

FROM THE SOURCE

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YOU'VE "PIQUED" MY INTEREST

FOCUS DANCE TEAM BY Benjamin Brinkman
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ONE GUY TELLS WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE
TO BE THE BOYFRIEND OF A DANCER.

I can identify nearly everything from an arabesque to a tutu. I can stand in first through fifth position. I notice when you are half a count off. I can tell when you flex your fingers; I cringe when you don't point your toes. I see all of these things, and I haven't danced a day in my life. I don't belong to any dance studios, and I'm not affiliated with any dance schools. The only reason I notice any of the above is that for the last eight years of my life, I have dated a dancer. That's right. I'm the guy who shows up to your competitions in the baseball hat, the guy who doesn't say much to your fellow dancers and the guy who openly sighs because the show is once again behind schedule. Yet, behind my apathetic façade, I have been watching. Maybe not so much watching as searching. Yes I'm trying to pinpoint what this bond is that I believe all dancers share. It is a uniting force that, after nearly a decade of searching I've come to realize will only be shared by those who dance.

From what I've observed, dancing is a cyclical process. You try out, and if you make the line, you meet your fellow dancers. From there you learn the songs you are going to dance to that year, and you fall in love with them. These songs play over and over in your head. At school they distract you from class; in the car, you mark your dance with your hands (whether you're driving or not); and at home you perform choreography within the constraints of your kitchen. It all goes well until you reach the hands-down, number-one source of conflict for every dance: the formations. If you're in the back, the dance becomes tainted. If you're in the front, you're going to take just a little more satisfaction from the number. However, with a roll of your eyes or a restrained smile, you accept the fate of your placement and move on. Practice continues, transitions are adjusted and counts are perfected.

The entire dance can be set, and primed for performances, but all will not be well. It happens on every line; cliques are formed. You can be best friends one year and enemies the next. At times, the demise of a friendship causes so many tears that it becomes grounds for you to quit. But, like when you dealt with your position in the formation, you move on with the dance and stick it out until competition season.

It is here that my observations become limited. It's not that I haven't seen my fair share of competitions. In fact, I've seen them all and in all different modes. I've come to them alone, I've dragged a friend along, and I've sat in awkward silence with your parents. But no matter where or how I see them, one thing remains constant: there is something about the onstage performance I cannot understand. All at once, concern over lines, cliques and any other conflicts in your lives are cast aside. Hours of practice, tears, laughter, muscle strains and cramps culminate into two focused minutes in front of a mass of strangers. You step out onto the stage where everyone can see your heart beating out of your chest. You wait in a quiet stillness for that first note from a song you've heard thousands of times before. It resonates on the stage. It sparks your body into motion, and in a blur of gracefulness you move in complete synchronization with those who have been everything from a backstabber to your best friend. As someone who has observed much more, I want to believe it's just a front you put on for the sake of the stage; but once you finish the number you embrace, shed tears and lock arms with each other to await your results.

It is these brief moments of onstage exultation that bring you back to dance. It has to be. I learn about terms and I can critique performances all I want, but I will never know that feeling. In those two minutes the whole world and all of its problems seem to disappear. It is something you all share yet something that can go unshared. It is what will make you dancers for the rest of your lives, and what make me an envious bystander for the rest of mine.

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Special points of interest:

- Competition Status—see In The News
- Stay in the know—see Upcoming Events
- 2004 Recital Naration
- Tribute to CVPA Graduates

BERT DANCES AT RECITAL 2004



JANUARY 3, 2005

Deadline for SHOCK One Day Convention Workshop, Westin Hotel Santa Clara, Ca.

JANUARY 15, 2005

Deadline for DISNEYLAND MAGIC MUSIC DAYS PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP, Anaheim, Ca.

JANUARY 22, 2005

MASONIC HOME PERFORMANCE - Hayward, Ca. - Be there 6p.m. - Showtime 7p.m.

Participating classes T.B.A.

JANUARY 28-30, 2004

DANCEMASTERS OF CA CHAPTER 13 SOLO TITLE COMPETITION - Westin Hotel Santa Clara Convention

Sing Sing Sing and Indian will perform at 2p.m. Pageant

Question of You will perform at 7p.m. Pageant

FEBRUARY 13, 2005

SHOCK ONE DAY CONVENTION WORKSHOP, Westin Hotel Santa Clara, Ca.

MARCH 21, 2005

Deadline for INTERNATIONAL DANCE CHALLENGE, San Mateo Ca.

