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The Dance Magazine

Monthly magazine for ballroom-dancers



The Dutch Championships

Photo: Fred Bolder

This Dance-magazine is a monthly magazine made for and made by ballroom-dancers. Every month you can read about different subjects all concerning ballroom-dancing. We also give you the opportunity to put your add or messages in it. You can send them to me by e-mail.

The Dance-magazine is an edition from Fred Bolder's Ballroom Site

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You can download this magazine as a Word-file for free.

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The Dutch Championships

By: Fred

The Dutch Championships were from 12 till 14 May in 'De Bonte Wever' in the place Slagharen. I went to this Championships and I really enjoyed it very much. If you love ballroom dancing, you should definitely go to the Dutch Championships!

11 May we went from Zwijndrecht to Hardenberg by train. After that we took the bus to Slagharen. It took us almost 3 hours to get there. We had never been to the 'Ponypark' before, so we decided to take a look there. The weather was lovely and we did not have to stand in line for an attraction. Probably because most people go to the park in weekends. We eat a very huge pancake and after that we went to the hotel 'De Bonte Wever'.

Thursday 11 May - The Hotel

If you want to reserve a room during the time of this dance-event you have to book a room a long time in front. The hotel 'De Bonte Wever' is not cheap, but there is a lot to do there. They have a swimming pool, you can play tennis, midgetgolf etc. (this is not included in the price). Most of the time there was also a live band and the opportunity to dance. There was a small floor, but most people do not dance, so therefore you have enough space. We were standing on the dancefloor very soon, as you can imagine. The band played 'danceable' music. The figures we learned at our danceschool and are very regular to us, looked very difficult to the people who were also sitting there. Well, if you are not a dancer yourself, everything looks difficult. They should visit the Dutch championships!

The breakfast at the hotel was really great. Unfortunately, the hotel staff could not give us much information about the Championships.

Friday 12 May - The Dutch Championships

When we arrived at the entrance people immediately recognised us, they had seen us dance the evening before. Saturday we found out that there were books with the program of that day in it. For only DFL. 25,- you can visit the Dutch Championships, and believe me: that is very cheap for such a big event. If you like to leave, you get a ticket and later on you can go in with that ticket, without paying again. The competitions were in two halls. First, we went to the 'Jacquardzaal', the biggest one in the hotel. The competition was supposed to start at 14.00 hours, but because of a plane delay, the jury was an hour late. Although it was not a nice start for the competing couples, they had enough time for their warming up. When the jury arrived, the competition started. We could easily find a place, because there were enough seats. Senior ballroom started... You could see that these couples had a lot of dancing experience, they look out for each other and therefore there were hardly any crashes. When they were counting the results, the public could also dance for a little while. You do not often get the chance to dance on such a big floor, so you have to take every chance you can get. You can hardly believe how much space you have on such a floor.

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The Dutch Championships (continuation)

By: Fred

There was also the formation dancing on Friday. You can read more about formation dancing in number 7 of this magazine. You don't know what you are seeing. A whole group is



dancing figures and you do not only have your partner you dance with, but also the rest of the group. Just like in normal dancing, you also have latin and ballroom showdance. The music in the showdance often changed the dance. The jury was standing on the balcony, so they could better see the choreography and the steps. During one showdance a couple fell, of course that is really hard, because it will influence the result of the group. They were pretty good. It is very nice to see the difference between the teams in clothes and music.

Saturday 13 May - The Dutch Championships

We had not had much sleep that night, because we were sleeping on the same floor as some dancers and they were making a lot of noise. They probably had a good result. I can understand that. At 3.30 it started to get less noisy.

One of the main reasons to go to Slagharen was to meet Miranda in person. She and I are making this dance magazine together. Joris and Miranda danced at this competition on Saturday. You can see them on this

picture, Miranda is wearing a blue dress. This was at the 'Rijghal'. I even danced with Miranda. It is always very exciting to dance with someone of another dancing school, at every school they will teach you different steps. She is much further in dancing than I am and follows my lead pretty good. This is one of the reasons why it went pretty good as well. We have also seen some couples of our dancing school.



At the competition they also sold very good dancing c.d.'s. Sunday we went back home again. For more pictures of the Dutch championships you can take a look at my site.

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~fghb/ballroom.htm>

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How will I become a professional dancer or a dancing teacher (in the Netherlands)?

By: *Miranda*

Introduction

The path you can take concerning dancing is: (1) becoming a professional dancer in a professional team or (2) becoming a dancing teacher. At both studies it is very hard to pass the selection. They look if you have enough talent and you also need to be medically checked. For some studies, like for example the Eurythmy-study in The Hague, you also need the knowledge for antroposophy. It is recommended to sign up for such a study as soon as possible, because you have to deal with the selections. If you want to become a professional dancer, you have to start the study at the age of 10. If you want to become a dancing teacher you need to have a havo- or vwo-diploma and you need to be at least 17 years old. Of course real talent is always welcome!

