

# Spring Showcase

Tuesday, May 6th. 8 - 10 pm. Tickets: \$10

Our 1st Annual Spring Showcase is fast approaching and the excitement is building. Solo Routines and the Jack & Jill competition are the two main features of the night.

We look forward to great performances from all of our participants and tremendous support from the audience. See you there!

## Harrison Hot Springs

Our 3rd annual trip to Harrison Hot Springs is set for June 21st! Our dinner reservation is for 6:30.

This event is a lot of fun and includes a delicious meal, lots of general dancing and a great show as well. For more detailed information please check out our Harrison handout.



## ETIQUETTE TIP

Summer is coming and warm weather is on the way! Please keep in mind that while dancing is great exercise and a good way to work up a sweat it's also important to be considerate of your partners.

Gentlemen: If you sweat a lot consider a change of shirt at a long party on a hot night. Also a small towel can be a handy accomplice.

Ladies: Sleeveless tops can help keep you cool but remember that the man's arm is in your armpit. In general we recommend a top with short sleeves on all occasions.

For more etiquette tips please visit [www.dancingfordessert.ca/resources/etiquette.htm](http://www.dancingfordessert.ca/resources/etiquette.htm)

## HORIZONTAL LEARNING

*Horizontal learning* means that, in general, students should strive for a mastery of steps and ideas in at least a few dances at one level before progressing on to higher levels.

The main reason for this is that dancing is a learned physical skill that requires repetition to do well. Working through a single level at a time allows you time to achieve a depth of learning that ensures the greatest success. Consider that:

- We teach similar steps and concepts in similar dances at the same level.
- It is ideal for students of similar ability and experience to be taking classes together.
- It takes 21,77 or 2 million repetitions to retain a physical skill, depending on who you ask...

*An important part of our horizontal system is repeating classes:*

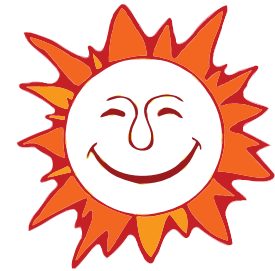
- We offer repeat classes for 1/2 price.
- We try to vary the focus of the class depending on the ability and dance maturity of the students in the class.
- Learning takes place in layers. It is very difficult to focus on lead & follow if you're not sure where you're feet are going. With repeated exposure you are able to focus on the things that make the difference between good and great.

**Although we do a quick review of the previous level on the 1st class of a given level it should be understood that this is a refresher and not a 1st time learning experience.**

If you have any questions about your path to dancing greatness, or are unsure whether a class is appropriate for your ability please let us know.

# DancingforDessert

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2008



## Summer Holidays

The studio will be closed for holidays for the week of July 21st - July 27th. We will be starting up again full blast on July 28th with our regular program.

604-957-9192

[www.dancingfordessert.ca](http://www.dancingfordessert.ca)

# JACK & JILL & JACK & JILL & JACK & JILL & JACK & JILL & JACK & JILL

## Overview...

As mentioned in our last newsletter we will be trying an exciting new event at our Student Showcase on May 6th - The Jack & Jill competition.

A Jack & Jill is a lighthearted dance competition where you don't know who your partner is until right before the competition. Furthermore you don't know exactly which dances you're dancing until right before you dance.

We will draw names for couples immediately prior to the event. Once you've found your partner and introduced yourself it's time to boogie.

Based on participation. We hope to have at least two rounds: a semi final and a final. Each round will include 2 dances: 1 Ballroom and 1 Latin. Each dance will be just over 2 minutes long.

In the semi final we expect to have all participants on the floor at one time. We will ask all participants to take the floor and then we will draw the first dance.

The 1st dance will be 1 of Foxtrot, Tango or Waltz.  
The 2nd dance will be 1 of Rumba, Cha Cha or Swing

Following the semi final dances we will have general dancing while we figure out who made the final.

We will then call the finalists back for the final heat. We will draw dances again in the same way, except that the dances from the semi final will not be drawn for the final.

We will tally the results and announce the winners. The winners will be crowned **King Jack** and **Queen Jill**, will be invited to perform an honour dance of their choice and retain the title until our next event.

## Who Should Enter this Event...

Most of our students should feel very comfortable in this event. If you have completed most Level 1 classes and attend our parties regularly then we would like to see you participate. You'll have more fun on the floor than in a seat.

- Everyone interested in participating is asked to register with us by email, by phone or in person by April 29th.
- As of April 29th it is unlikely we will have equal numbers of men and ladies signed up. We will try to encourage more students to join in order to balance the numbers. If this doesn't work we will have to draw names. If it comes to this anyone who wanted to participate but was not drawn is guaranteed a placement the next time we run this event.

## Preparing for the Event...

- Remember that this is a light-hearted, fun-intentioned event. The goal is to introduce the excitement and spirit of a dance competition at our school in a way that is inclusive and avoids too much pressure. Don't take this too seriously. On the other hand...
- Gentlemen - Dress up a bit. A jacket is usually a problem because your shoulders will ride up in dance position. However, a shirt and tie or vest are going to look sharp. Matching your top to your bottom is key. Polish your shoes and shave.
- Ladies - Wear something that is appropriate for both ballroom and Latin dances. A knee length skirt is probably ideal. Colour is also good to help you stand out.
- Gentlemen will be assigned numbers when they get to the party. These should be pinned on your back. We will have further directions for you at the party.

## Judges, Judging Criteria and Suggestions...

Your judges for the evening are a distinguished panel:

Mr. Brian Antonio  
Ms. Marie Dupuis  
Mr. Andrew McIntosh  
Ms. Magdalena Rudzik

There are a number of factors that go into judging something like a dance competition. Here, in no particular order are some of the most important things we will look for.

**Timing:** Being on time is one of the most important indicators of quality. If your dancing does not relate to the music... well, you'd better have great showmanship!

**Characterization/Showmanship:** This is a great equalizer for this competition. Evoking the character of the individual dances is a big key to doing them well. Realizing that you are entertaining people as well as dancing is another important factor.

**Appearance & Manner:** Appropriate dress, attention to personal grooming and a generally gracious manner are all ways to impress.

**Partnering:** Lead, follow, connection and general consideration and care for your partner is another major thing we will look for.

**Floorcraft.** We strongly suggest using fewer figures that you are more comfortable with rather than trying to impress us with difficult figures done poorly. The number of competitors will make it so that you will only get seconds of each judges' attention. It is best to make those seconds of quality.

Keep in mind that judging something like this is very subjective. If you are watching the final don't panic. We still love you! Further questions? Let us know.