APRIL 1 & 2, 2005

DISNEYLAND MAGIC MUSIC DAYS PERFORMANCE/WORKSHOP - Anaheim, Ca. - Itty Bits, Mini-Mites and Junior Line (other classes will be added)

APRIL 4, 2005

Deadline for State Competition, Santa Clara, Ca.

MAY 1, 2005

CVPA SOLO RECITAL AND SPAGHETTI FEED - Castro Valley Moose Club, Showtime 5 p.m. (All lines will perform as well)

MAY 14 - 15, 2005

INTERNATIONAL DANCE CHALLENGE, San Mateo Center

for the Performing Arts, San Mateo, Ca.

MAY 27 - 29, 2005

STATE COMPETITION, Santa Clara Fairgrounds, Santa Clara, Ca.

JUNE 6, 2005

Deadline for INTERNATIONAL DANCE CHALLENGE NATIONALS, Las Vegas, Nevada

JUNE 2005

ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR TALENT COMPETITION - Alameda County Fair, Pleasanton, Ca.

JUNE 22 - 25, 2005

MISS CALIFORNIA PAGEANT PERFORMANCES AND OUTSTANDING TEEN OF CALIFORNIA PAGEANT - Fresno, Ca. (We will be doing 'Legends', 'Step To This', and 'Dive In The Pool' for the Outstanding Teen of California Pageant. For Miss California Pageant we will be doing 'Tica, Tica', 'Jesus' and a jazz number)

JULY 2005

DANCEMASTERS NATIONAL CONVENTION, Tennessee - DMC title holders only

JULY 28, 29, 30, 31, 2005

INTERNATIONAL DANCE CHALLENGE NATIONALS, Cashman Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

OCTOBER 9, 2005

STUDIO PICTURES at the CVPA Santa Maria Studio. Schedule T.B.A.

OCTOBER 13, 20, 27, 2005

TENTATIVE - Dress Rehearsals for 'Recital 2005' at Chabot College Theatre, Chabot College, Hayward, Ca. Dress rehearsal times are 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Schedule T.B.A.

OCTOBER 30, 2005

TENTATIVE - 'Recital 2005' at Chabot College Theatre, Hayward, Ca. Showtime 2 p.m. Dancers must arrive at 1 p.m.

2004 RECITAL - ny and las vegas naration

The year of 2004 brought many new and exciting experiences for many of our dancers. From New York to Fresno to Las Vegas, we were strutting our stuff. Meeting new friends and visiting exciting places were just some of the added extras that we got to experience. 2004 came in with a bang, with two of our dancers, Kirsten Dutra and Julian DeGuzman winning the much-coveted titles of Miss and Mr. Dance of California and another young dancer, Zaiyah Jones winning the title of Master Dance of California all within the Dancemasters of California Chapter 13 organization. Dancemasters is a well-respected dance organization known in the dance world for giving young dancers their start and contributing to the further education of dance students throughout the world. By winning the titles of Mr. and Miss Dance of California, Kirsten and Julian had the honor of representing California's Chapter 13 at the Dancemasters of America National convention in New York City. The national convention and competition in New York City was amazing. Kirsten and Julian found themselves competing against some of the top dancers from all over the United States, Canada and France. For two weeks, they learned and rehearsed choreography from some of the best teachers in the United States as well as went through many hours of grueling auditions to determine their proficiency in tap, jazz, ballet and acrobatics and added to all of that were one-on-one interviews with regard to their working knowledge of dance. All of this culminated with the adjudication of their own performances and the announcement of the scholarship winners. We at CVPA could not have been more proud of our two dancers. Both Kirsten and Julian placed 2nd in the interview portion of the competition, Julian placed 2nd in the overall tap proficiency class and Kirsten not only won the overall ballet proficiency class but placed 2nd in the cumulative score of the all the class proficiencies. When all was said and done, Julian had ranked 8th and Kirsten had ranked 7th in the overall scoring placement for all segments of the competition. It was an (continued on page 4)



**DANCE MASTERS OF CALIFORNIA
PERFORMING ARTS COMPETITION -
NOVEMBER 2004**

DIVISION 4 - SOLO

Lyrical - Ella Bartolome - 'Never Is A Promise' - 1st Place, Gold
Lyrical - Robyn De Guzman - 'Let Him Fly' - 3rd Place, High Silver
Jazz - Soolin Deitchman - 'One Bad Habit' - 2nd Place, High Silver
Lyrical - Ethan Kirschbaum - 'I Don't' - 2nd Overall, Platinum
Lyrical - Shana Doucet - 'I Miss You' - High Silver

