

VEGAS DANCE EXPLOSION 2019 REPORT
BY CAROL CRAVEN

Oh, my. This is not a regular line dance event. It is hosted by Doug and Jackie Miranda with all of their energy and expertise in managing an event this large with a class-act show in the auditorium on the side in their spare time. LOL. It is longer; it is bigger; it is at a wonderful hotel and casino; it is a destination event with the amazing world of Las Vegas at your doorstep, and I could go on and on but this would be a book.

For starters, here is the list of instructors so you can see how many classes there were. One of the things I liked about this schedule is that you could take lessons for dances you liked at various times or if you really liked a dance but needed another lesson, you could do it twice! I did that for a couple of dances and I loved it.

HERE IS A LIST OF ALL THE DANCES TAUGHT WITH VIDEOS GATHERED AND COMPILED BY STACY GARCIA.

<http://www.worldlinedancenewsletter.com/stacyj2019/2019-vegas-videos.pdf>

HERE IS THE SCHEDULE OF DANCES TAUGHT:

<https://vegasdanceexplosion.com/pdf/2019%20VegasWorkshopScheduleFriday.pdf>

YOU CAN ORDER THE OFFICIAL VIDEOS FROM www.7ARROWMEDIA.COM. These are videos of the actual instructors doing a walk-through of each dance taught.

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUCTORS:

Yvonne Anderson – Scotland
Jefke Camps – Belgium
Rob Fowler – England
Jo & John Kinser – England
Jean-Pierre Madge – Switzerland
Raymond Sarlemijn – Norway
Philip Sobrielo – Singapore
Jose Miguel Belloque Vane – Netherlands
Ivonne Verhagen – Netherlands
Simon Ward – Australia

UNITED STATES INSTRUCTORS:

Jill Babinec – Ohio
Darren Bailey – Arizona
Michael Barr – California
Megan Barsuglia – California
Scott Blevins – Illinois
Amy Glass – Arizona
Christopher Gonzalez – California
John Lindo – New York

Ruben Luna – California
Rachel McEnaney-White – Florida
Tianna Miller – South Carolina
Doug & Jackie Miranda – Tennessee
Tim Perez – Las Vegas
John Robinson – Indiana
Barbara Tobin – California
Ira Weisburd – Florida

2018 CHOREOGRAPHY WINNERS:

Micaela Terry • Trish McElhinney • Amanda Langworthy • Lynn Card

One of my favorite things about this event is the line dance lobby where there is open dancing from morning until late night – all request – in a very comfortable area of the resort. There are cushioned chairs and armchairs and tables and there are amazing banners with funny captions about all the instructors installed on the walls around the room. Not only that, but there are great vendors selling shoes, dance supplies and equipment, jewelry, etc., and a setup so you could pick up breakfast, lunch, and even dinner and the food was quite good. If you didn't want to eat there, you could eat at one of the restaurants in the hotel from high end to a little sports bar area. If you wanted to leave the hotel, you could walk out the door and catch the monorail at a very reasonable daily or weekly price. Even if you wanted to take Lyft or Uber, you could go to the strip for around \$10. There are lots of shops in the hotel as well as Starbucks, a GREAT YOGURT ICE CREAM PLACE WHERE YOU MAKE YOUR OWN CONCOCTION. Can you tell I liked that part? LOL. One thing that is really special about this event are THREE SCREENS listing what is being played in each room, the lobby during the day, and all three rooms at night. You never had to miss a dance you wanted to do because the rooms are right next to each other.



Not only could you line dance but they had instruction in West Coast Swing, Cha Cha, Waltz, Country Two Step, and Patterned Partner classes with world renowned Instructors John Lindo, Tim Perez, Stephane Schneider, Jo and John Kinser, Tianna Miller and other Instructors and Choreographers! No partner needed. I noticed that the classes were quite full so there was a lot of interest in doing this. **New this year on Saturday morning, "Shabbat Dance Workshop"** hosted by Ira Weisburd. Learn easy Israeli dances that were choreographed to Hebrew songs or prayers from the Bible. Ira will be introducing Israeli Dancing to VDE Line Dancers! I watched this and it was a full class.