Becoming a dancer

In the first year of the study for becoming a professional dancer 'orientation for what you really want' is the key sentence. You will have a lot of lessons, for example in the following: classical ballet, modern dance, jazz dance, Spanish dance, ballroom dance, tap dance, improvisation, strength-training, acrobatics, dancing history, singing, games, theatre technique, costume history and social lessons. The second year you have to choose your own direction. The last years you will have a lot of auditions and courses.

Becoming a dancing teacher

The student will learn the folklorist dances, compensation, teaching techniques, didactic, pedagogy and psychology. Everyone needs to choose two specifications and already in the second year they will have to go for it in practice. In the fourth year the student has to work totally by him or herself. Reports and lessons are very important in this study. It is also possible to do this study part-time, instead of fulltime.

The most potential students who go for audition like to become a professional dancer, but a lot of people who started that study switched to the study for becoming a dancing teacher because it was too hard or because it was not what they expected it to be. There are also a lot of potential students who try the selection of becoming a dancing teacher if they are not selected in becoming a dancer, it is their second choice.

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How will I become a professional dancer or a dancing teacher (in the Netherlands)? (continuation)

By: *Miranda*

Dutch dancing studies

Research (from 1995, so probably this changed) shows us that the Dutch dancing schools are teaching below average. The reason for this is probably the second choice option I just talk about. You can also see that professional dancers are mostly not from The Netherlands. After seeing the report, the dancing schools said they would take care of it and change it where necessary.

The dancing school in Enschede takes a special place compared to the rest. The institute offers students between 8 and 18 years courses, which provide as a preparation for the other hbo-study at the Dutch dancing institutes. In 1990-1995 75% of the students coming from Enschede were selected at the dance academy.

In The Hague you have the 'Koninklijke Conservatorium'. There children from the started education (basisschool in Dutch) and children who just started there 'middelbare school' (they are about 11/12 years old) get the chance to dance. A special scout selects about 500 students a year for the audition. The demands are so strict, that most of them do not pass the audition. The purpose of having a strict and hard audition is that only the best will make it. The 'Koninklijke Conservatorium' works a lot with the professional Dutch Theatre.

At the Dance-academy in Rotterdam children between the age of 9 and 22 will get the opportunity to study there. They will learn that dancing is art. The people who dance here mostly don't become professional dancers at the top, but at the second or third place. Experiment is a very important word for this study.

The 'Katholieke Leergangen' in Tilburg is the only dance-academy at the south of The Netherlands. You have four different studies there: (1) professional classic dancer; (2) jazz dancer; (3) classic dancing teacher; (4) teacher dancing impression and folklorist dance. The last one can also be done as a part-time study.

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How will I become a professional dancer or a dancing teacher (in the Netherlands)? (continuation)

By: *Miranda*

The Academy for Eurythmy in The Hague is not like the other dancing schools. Eurythmy is a form of art movement on the rhythm of the word and music. The academy has a study for dancing teacher and as dancer in the eurythm dancing.

In Amsterdam you can dance at the 'Hogeschool for Art'.

Addresses

- Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten, Faculteit Theater, Vendelstraat 2, (Postbus 19117, 1000 GC) 1012 XX AMSTERDAM
- Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Arnhem, Faculteit Theater, Weverstraat 40, 6811 EM ARNHEM.
- Academie voor Eurythmie, Riouwstraat 1, 2585 GP DEN HAAG
- Hogeschool voor Muziek en Theater Rotterdam, Rotterdamse Dansacademie, Tandwielstraat 1, 3083 AV ROTTERDAM.
- Hogeschool Katholieke Leergangen Tilburg, Faculteit der Kunsten, Kempenbaan 27, 5022 KC TILBURG.
- Hogeschool Enschede, sector Conservatorium, Van Essengarde 10, 7511 PN ENSCHEDE.
- Koninklijke Hogeschool van Beeldende Kunst, Muziek en Theater, Juliana van Stolberglaan 1, 2595 CA DEN HAAG.

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Elvis Presley

Many songs of Elvis Presley are suitable for ballroom dancing. Try it yourself! Here are some examples. If you like the Jive, you have to buy some cd's of Elvis.

All shook upJive
Are you lonesome tonight Slow waltz
Don't be cruel.....Jive
Heartbreak hotelSlow foxtrot
Jailhouse rock.....Jive
Return to senderJive

The Tanz Orchester Klaus Hallen has made a great ballroom dance cd called "Elvis for dancing".

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Nice Links

Gotta Dance - Dance Steps

<http://sunflower.singnet.com.sg/~telemati/dance/steps/index.html>

Dance steps

Hubat Directory

<http://www.hubat.com/servlets/search?cmd=b&db=hubat&concept=5.11&next=1>

Dance sites

Frequently Asked Questions about Rec.Arts.Dance

<http://www.eijkhout.net/rad/>

Frequently asked questions about ballroom dancing

AltaVista – Web Directory

http://dir.altavista.com/Top/Arts/Performing_Arts/Dance/Ballroom

Dance sites

Dance channel

<http://www.learn-dance.com/>

Dance lessons