DIVISION 3 - SOLO

Lyrical - Kelsey Aper - 'Broken' - 6th Place Overall, Gold
Jazz - Samantha Siegel - 'L.O.V.E.' - 2nd Place Overall, Platinum
Jazz - Heather Klobukowski - 'Miss Otis Regrets' - High Silver
Jazz - Christina Panico - 'In the Cool of the Evening' - High Silver
Lyrical - Chantel Clark - 'Tears In Heaven' - 4th Place, Silver
Tap - Monique Dyquaingco - 'Techno Tap' - 6th Place Overall, Gold

DIVISION 2 - SOLO

Jazz - Candice Lozano - 'Latin Groove' - Silver

Tap - Alexandria Adkins - 'Palm Springs Jump' - 3rd Place, Silver

Tap - Ericca Peinado - 'Ain't What You Do' - Silver

Lyrical - Sarah Blacher - 'Never Alone' - Silver

Lyrical - Mina Huynh - 'Fly On My Fathers Wing' - Tied 4th Place Overall, Gold

Lyrical - Andrea Pulliam - 'Once Upon A December' - 2nd Place, High Silver

Tap - Kaiti Ochoa - 'Music, Music, Music' - Silver

Lyrical - Isabella Kaser - 'Dance' - Silver

Tap - Sarah Blancher - 'Jumpin East of Java' - 3rd Place Overall, Gold

Tap - Mary Lassalle - 'Sausage Rock' - 1st Place, High Silver

Jazz - Haley Hoops - 'Burnin Love' - Tied 4th Place Overall - Gold

DIVISION 1 - SOLO

Lyrical - Kristy Dai - 'Someone Is Waiting For You' - 1st Place Overall, Gold

Jazz - Marissa McCall - 'I've Got the World on A String' - 2nd Place Overall, Gold

DIVISION 1 - LINE

Tap - 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy' - 1st Place, High Silver

Jazz - 'Your Love Is My Love' - 1st Place, High Silver

DIVISION 2 - LINE

Hip Hop - 'Funky Y2C' - 1st Place, Gold

Tap - 'Sing, Sing, Sing' - 1st Place Overall, Platinum

Tap - 'Love My Music' - 2nd Place, Gold
Lyrical - 'I Can Only Imagine' - 1st Place, Gold

DIVISION 2 - DUO

Tap - 'Datin' With No Dough' - 1st Place, Gold

DIVISION 3 - LINE

Tap - 'Rock This Town' - 2nd Place Overall, Gold

Tap - 'Tica Tica' - 1st Place, Gold

Jazz - 'Jump Shout Boogie' - 2nd Place, Gold

Tap - 'Hey Pachuco' - 2nd Place, Gold

Tap - 'Dive In The Pool' - 3rd Place, Gold

DIVISION 3 - GROUP

Lyrical - 'Over the Rainbow' - 1st Place, Gold

Tap - 'Stuff Like That There' - High Silver,

Jazz - 'School Days' - Gold

DIVISION 3 - DUO/TRIO

Lyrical - 'Children Will Listen' - 1st Place Overall, Gold

DIVISION 4 - LINE

Lyrical - 'Question of You' - 1st Place Overall, Platinum

Jazz - 'Paint it Black' - 1st Place, Platinum

DIVISION 4 - GROUP

Lyrical - 'Soledad' - 1st Place, Gold

DANCE MASTERS OF CALIFORNIA

tribute to cvpa high-school graduates

Ecclesiastes 3 verse 1 says, "To everything there is a season and a time for ever purpose under heaven". Please join us, today, at our 2004 Recital, as we celebrate our season of dance. You will not only see many new faces but we also invite you to share our joy as we celebrate the culmination of many seasons for some of our dancers.

It is with great love and respect that we honor these students. To our graduates, Ella Bartolome, Ethan Kirschbaum, Soolin Deitchman, Kari Hariyama, Jenny Broker and Julian DeGuzman. This one's for you.

We acknowledge your achievements and your many accomplishments and the exemplary talents that you share with so many. Your enthusiasm, dedication and undying love for your art is felt by all who know you. James 1 verse 17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of Heavenly Lights." You have been a wonderful gift given to us to share for a moment in time. Now as you spread your wings and take flight, let your lights shine bright and remember that you are part of an extended family who loves you dearly and is so very proud of the wonderful young people you have become.

