



Salsa Picante Dance Company's

Salsa Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

MARCH — APRIL 2007

Welcome to the Salsa Picante Dance Company newsletter. Here you will find the latest news regarding the company, the school and everything salsa.

Salsa Picante Dance Company News

There's nothing like some salsa heat to keep us warm through the winter months. In fact, our neighbouring salsa social, the Toronto Salsa Practice, has been sold out every 3:30 session since the beginning of the year. We're happy to see our students getting out there, too.

The dance company has kept busy. Eloisa and I performed with *Rumbon Dance Company* on February 2nd at the U of T Dance Club with about 100 people in attendance. The floor was slippery. I almost dropped my partner on the neck dip and had to hold her with both arms to dip her well. The music was slowed down, too. DJ's should never move the pitch fast or slow when our choice in performance song is already set. As performers we had to adapt. Good thing I listened to the song a million times. Overall, very well done. Eloisa and I headed back to Trinity St Paul to teach at 7pm. So much work for a 3-minute song.

We are having our Salsa Picante Dance Company Salsa Social every last Friday of the

Month. This will be a monthly salsa social. We are planning to offer either an intro class of Casino Rueda, if people show interest in this or a performance at 8pm from our dancers and or invited dancers. I will DJ, of course.



Plans for the future:

We are starting various workshops on Friday evenings from 7-8pm. Students are welcome to make requests. Starting in March 2 - April 6 we will teach workshops consisting of bachata, merengue, chachacha, and a bit of salsa. We would like it to evolve into a "Latin Workout" fitness class, using a mix of Latin dances.

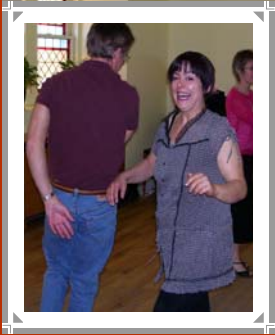
We will start a student choreography team in at the end of July 2007. These are for students that are in the intermediate and intermediate-advance classes who feel they want to bring their dancing to another level. These students should be up for a challenge as it will not be easy. The hard work will result in a performance either in our socials and other salsa venues to represent.

Arthur Ga

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El Rancho - the Good, the Bad and the Merengue



El Rancho is one of the oldest Latin clubs in Toronto holding both good and bad reviews. It is nestled by the intersection of Bathurst and College, overlooking its sister Latin club, Plaza Flamingo.

On the negative, there isn't a lot of LA style salsa (the most popular form danced in T.O.) and women often complain that men can be too aggressive there.

On the positive, LA style dancers get a healthy sample of Cuban, Columbian and Miscellaneous Salsa (women will enjoy these samples more since

they don't necessarily have to lead it). This club also encourages the other Latin dances such as Merengue, Bachata and a little Reggaeton. The marathon Merengue segments are almost comical after the 6th song in a row but fortunately they have two dance floors. El Rancho is also famous for its classic selection of Latin music.

Yes, this club is old. One can appreciate that they are standing in a landmark in our city's Salsa and Latin community.

Salsa is a great culture with roots deep and strong within its Latin heritage even as it contin-

ues to evolve in our global village. The enduring legacy of this nightclub is an example of this – reminding us that the past and the future dance in and around each other.



Getting Closer Through Salsa – in honour of Valentine's Day

In honour of Valentine's Day just passed, let's talk about how Salsa relates to Love. Partners in love get to enjoy a unique kind of salsa – a divine combination of one's passion for salsa with one's passion for a mate. Salsa is a sensuous form of communication where and when words fail. And that's the way it should be. Just as we encourage student dancers to not give verbal instruction to their partners during social dancing, couples should enjoy this strictly physical form of communication, and learn from it. And remember, we're talking about love not sex. This is the kind of dance that even if you just did the basic step for the whole song, it would still be a phenomenal experience.

Salsa is a great exercise in communication with anybody. You can observe how you and

your partner adapt to each other's repertoire of moves or 'language'. Do you have lots of accidents? Do you protect your partner? Do you criticize each other? Do you bore each other? Do you enjoy the conversation?

The same can be said for romantic partners with some additions. Here, the student dancer is faced with the additional challenge of: How well do you express your passion through salsa? Are you trying too hard? Are you sincere? Should you keep it to a private room? Do you make funny faces? Passion and love can be difficult to communicate in any form but, as humans, we still find reasons to try. In terms of salsa, this is not something you can learn in a class. In class, we can encourage you to not be shy about your emotions or passion but

we cannot show you how to dance with love. This kind of salsa is learned only between you and your partner. A process, in itself, which should be enjoyed.



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a community website
for dancers, writers
and
musicians.

Don Quixote by Picasso c/
o Allposters.com

Class Reviews



In class, Arthur has been emphasizing the need to dance outside of the class. Students will find it harder to retain the lessons if they don't dance at least once a week either at the socials or the night-clubs. We also want to see you taking Arthur's moves and having *fun* with them on a social level. It's on the floor that you will learn from hits and misses.

Arthur has also tried introducing a

sexy shine in the Intermediate class, which was met with some hesitation from the ladies. Some of us were more comfortable with a kung-fu variation.

In the Intermediate II class, we have been drilling the solid dance frames needed for a good 360. This resulted in a Salsa Picante variation of the waltz, up and down the class floor, as well as a good reminder to the ladies to spot while turning.

Commit to the Dance

A good tip to enjoying the madness of salsa is that when you agree to dance with somebody, commit yourself to the dance. You may have lots of concerns that day or you may be feeling shy or intimidated, but once you agree to a dance, put those aside and dance your heart out. You may think, "The song is too fast." "I don't remember anything." These worries no longer matter. You said yes, so just dance. At that point, you owe it to yourself, as well as your partner, to simply enjoy the dance and music. It can start with simply dancing with your head up, one deep breath and a smile.

Student Corner





Salsa Picante Dance Company

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"Learning to dance should always be fun. It's a great way to meet many wonderful people and a fun form of exercise and self expression. It can change your life."

- Arthur Ga

Do you want to add some spice to your life? Salsa Picante Dance Co. is just the place for you! Come and experience with us the wonderful world of Salsa dancing!

For more information on Salsa Picante Dance Co. or to join our distribution list, please email:

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Class Schedule 2007

(Check website for updated session details)

All classes are at Trinity St Paul's United Church, 427 Bloor St W (just west of Spadina)

Cost of Group Classes: \$60 for 6 classes, or \$12 drop in, Private \$50 for 1 hour

NEW: Salsa Practices for our students every last Friday of the Month.

EVERY FRIDAY: (NEW CYCLES) March 2-April 20, May 4-June 15

Worshops: Bachata, Merengue, Chachacha	7:00-8:00pm
Basic Beginner Salsa On1:	7:00-8:00 pm
Beg-Inter Salsa On 1:	8:00-9:00 pm

EVERY SATURDAY: (NEW CYCLES) March 10-April 14, April 28-June 2

Basic Beginner Salsa On1:	11:30-12:30 pm
Beginner-Improver Salsa On1:	12:30-1:30 pm
Beginner-Intermed Salsa On1:	1:30-2:30 pm
Intermediate-Adv Salsa On1:	2:30-3:30 pm