



Current events

Presenting the Dancers

In this section we introduce you to some of our committed same-sex dancers.

Featured in this eNewsletter is Rafael Dominguez.

And here is his story:



Question: Can you tell us more about your dance history?

Answer:

Growing up in Chihuahua City, Mexico, before being introduced to Ballroom, I studied Performing Arts, focusing in Jazz, Ballet, Tap and Mexican Folklore Dance. After moving to the United States, I was introduced to the world of Ballroom at VIMA Dance Studio in San Francisco in 2008. That same year, I participated in my first Same-Gender Competition in Oakland, California. Since then, I have been a competitor every year at more than one Same-Gender Competition in the USA. Internationally, I participated in the Gaygames in 2010 and 2014 and Outgames in 2013 and Miami in 2017. I also competed in London in 2011 and Montreal in 2017. My dance repertoire includes many styles including Smooth, Rhythm, Latin, Standard, Argentine Tango, and more.

There is not a dance I won't try. A great joy has been part of Vima Vice Squad's Formation Team since 2008.

In terms of lead and follow, I have done both. I also got to compete as a follower in the mixed couple category. Another great experience was competing in Latin with someone living as far away as Denmark. We learned the routines via video and only practiced in person few days before the event.

Behind the scene, I was a member of the April Follies board for the 2016 year. I produced the Evening Show entitled "Rendezvous at Club 41". This experience elevated my appreciation for the Same-Gender Competition Organizers, especially April Follies, an all-volunteer organization. I encourage people to volunteer at any Same-Gender Competitions. These competitions need our support.

My view of Same-Gender Dancing has changed through the years. At first, dancing at Same-Gender events provided the joy of dancing with someone of the same-gender. As I immersed myself further into the Same-Gender Dance World, I wanted more gender fluidity and to develop my skills as a leader and as a follower. For many years I felt restricted in what could I do as a dancer due to preconceived ideas of how a male dancer should dance. As I developed as a Ballroom Dancer, I wanted to challenge myself technically and artistically. I wanted to express myself fully as who I am, and not an image of Male Ballroom Dancer in "mainstream" competitions.

Question: Is the Same-Gender Ballroom Dancing Gay Enough?

Answer: From my perspective it has evolved, for the better. It has become many silhouettes with different shades of color and more gender fluidity. I can't wait to see how new generations of Same-Gender dancers define themselves in this genre.

See you soon on the dance floor!
Rafael Dominguez

**Disclaimer: Any opinions and/or representations in the above aren't necessarily those of NASSPDA.*

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Competition Calendar

Competition Committee

Please note that ALL of NASSPDA's Competition Rules can be found by going to the NASSPDA website or clicking [HERE](#). Any questions or input are welcomed and can be sent directly to rules@nasspda.org.

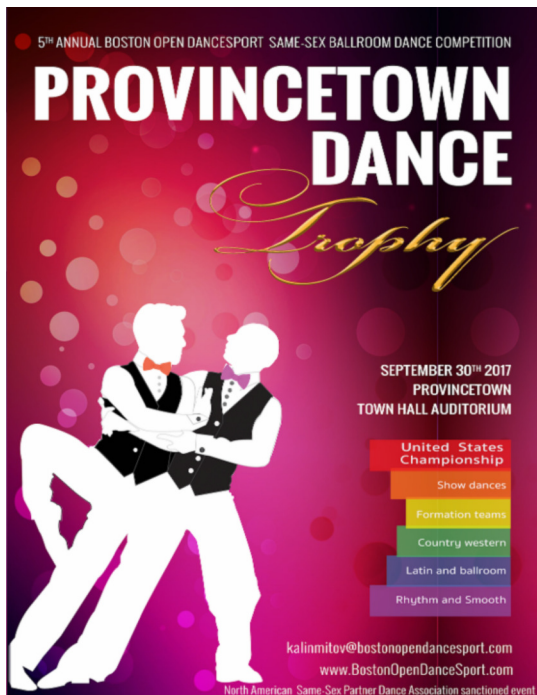
Upcoming competitions:

September 30, 2017

Provincetown Dance Trophy 2017 USA Same-Sex Ballroom Dance Championship

Website: <http://www.bostonopendancesport.com/events.html>

**Offering \$10 NASSPDA members discounts*



Boston Open DanceSport is in its 5th edition presenting the Provincetown Dance Trophy. This year's events start with an Argentine Tango free workshop and social dancing with snacks and refreshments at the Seashore Residence, Provincetown. Friday, September 29th at 5pm.

