to have so many premier line dance events right now and they couldn't happen without a lot of hard work by the directors and a lot of support from everyone who attends. I hope to see many of you at the Tampa Event and I know many are going to Vegas and Worlds and I hope you get to see some of the great dances I saw last weekend no matter where you go whether it is a large event like Chicago and Tampa and Worlds or a smaller event that people love just as much -- JUST GO!! You can't help but love it. Carol