Dussich Dance Studio

2000 – 2008

The new century also began a new decade for the studio; this was a busy decade for the studio as well as its students….

1. **-** The recital theme was *“Regards to Broadway”* and was designed by **Brenda Bolding**. **Roxanne Smith** joined the faculty, teaching ballet and jazz, as well as **Shannon Lockhart** (*1999 graduate*), who began teaching Tap and Jazz. The graduating seniors this year were: **Stephanie Young, Jessica Cazessus, and Mary Ingendello.** Stephanie & Jessica went to college majoring in Dance and Mary went on to open a ballroom studio. Stephanie is now married and dancing with a company in West Palm Beach, FL.
2. **-** Dussich Dance Studio went wild for recital and got *“Lost in the Jungle”*. The program and t-shirt were designed by **Lesa Denninghoff.** New faces on the faculty & staff roster were **Debbie Townend**, teaching Ballet 2, **Todd Shanks** began teaching Hip Hop, and **Pam Carnes** started as the Assistant Office Manager and Costume Coordinator. **Melanie Vent** began teaching Modern, Musical Theater & Voice this year but passed away in 2005, after a long hard battle with cancer. The graduating seniors this year were: **Lauren Breuer, Yvonne Decosta, Tyreen Vidal, Karli Branam** (whose daughter is now currently enrolled in her grandmother’s, Ms. Carol, Preschool Class), **Gillian Zwick, Kim Whorton, and Todd Shanks.** Both Kim and Todd went on to pursue their dance careers; Kim is working at the Limon School and Todd is currently an Artist in Residence at Dean College. This year we were also fortunate to have produced both *Florida Dance Masters Jr. Mr. Dance of Florida***,** **Patrick Van Buren** and *Mr. Dance of Florida***, Todd Shanks.** IDC was back in the recital program with a piece by Ms. Melanie called *“Rain Forrest”*. The company in 1999, started doing an annual, *“Sharing Through Dance”* Gala to raise money for a charitable organization in the county. The first year, the event was held at the Cocoa Beach Country Club and in 2000 and 2001, they moved the event to the Brevard Community College Fine Arts Auditorium.
3. **-** The recital theme was *“Food For Thought”;* the program was designed by **Krista Doerr Harman,** whose sister performed in the recital. This year the graduating seniors were: **April Buchert, Borden Hooper, Angela Hung, Katherine Doerr, Jennifer Burner, Laura Sharp, Stephanie Weisbrod, Maria Mango and Anthony Mixco**. Again, we produced yet another *Florida Dance Masters’ Mr. Dance of Florida*, Anthony Mixco. The faculty had several shifts this year; Ms. Melanie, Ms. Shannon and Todd Shanks left the studio and **Nina Fedorovich** came on-board to teach Advanced Ballet and **Tamara McHatton** joined us to teach Acro. **Dale Malpass** was officially added to our staff as Stage Manager/Audio Tech.
4. **-** Thanks to **Carlo Mixco,** this year’s recital theme was *“Guess What?”* The cover design was an achievement of a composite of talent. Student, **Christine Bailey,** did the main design using Carlo’s idea refinements and contributions were made by **Brenda Bolding** and **Ed** from **Florida Fun Wear**. Changes to the faculty were: **Chris Therber** left the studio and was replaced by *So You Think You Can Dance Season 3 Finalist*, **Jessica Peralta, and Shannon Lockhart** came back on board to teach Hip Hop. The graduating seniors this year were: **Greg Hall, Mariel Wegenka, Alaina Shelden, Ashlie Smith & Maria Gines**.
5. **-** The studio took a *“Musical Journey”* this year with **Brenda Bolding** once again designing the program cover. The graduating seniors were: **Carlie Weisbrod, Stacey Headly and Heather Lockhart**. This year having **Niki Townend** crowned *Florida Dance Masters’ Miss Dance of Florida,* was a huge event this year.
6. **-** The recital theme for the year was *“Turn On Your Radio”*; **Brenda Bolding** once again came through with an outstanding program cover and colorful t-shirt. The graduating seniors were: **Nealie Beth Page, Brittany Curtis, Niki Townend, Mary Beth Broner, Brittany Evans & Kathy Robinson**. **Patrick Van Buren** received the title of Florida *Dance Masters’ Mr. Dance of Florida*. Joining our faculty this year was **Krista Ford** (Modern), **Penny Conwell** (Jazz) and **Mariel Wegenka** (Assistant Teacher).
7. **–** The recital theme for the year was “Winter Wonderland”. **Brenda Bolding** designed the program cover with two dancers in a beautiful snow globe. This year, **Miss Krista** left us and the studio expanded its normal classes to include piano and voice, taught by **Caroline Leo (voice) & David Rusk (piano**). Following in her sister’s footsteps, **Kira Townend** became this year’s *FDM Jr. Miss Dance of Florida*. The graduating seniors this year were: **Megan Barrett, Tayler Bolding, Amelia Eastes, Macaulay Hildreth, Marilu Hildreth, Carlo Mixco, Michelle Reed, Tabatha Spangler & Patrick Van Buren.** Former dancer with the old Brevard Dance Company, **Robyn Simmons DeKeyser** returned to the area and began helping out as an assistant teacher and also with the Imperial Dance Company.
8. **-** **Ms. Jennifer East** took over the reigns of designing the recital program cover for both 2007 and 2008. This year’s theme was “*Let’s Take a Vacation”*. Faculty had the addition of **Michael Simmons** as the Hip Hop teacher. **Kira Townend** brought Dussich our 2nd FDM *Miss Dance of Florida* winner and **Brent Townend** was this year’s *Mr. Twinkling Star.* Our parting seniors this year were: **Chelsea Barrett, Soraya Alivandi, Giannina Mixco, Elizabeth Gardner, Craig Townend, Jorden Robertson, Lorraine Rhoden and Krystal Kerney.**
9. **-** The 50th Anniversary Celebration; this was the big year for Ms. Liz & Al Packard as we looked back over the achievements, both great and small and the wonderful great times, students, teachers and dancers that we have been blessed with being involved in training. It has been very rewarding to see what this little area in Brevard County has managed to produce. To celebrate the occasion, the Imperial Dance Company not only helped to support Devereux through their “*Sharing Through Dance”* charity but also saluted the studio. To help, they brought in three of our alumni to perform and/or choreograph for the company: **Peter Chu**, **Todd Shanks**, and **Robert Hill.** The recital this year was simply *“The 50th”*, including a performance by Ms. Liz & Al Packard, “Couple of Swells”. Our graduating seniors this year were: **Ashley Daniels, Coral Smith, Destinee Rhodes, Heather Weisbrod and Annalise Nolan.**