This workshop is made possible by the Activity Grant, funded by NASSPDA.

Saturday, September 30 will have all ballroom dance competitions, starting at 11am at Provincetown Town Hall. Single dance events, multi dance events, Formation Teams and Showdances in all styles, age categories and couples arrangements.

This year Provincetown Dance Trophy is the host of 2017 USA Same-Sex Championship. New for this year is the Teacher-student Same-Sex and Open Gender Championship Divisions.

Membership Information

Membership Committee

Join NASSPDA TODAY! Payments will now be taken by credit card instead of through PayPal. The new system has special encryption to keep your data safer than before. The new site URL is the same as before: nasspda.org.

If you have problems, or want to help us improve the website-parts are still under construction-please write to Kathy Wildman, our website administrator, at wildmankathy@gmail.com or to web@nasspda.org.

Outreach and Media

Promotions Committee

ACTIVITY GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM

NASSPDA would like to encourage its members and our community at large to engage in various fun activities that promote same-sex dancing. We recognize that many of our members may have a creative idea and NASSPDA would like to contribute in a small financial way.

Up to 4 grants of \$250 each will be awarded per calendar year on a first-come first-served basis to applicants who can demonstrate that the proposed activity will advance NASSPDA's mission of promoting and expanding social and competitive same-sex partner dancing.

The proposed event should also be in alignment with NASSPDA's following goals:

- * Support functions and venues for social same-sex partner dancing.
- * Provide a resource for same-sex partner dancers.
- * Aim to raise the level of same-sex partner dancing
- * Encourage the inclusion of dancers from diverse backgrounds with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, age, [dis]ability, gender identity and/or expression.

Some ideas for events and organizers to receive grant support:

- Same-sex dance classes
- A social dance mixer with actively inviting and encouraging same-sex dancing or "alternative lead and follow"
- An excursion to a local competition, introducing dancers to the concept
- A welcome party before one of NASSPDA's sanctioned competition
- Setting up a booth at a local street fair promoting same-sex dancing
- A neighborhood or community event promoting partner dancing and the inclusion of same-sex dancing
- Involving studios to promote same-sex dancing
- An event in conjunction with a city's Pride activities

These are just a few suggestions. To apply for financial support from NASSPDA's \$250 Grant Program, please visit our website at NASSPDA.org, click on the 'Scholarships and Grants' bar and then 'Grants' to read more for more information. You can also email us at promotions@NASSPDA.org with any questions.

HOT TO TROT

Ballroom dance movie just got released!



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

Hot to Trot will have its New York City premiere at the NewFest film festival, on Sunday, October 22nd!

We are thrilled to announce that Hot to Trot is an official selection of NewFest 2017, the 29th annual New York LGBTQ Film Festival. NewFest celebrates the year's best LGBTQ-themed films from all over the world, so we're honored to be included.

In fact, at a kickoff event for the festival on September 12th, we were one of just six films showcased -- out of a total of more than 100!

Hot to Trot will screen on Sunday, October 22nd, at 4PM, at Cinépolis Chelsea, 260 West 23rd Street. After the film, there will be a Q&A with the filmmakers and cast, followed by a short live dance performance right on stage in the theater! General ticket sales begin on September 26th, through NewFest's website, www.newfest.org.

As many of you know, our world premiere took place in San Francisco in June, and it was a great success -- two screenings, both of which sold out, and great notices for the film.

We need your help:

- We are depending on you to help us spread the word and fill the house.
- If you haven't already, please like our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/hottotrotfilm/> and share our posts about the film. (Liking our page will also keep you up to date about events we're doing around the premieres, where/how you can get tickets to the screenings, and information about other festivals and events in the future.) We're also on Instagram.
- Please follow us on Twitter and retweet and share our tweets with your network! We will be tweeting from @HotToTrotFilm <https://twitter.com/HotToTrotFilm>
- If you have any press or media contacts, please let us know so we can contact them to help promote our New York City premiere, or you can send them to our online press kit: <http://www.hottotrotfilm.com/press/>



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