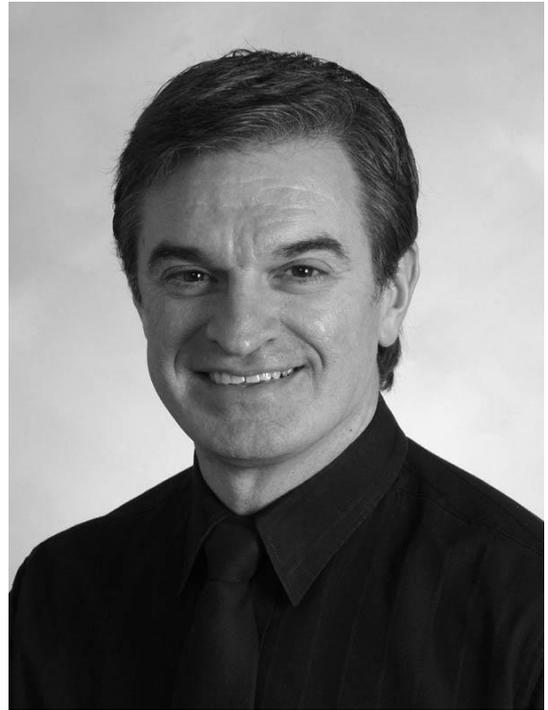


“There’s some kind of music that speaks to everyone.”

David Tomko, founder of the Dance North County dance center in Encinitas, California, describes the business he opened in 1995 as a dance center rather than a dance school. Although the distinction in terminology is subtle it makes sense when one learns about the business and the man who created it.



The online resource, www.dictionary.com, defines a school as an ‘institution for instruction in a particular skill,’ while a center is a ‘building used as a meeting place for a particular group or having facilities for certain activities.’

David’s facility can boast of three spacious rooms, well-maintained floors designed for the needs of dancers, and easy access to public transit and a major freeway. It is an ideal location for the wide demographics of his students and instructors.



- ❖ Hula classes provide training for students as young as 2 years old.
- ❖ Teens branch out into various dance forms including competition ballroom and ballet, tap, and jazz.
- ❖ Social dance classes such as swing, tango, and salsa provide entertainment and instruction for students from their 20s into their 60s.
- ❖ Afternoon tea parties draw dancers in their 60s, 70s, 80s, and even 90s.



Styles of dance and fitness training range from ballet to jazz, from waltz to tango, from full-on martial arts classes in Taekwondo to combination martial arts/yoga classes like Nia, and from belly dancing to burlesque. David's instructors are the best he can find, carefully vetted before gaining access to the center. Some of the award winning and well trained instructors partner with students to compete in local and national competitions. Other instructors focus on teaching students of various ages and fitness levels to improve the quality of their life through dance and other physical activities. David's dream is an eclectic compilation with one focus: The enrichment of students of all ages through dance and fitness.



David has good reason to foster a love of dance for so many: He developed his love for dance at a young age, beginning his professional dance career in the 1970's in American smooth and rhythm styles. After training under world champions to gain proficiency in Latin and International Ballroom, he began a fifteen year career as a competitive dancer. He described his first experiences in competitive dancing with the casual statement that American

dancers were 'not that good' at first. England dominated the competition dance arena for decades before Americans developed an interest in dancing in more than a social setting. Although swing dancing began in America and spread to other countries as American military service members in various wars swarmed cantinas and bars in their off-duty time, formal dancing for competition was not taken seriously in America until the heyday of disco dancing died out. Prior to the 1970s, most Americans were only exposed to ballroom dancing through the big screen talents of Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Gene Kelly, Cyd Charisse, and the legendary Vernon and Irene Castle. During the 1970s, when disco dancing and the hustle began dying a slow but certain death, David discovered his love for dance. He remembered the time he went to the Blackpool Dance Festival in England, where it took several days to reduce hundreds of competitors to a handful of finalists. When asked about his own successes, he shrugged and said he 'won a few and lost a few.'



David might come across as nonchalant when it comes to winning, but he maintains a clear focus for all of his students: His goal is to improve the quality of his students' dance and the enjoyment they receive from instruction. To achieve this goal, he takes advantage of technology that was not available when he began his own dance journey: Videos on the internet.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IL_KZW3csZ0&t=171s

Using the name "DrDanceRight," David created a series of dance instruction videos designed to make dancing easier for students in a social setting. His goal is to create better connection between partners with videos 'not available anywhere else.' By breaking techniques into easy and enjoyable core segments that are available whenever students want to see them, David extends his reach beyond the physical confines of his dance center.

David Tomko, a.k.a. DrDanceRight, strives to help others find their joy in dancing, no matter where they are in their lives.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjU10FKp148>

“When the music takes over, people find they will dance to music they never thought they would move to.”

David Tomko, September 2017

<http://www.dancenorthcounty.com/>

<http://www.dancenorthcounty.com/Instructors.html>

