

JG2 Marathon June 1-4, 2006

I'M BACK!!! What happened to the blog you ask? Well, I couldn't get my computer connected to the internet in the few minutes I had to fool with it so I just turned it off and danced!! Getting there was kind of interesting. The plane was about an hour late because the radar thingy on the plane (a very little plane, by the way) wasn't working properly but the pilot said he THOUGHT we could make it okay. Really instilled me with confidence. And then we sat and sat while they worked on that and then finally when no one came to load the luggage a lady who was looking out the window said, "Hum, the pilot is loading the luggage." Well we made it regardless of how we got there and it was certainly worth the trip. We all had a great time and I'll be posting pictures of the Wild Wild West Parade on the website in a couple of days along with this complete report that I will be adding things to but just wanted to give you some highlights of the trip and some of the great dances we learned. I can't take every class but these were the impressions of ones I saw in the demos or ones I actually took the lesson. There were others that I heard about from people who attended those classes but I'm going to let them send them in so I can get an unbiased opinion of the ones they liked the best.

(I wrote this paragraph with the intention of sending it in the blog):

Everything ran like clockwork at the Marathon, as usual. They have a fabulous staff of volunteers year after year and they just keep tweaking this event so it seems like you just kind of had hundreds of people drop in for a little dancing on a long weekend. There is no feeling of nervousness or wondering if everything is in place because James and Jean and everyone involved has this down to a science and that's why it's truly one of the best-events of it's kind anywhere and just gets better and better as even the tiniest details get ironed out. Some things that just impressed me in general is that the hotel and the hotel staff are truly awesome. The rooms are immaculate and I never once had to stand in line even at lunchtime in the little deli and if you just wanted coffee in the morning there was coffee in the lobby that you could grab in a flash. The restaurant has a full buffet morning and night and there's a little bar in the middle of the lobby where everyone gathers and chats. Even the room service food was good!! It is impossible to walk through the lobby and not see a bunch of people you know and the best part of any weekend is seeing so many familiar faces. Thanks, everyone for coming up and introducing yourselves and reminding me of your name every time you changed clothes. LOL.

Thursday popular dances were taught. I will be posting the entire schedule on the website along with this report. A few that people were talking about or I took were SINFULL that Joey Warren taught. We already knew this one but there were lots of new people doing it after Joey taught it. SOLO HUMANO got lots of good feedback.

KEEP ON DANCING taught by Christopher Petre (no longer with the curly or any mustache). This dance is filling the floor every time it's played.

Gerard Murphy taught SYNCOPATED KISS. This is another one that is a MUST LEARN. It is just too fun!!

I really liked CELTIC KITTENS. I didn't take the class but followed it on the floor. Pepper taught it and it's like a little Irish dance but easy to do.

I LOVED PUMP IT. So far it's one of my favorites. It's fast and furious but not really too hard and Neville did an excellent job of teaching it.

Nigel also did a great job teaching NO PROMISES. This is a lovely dance and I hope it stays around. I really liked it a lot.



I'll do the complete rundown of dances demoed this morning when I get home because I'm not used to this keyboard and it's making me nuts.

I took Max's class of SALSARIA this morning and I'm so glad I did. I've always loved this dance and since there was a big class taking it I'm hoping we get to do it many more times.

The ones that I gave lots of stars was Guyton's new one HEY PEOPLE. I think this is going to be a bit hit for him and guess what -- NO ARMS!! I liked JUST A MATTER OF TIME by Michael Barr. The music is kind of kind of like that sexy music we do Syncopated Love to and this looks like a good dance. Max's 40 Days is also a fun dance that I think will be done a lot once it's taught later.

JP Potter's WE'LL BE TOGETHER got everyone's attention around me and you know I love his dances. It's a West Coast type rhythm and moves.

ROCK THIS THING was Joey Warren's and the clubs will like this hard beat country dance with some neat moves in it. I think RED DRESS by Peter and Alison is going to be a hit of the weekend. It's just a fun not very difficult dance to do and I really like the music.

John Robinson is teaching COLD HARD CASH this afternoon. I'm taking this class because I really like the look of this dance.

Barry Durand is teaching JALAPEN-YO, which is an easy one to country music that looks like fun.

We already know PUMPIN FOR LOVE by Neville Fitzgerald and it pretty much fills the floor when it's played but I'm sure everyone who doesn't know it will be taking the class. He's also teaching VERSE 2 and I'm taking that class.

I think Gerard Murphy's, GET YOUR GROOVE ON is going to be another hit for him. It didn't look very difficult but is a good dance. I liked Bracken Ellis' FANTABULOUS and it fits the music perfectly.

(I wrote this part after we got home on Sunday)

We will be posting the entire schedule on the web site but from the demos for Saturday and Sunday, these were some of the notes I took on some of the dances. Now, you have to keep in mind that we were up until 3 on Thursday, 3:30 on Friday and 4 am on Saturday and the demos were at 8:30 in the morning. Now, this was a LITTLE early for meeeeeeeeeeee so maybe my one little tiny suggestion would be to do the demos the night before so I don't have to get three hours of sleep every night. LOL. Anyway, here's the ones I made notes about. Some of these I knew already so it's hard to tell what first impressions are but I KNOW other people were really excited to learn them.