There were also technique classes for things like "Oops! I Variated" a/ka/a how to look good on purpose and a class on how to write a step description as well as other technique and knowledge classes. I thought that was a neat thing to have.

I liked that each day had a real lunch and dinner break so you could plan your day with breaks. There were also fun theme nights and some of the costumes were fabulous and fun. This year was:

On each of the theme nights, there was a show that corresponded with the theme for that night and all the shows were excellent so be sure and go when you attend this event.

THE THEME NIGHTS FOR THIS YEAR WERE FUN AND IT'S GREAT TO WEAR A COSTUME TO JOIN THE FESTIVITIES.

* **Theme Nights:**

- **WEDNESDAY Night – International Night:** Show your pride for your heritage by dressing in a style typical to the country of your origin.
- **FRIDAY Night – "Far Out, Cool and Groovin' 70's"** - It's Disco, Mama Mia, Hippies, Leisure suits, Mini skirts and Bell Bottom Night!
- **SATURDAY Night – "Boots, Chaps and Cowboy Hats"** - It's Cowboys, Cowgirls, Saloon Girls, Wyatt Earp, 80's Western Dancers... you get it!

Doug and Jackie also arranged so we could attend these special shows if you wanted to:

SOUL OF MOTOWN – Start your Vegas Dance Explosion week with the #1 Motown show in the country! Direct from the Grand Majestic Theater, following a 3-week engagement in January/February and July, Soul of Motown returns to the Westgate Cabaret for a two-week engagement September 4th-16th! didn't get there in time to see this one this year but I saw it two years ago and it was FABULOUS!!

"SEXXY" EXCLUSIVE SHOWING: Tuesday September 17th at 5:30 pm we have reserved the Westgate Cabaret for an exclusive showing of the award winning burlesque show SEXXY.

There were three rooms to dance in the evenings – all request for all of them but one was more beginner; one was a mix of everything, and there was also one that was more intermediate-advanced dances and the instructors would come in and do a wall to refresh your memory. I think we all needed that!

Another thing they do at this event is a slot tournament especially for the attendees at the event and it is fun! There are also two FLASH MOBS to participate in and that is quite a spectacle for everyone in the casinos.

THERE IS EVEN A MORNING **Line Dance Praise and Worship** hosted by Doug and Jackie. Check the workshop schedule for days and time.

SOME ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

Wireless Internet access for three devices (excluding Convention area)
Cardio Room access for up to two people
Free use of in room safe
Local and toll-free domestic (800) calls
Complimentary Parking
Courtesy scheduled shuttle bus service to the Las Vegas Strip and Downtown Las Vegas. Ask for a Schedule at Check In.
Very Nice Pool!

Thank you so much, Doug and Jackie, for such a great event and also to everyone who kept us dancing all weekend. Everyone is so helpful and the way things are situated makes it so easy to just have fun dancing, relaxing, visiting, and enjoying going into Las Vegas and visiting the amazing hotels and casinos and going to Fremont Street where anything goes and you can watch the light show on the covered overhead or zipline across the entire thing! If you have never been, you should definitely put it on your bucket list to do really soon. I bet you can't do just one!

There are tours to lots of places like the Grand Canyon and bus tours of Las Vegas and the sights and casinos. Like I said, this is a premier destination event and you can dance and explore from the home base of a hotel/casino with beautiful, spacious rooms and amenities.

You need to reserve your place early for next year because they usually sell out at around 1500 people. This year it was early but next year and the following years it will be back in November. Here are the upcoming dates:

November 17-22, 2020

November 9-14, 2021

November 8-13, 2022

www.vegasdanceexplosion.com

PHOTO ALBUMS:

2019 VEGAS LOBBY 2019

https://1drv.ms/a/s!Ahcxu7bPVBt-4lONe-0h7mAD66_n

2019 VEGAS THEME NIGHTS AND SHOWS

<https://1drv.ms/a/s!Ahcxu7bPVBt-4lTVdwZsbzzyY23J>

2019 VEGAS NEW AND OLD STRIP

<https://1drv.ms/a/s!Ahcxu7bPVBt-4lXg3m24EWoKUFqu>