Dussich Dance Studio

1990 - 1999

A new decade brought new and talented students and tremendous growth and evolution for the studio. More students and more classes meant more room was needed. We remodeled and added a new lobby and reception area on the west side in 1995, to make room for another classroom, where the old office and parent viewing area was located. A new wooden storage building was built by Lynn Farmer to help store all items needed to run the business. In 1997, it was decided that the parking lot with many pot holes needed attention. The studio contracted Maria Lucas, Liz’s older daughter to re-do the lot with nice concrete.

1. - Teaching faculty was **Ms. Liz Bevilacqua, Ms. Carol Branam, Ms. Christine Therber** with assistants **Karen Hartney, Kristie Balado, Jo Ann Delaney and Tracy Lisbeth. Ruth Gay** was the Office Manager behind the front deskand **Al Packard,** co-owner and Business Manager. The graduating seniors that year were **Emma Blahauvietz** and **Jennifer Higgs;** the special treat for recital that year was **Robert Hill** and **Valentina Kazlova** from ABT were guest performers. **Mike Rosenberg**, recently retired from the Richmond Ballet and Oklahoma Ballet Companies, helped put finishing touches on advanced ballet routines. That summer, Michael taught summer workshops in ballet, while Ms. Liz and Al Packard taught ballroom and **Richard Floyd** and **Christy Tipton** taught vocal performance.
2. - Faculty& staff remained the same but **Anna Bevilacqua Richards** became an assistant. Mike Rosenberg again taught classes during the summer. **Dale Malpass**  took on the role of Stage Manager for our annual recitals. We had a lot of dancing families at the studio: **Carol Branam** and her daughters, **Erica** and **Karli**, **Melinda Ciener** and her daughter, **Daisy**, **Cindy Heinig** and her daughter, **Becky** and son, **Eric**. **Laura Lee Martin** was our only graduate this year.
3. - **Darrell Moore** joined our faculty to head up our jazz classes. The assistants this year were **Dawn Peterson** & **Lori Sopocy.** The recital theme was “*Under the Big Top*” and everyone had a lot of fun with this one. It was also our 34th annual recital and the first year we had matching program covers & recital t-shirts that were designed by **Tina Gantz**. The graduating senior this year was **Rebecca Gross**.
4. - The recital theme became “*Let’s Go To The Movies*”. The Dussich Dance Company started up with 20 members and 12 juniors. Some of the company members were **Debbie Townsend, Melinda Ciener, Kristy Irby, Peter Chu, Peter Marciniak & James Yoder and some of the juniors were Rodney Broughton, Jessica Cazessus, Shannon Lockhart and Kim Whorton. Dr. Steve Koenig** was our guest percussionist for the advanced tap performance. **Brenda Bolding** wowed us all with her great scenery. Liz and Al were still doing a number in the show with this year being something to “Thoroughly Modern Millie”. The graduating senior was **Melissa Higgs,** the youngest of the three Higgs’ Sisters, whom all studied dance at Dussich.
5. - **Sue Lynn Chu** was the designer of the program cover and the recital t-shirts. The recital theme was “*High Ho High Ho*”. **Melissa Wagner** joined the faculty replacing **Brynel McDaniels** as the acro teacher. The **Imperial Dance Company (IDC)** began this year and the company had 5 adult dancers (**Carol Cazessus, Melinda Ciener, Peggy Fleck, Linda Fow & Peter Marciniak),** thirteen Juniors & Seniors and three under-studies. They performed a piece called “**Bowlers”.**
6. **-** The number of students could no longer be ignored and the new addition of a 2nd classroom was completed. The new room was booked full before the paint dried. The program cover and t-shirts for the “*Library Mania***”** theme were created by **Sue Lynn Chu. Mrs. Cindy Heinig** was our head Librarian (as well as being a dancing mother and real librarian for the Cocoa Beach library) and **Al Packard** was Mr. Read D. Bookworm. **Sue Lynn Chu** graduated this year and went on to Florida State University on an Art Scholarship. IDC performed a number, choreographed by **Ms. Carol,** to the music of “**Le Jazz Hot”.** The company received a Gold Medal at the November Convention of Florida Dance Masters and **Peter Chu** was titled, *Mr. Dance of Florida.*
7. **–** The recital theme this year was **“***Dream of Dance***”** and **Sue Lyn Chu** created the program cover and t-shirt design before going to work at Walt Disney World, playing the part of **Pocahontas. Rodney Broughton** was tilted, *Florida Dance Master’s Jr. Mr. Dance* and **Peter Chu** was 1st-runner up in the*National Mr. Dance Olympus,* receiving a scholarship to travel with *Dance Olympus* across the country for the summer. **Darrell Moore** left us for higher grounds in Orlando and former student, **Leslie Pozsonyi** joined our faculty to take over the advanced jazz class. This was the recital when teachers **Carol Branam, Leslie Pozsonyi, Christine Therber, & Melissa Wagner** entertained us with an example of the “**Perfect Class”** for recital. IDC closed with a piece choreographed by **Ms. Liz & Leslie Pozsony** called, **“***Wake Up – Morning Mambo***”.**
8. – The recital theme was **“***Shop ‘Till Ya Drop***”** and the program cover and t-shirt were designed by graduating senior, **Brandy Madsen.** This was the year we resurrected “Graduation Ball” as the opening ballet number. This was also the year that the recital expanded from three to four shows. Our graduating seniors were **Brandy Madsen, Stephanie Wolfe, Peter Chu**, **Kristy Irby** and **Rachael Hartney.** The crossover actors during the show were from **Bruce McReynolds** summer theater program. **Jennifer Wegenka** started to help Ms. Carol with the preschool and combo classes and **Eva Marie Mixco** began assisting Ms. Liz with beginning ballet classes and Ms. Carol with the intermediate ballet classes. IDC closed the show with **Peter Chu’s** piece, **“***Don’t Let Go***”.**
9. **–** The theme for recital was “*Traveling Along*” and the program was designed by **Brenda Bolding**. This year was our 40th Anniversary.It was decided to make this an alumni celebration and held 5 shows instead of 4. The featured piece in the recital was an original ballet choreographed by Ms. Liz entitled “*To Space and Back*”. It was based on a shuttle launch and return. IDC left the audience on a high note with “*Walking on Sunshine*”. A good number of those students went on to pursue dance as a career. The program had a special section for Dussich Alumni with mini bios of many of our outstanding students along with photos. For the special Sunday Alumni Show, the advanced numbers were presented along with some solos and a special alumni group number with those attending. The show closed with IDC performing Ellie Potts Barret’s “*Church*”. The graduating senior this year was **Brandi McDonald.**
10. - The recital theme was “*Anything Goes*”. **Brenda Bolding** did a great job with the program and the t-shirts, working with the entire staff somewhere in the design. This year, we had the addition of **Ms. Anna Spangle**r and **Ms. Jennifer Wegenka** as teachers and **Ms. Brynel McDaniels** replacing, **Ms. Leslie** **Pozsonyi**, the faculty was now 7 individuals. This year’s recital was dedicated to Liz’s mother, **Maria S. Dussich.**  She had passed away earlier in the year; she was a great supporter of the studio. IDC, now made up of Companies A, B & C, performed “*Swing It*”. **Shannon Lockhart** who eventually returned to teach advanced tap was our only senior this year. She performed a tap solo choreographed by **Peter Chu.**