WALK BACK TO ME, Peter and Alison. We've been doing this in Tampa for awhile and it's one of my favorite recent dances of Peter and Alison's along with RED DRESS which was also taught this weekend.

Barry Durand taught SUNSHINE and SPIDERMAN which I also had learned or seen and both of these get a lot of attention. I just love SPIDERMAN and it would be such a fabulous show or demo dance because you just can't watch it without smiling and having fun. He has a big class learn it and it was fun watching them doing it.

Oli Geir taught some really good dances and he was such a nice person and had great technique and everyone was raving about all of the dances he taught so check them out on the schedule. I especially liked WALK ON



ICE. I also heard people saying they liked 7th HEAVEN and I know it's been getting quite a few votes on the survey. Oh, Yes, and RIF RAF was also popular. I hadn't met Oli before but he stayed up

late and danced with all of us and was very friendly and people made a point to let me know how much they enjoyed his classes so I think we might be seeing more of him.

Michael Barr taught GREASED LIGHTENING and tons of people told me how much they loved it and it was done in the Show on Saturday and looked like a fun, high-energy dance that everyone had a blast doing. He also taught SOUL TO SOUL and I heard lots of good feedback on this one. I took his class on BLACK DRESSES, which was the first dance he ever choreographed, and I always loved doing it so it was fun reviewing that one as well as SALSARIA with MAX PERRY -- one of my all-time favorites of Max's.

I gave FINAL GOODBYE some stars and wrote that it was a fast waltz. This one is by Joey Warren. Joey also taught IN THE ZONE and everyone who took that class loved it either again or for the first time.

Kathy Brown taught a new west coast music dance that I really liked called ONE DROP OF LOVE to a sexy West Coast Song.

Guyton taught another new dance on Saturday called PROMISCUOUS. I took the class but this wasn't a one-class teach for me so I'll try it again in Orlando. I didn't like this one as much as HEY! PEOPLE but everyone else did so what do I know? He also taught SHAKE and the class was full again. I do enjoy watching this dance being done.

Maurice Rowe taught one called PRE-PARTY that I really liked. The last four counts are like AFTER PARTY (I think he taught this dance too and it's a really good one). I think this will be another hit for Maurice. I took another class of his and really liked the dance but I can't remember the name of it at the moment but I'll find it and send it with the final report.

Scott Blevins taught BREAK FREE CHA and everyone liked this 64 count dance with lots of angles so I decided to take the class in Orlando if I expected to have any brains left after the class. He also taught I SCREAM which was not too fast and not done at angles so I am looking forward to learning this one at the Florida Master's next month too.

Max Perry taught SOLO HUMANO which filled the floor and LIVE AND LET DIE, his advanced dance. Kathy Hunyadi taught WHAT A TRIP which is a really good intermediate dance.

Nigel Amon taught NO PROMISES and I really loved this dance. It's a beautiful song and it's just one of those dances that feel good when you're doing it. Neville Fitzgerald taught a bunch of good ones including PUMPIN FOR LOVE, LOCK ALL THE DOORS, IF I AIN'T GOT YOU and one I got up to take this morning with three hours of sleep, I AM AFRAID. This is another beautiful song and fun dance. All the tags are to the back wall and all of them are just sways except in the end when you do a sweep to face the front so the tags are super duper easy. He also taught another of my favorites this weekend by MIL called PUMP IT. Now, if you want a fun dance that will give you a workout. This is fun!!! We kept requesting it all weekend. We had a lot of fun with our friends from the UK. I love that they always stay up and dance and just have a great time when they come to the US and we're looking forward to seeing lots more of them in the coming months. Another of my top favorites was Guyton's new one HEY! PEOPLE. I liked this dance because it has great movement, feels good, is easy, has no tags/restarts and no arms and everyone can do it. I think this may be THE hit of the weekend from the people I



did my little impromptu survey of and by seeing the numbers of people who ran to the floor to try it when the music came on.

I will revise this report and add pictures and more of the dances when I have a second to catch my breath but I know I promised to send you things over the weekend and couldn't. I will get the results of the choreography competition and send you a list of some of the other dances I saw and liked that weren't taught over the weekend and many of the other dances that will be perfect for your clubs and classes but this is a start!! I know I have forgotten a ton of people and will add more when I find the schedule and go over the rest of my notes.

THANKS JAMES AND JEAN and EVERYONE who worked to make this another fabulous weekend. Oh, one thing I did want to mention that was especially impressive to me. What a great group of DJs they had all weekend. I haven't been to an event in AGES that at 3 and 4 in the morning when I went to bed there were still 50 people on the floor and not just 21 year olds, either. The mix of music was truly wonderful. There was something for everyone and I had so many people come up to me and comment on this. They had DJs in many rooms both day and night and they were all fabulous. Louie and DJ Jam kept the big room hopping and we were able to play whatever we wanted in the open dance rooms during the day. DJ Joey and JP Kelley and Tim & Alice and Gale and Debi kept the other rooms hopping. I have to give you a special thanks for making this feel like the good old days when everyone stayed up late to dance and party. Pepper did a great job as MC and I will tell you all about the show and the puppet and the murals done by Guyton and well, you know.

I'll tell you about everything but first I need to REST!!!!

I will get the survey done on Monday and send it out Tuesday instead of Monday this week and I'll read my mail tomorrow too but for now, enjoy living vicariously and next year try to do it in person. I PROMISE you will have a great time. Carol