Dussich Dance Studio

1960 - 1969

The 60’s was a decade of change; the first change was location. The studio moved from a place near Patrick Air Force Base up to Orlando Avenue in Cocoa Beach near the old Cocoa Beach Library and again next to a Laundromat. The next big change came in 1961, when Liz Dussich married **Al Bevilacqua**. Not only was her family growing but also the studio was growing and so it moved out its back door into the building located directly behind on Brevard Ave. This location is now empty and is next to where the Farmer’s Market is in Cocoa Beach every Sunday. In 1966, there was another addition and move for the studio. The studio move was north to 195 Brevard Ave. (Brevard Ave and 2nd Street N.), the two story building next to the Elk Club. The Cape Kennedy College was upstairs and the studio was located on the first floor. The addition was **Mrs. Marie Holland** and her family (husband and 3 children). Dale worked at the Cape and Marie taught tap and became Liz’s partner and business manager. In 1967, **Al Packard** joined the faculty. That year was the last recital at Rockledge High School. They performed *Swan Lake* as the ballet with Kathy Tronson and Darrell Rigby dancing the principal leads coached by Al Packard. The one room studio was spacious with high ceilings. It was here where a couple of NASA Astronauts visited our boy’s tumbling class and The Nutcracker pas de deux was practiced by Liz and Al. We liked the building, even though we had to mop the floor every time it rained. Right after the recital in 1969, we had to move again, since the landlord wanted to expand the college and needed the first floor. While Liz was home with Paul, who got the mumps, Mrs. Holland, family members, teachers and male students made the move a couple of blocks south on Orlando Ave. into what was the old Heidelberg Restaurant, which had moved beachside and is now the location of the Inner Room. That was the year that **Peter Marciniak** came as a student and **Sara Jane Denton** joined the faculty as the ballet teacher and the first Dussich Dance Company was born.