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Dancing is our Business



For Accounting questions send to: CVPA_ACCTG@YAHOO.COM

For questions about individual students please speak directly to the instructor.

Be on our e-mail mailing list—
send address to:

adkins-karen@sbcglobal.net

NOTE: This is not a 2-way
communication website

Miss Cassie - here's her e-mail infor-
mation:

DANCIN4JC@MSN.COM

Instant message her :

AIM-BROADWAYBABY7786

TUITION PAYMENT DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY - Week of January 2nd
thru January 8th, 2005

FEBRUARY - Week of January
30th thru February 5th, 2005

March - Week of February 27th
thru March 5th, 2005

NOTE: Tuition is based on a four week month. It is due and payable on the first lesson of each four week period. A 10% service charge will be added to all tuitions paid after the 15th day of each payment period.



IN THE NEWS (continued)

PERFORMING ARTS COMPETITION - NOVEMBER 2004 - continued from page 3

DIVISION 4 - DUO

Lyrical - 'Tell Him' - 1st Place Overall, Platinum

Tap - 'One Up' - 1st Place, Gold

EXTENDED - 'Indian' - 1st Overall, Platinum

Jazz Production - 'Legends' - Gold

SCHOLARSHIPS - DIVISION 1

Top Tap - Stephanie Mihalyi

Top Jazz - Stephanie Mihalyi

Top Ballet - Stephanie Mihalyi

Top Acrobatics - Kristy Dai

1st Place overall - Stephanie Mihalyi w/
Workshop Scholarship in Spring

2nd Place Overall - Kristy Dai w/Workshop
Scholarship in Spring

3rd Place Overall - Marissa McCall w/Workshop
Scholarship in Spring

SCHOLARSHIPS - DIVISION 2

4th Place Overall - Camille Dyquiango w/
Workshop Scholarship in Spring

SCHOLARSHIPS - DIVISION 3

4th Place Overall - Jacquie Mihalyi w/Workshop
Scholarship in Spring

5th Place Overall - Monique Dyquiango

7th Place Overall - Jordan Shilling

GREAT JOB EVERYONE!!

(2004 Recital - NY and Las Vegas Naration - cont'd)

amazing experience and a great way to end a year of hard work.

While we were in New York City, Rob and 50 dancers from CVPA were performing at the Miss California Pageant in Fresno. The Miss California Pageant takes place every year and is the preliminary to the Miss America Pageant. For many years, our dancers have been honored to be guest performers on the pageant. Although the heat can be excruciating with temperatures of 100 - 112 degrees, dancing at the Miss California pageant has always been one of the highlights of our dance year. Being part of the entertainment is not only fun but also challenging. With a very short on stage rehearsal time, our dancers provide professional entertainment segways between the contestant's competition segments. This year our dancers performed on all three preliminary nights of competition for the Miss California pageant in the evenings while they rehearsed and performed during the day at the Outstanding Teen Pageant across the street from the Miss California Pageant. It was amazing how very professional these young people were and what a wonderful job they did.

The summer also brought a much-anticipated trip to Las Vegas for the National Finals of the International Dance Challenge. A competition in which dancers not only compete for cash awards but also for a spot on a national television show that airs in the fall. Although our teaching philosophy at CVPA is not based around dance as a competitive sport, we do find ourselves attending several competitions each year. With the right mindset, competitions can be used to motivate students not so much to compete against others but to try to better their own performance. They also give our dancers an opportunity to meet dancers from other areas. International Dance Challenge was no exception - in Las Vegas our dancers met students from all over the United States as well as Croatia, Austria, Mexico and Canada. It was three days of exciting competition, which culminated in the awarding of cash prizes and the announcement of the 12 dances that would film the television spectacular. Dancers from CVPA brought home over \$2,800 in prize money and much to our delight, while competing against over 1200 other dances landed not 1 but 2 spots on the television performance. Were they ever ecstatic! Filming the television show was exciting for all of us - our teen-age dancers handled it like pros as they were asked to perform difficult acrobatic stunts several times over for various camera angles. What was most fun though, was watching our younger dancers backstage as they watched their older comrades run through their paces, each young dancer hardly able to keep still knowing that it would soon be their turn to strut their stuff for the cameras.

2004 was a fun year for all of us at CVPA. It was a year of exciting dancing, learning, and unforgettable experiences. It was a year filled with fond memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.