

## VEGAS DANCE EXPLOSION 2017 REPORT

WARNING! Do NOT attend the VEGAS DANCE EXPLOSION hosted by Doug and Jackie Miranda unless you love to dance to music played by GREAT DJs and taught by the world's finest instructors, take lots of classes with over 1500 friends, meet new friends, stay in an AMAZING hotel, eat in the finest restaurants, visit some of the most unique hotels and destinations in the world, win some money gambling (or not win some money), have a monorail that stops at your hotel, watch incredible shows, have fun dressing up for the special nights if you enjoy doing that, watch demos on a large-screen TV in your room, have a golf course next door, dance in the largest open dance room which is open from morning until night playing all your requests, meet people from every continent, see what is going on in the other ballrooms because it is posted on a large screen so you don't have to miss any dance you want to do, and..... well, you get the idea. You should go and you should stay longer than the event because six days just isn't enough time to do everything I wanted to do.



Doug and Jackie Miranda

Here are some of the things that make this event special:

- Repeat Workshops (I loved this because you don't have to pick and choose so much)
- Large Ballrooms with Wooden Dance Floors
- Dedicated Ballroom for Daily Beginner (there were lots of beginners and their room was awesome)
- Workshops & Beginner Evening Dances
- Daily Special Technique Workshops
- New Line Dance Choreography Competition (The winner is invited to teach the following year)
- Sunday Morning Line Dance Praise & Worship
- 6 Days of Nonstop Line Dancing & Fun
- Evening Dance Parties All 6 Nights

HERE IS THE BASIC SCHEDULE OF EVENTS DURING THE WEEKEND:

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

Noon – Registration

1:00pm – First workshops

6-8:00pm – Dinner Break

8:00pm – Demos of dances being taught Wednesday

Following Demos – Evening Dance in three rooms: Main Ballroom, All Request Room, Beginner Room

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

9:00am-12:50pm – Workshops

12:50-2:30pm – Lunch (There are vendors in the open all-request room for sandwiches, hotdogs, coffee, drinks, etc. This made it very convenient to dance and enjoy lunch at the large round tables and also comfy chairs spread throughout the room. Around the edges were LOTS of vendors selling all kinds of things including dance shoes, clothes, jewelry, etc. I like that it was all in one place so you could dance, eat, drink, shop between classes and just have a place to meet up with your friends and relax a little)

2:30-6:20pm – Workshops

6:20-8:30pm – Dinner

8:30pm – Demos of dances being taught Thursday

Following Demos – Evening Dance

**THURSDAY, NOV 9 – SUNDAY, NOV 12**

9:00am-12:50pm – Workshops

12:50-2:30pm – Lunch

2:30-6:20pm – Workshops

6:20-8:30pm – Dinner

8:30pm – Theme Night Performances followed by Evening Dance

**THEME NIGHTS (You don't HAVE to dress up for the theme nights but it makes it more fun. I had to leave before the everyone in white night on Sunday but the photos look awesome.)**

**THURSDAY – INTERNATIONAL NIGHT:** Show your pride for your heritage by dressing in a style typical to the country of your origin or perhaps a country that you are particularly fond of! (There was a very nice tribute done this night, especially since it was Veteran's Day.) \*

**FRIDAY – HALLOWEEN BASH:** One big costume party! Dress as anyone or anything your imagination can muster up! (Some very creative costumes that were fun to see)

**SATURDAY – A SPECIAL SHOW, ONE TIME ONLY,** at The International Theater at the Westgate – the very same theater Elvis performed consecutive sold out shows from July 1969 through December 1976! More information to come! **THE SOUL OF MOTOWN SHOW** was **AMAZING!!!** If they do this again next year, you simply must go. Wow! What talent. This is the group that Doug and Jackie have at their theater in Pidgeon Forge so if you are ever there, don't miss seeing their show and stopping by to see Doug and Jackie). I loved it!! I'm sure they will be announcing what they plan for next year. The theater is in the hotel theater so you don't even have to travel anywhere and you can buy the tickets at the ticket office in the hotel casino.



**SUNDAY – DRESS WHITE AT NIGHT GALA –** An all white attire evening and Farewell Show and Dance! It's our farewell dance, the close of the event.

**Some of the instructors doing Dance Ranch Romp** [Dance Ranch Romp](#) (video by Jodi Harmon)  
**Open dance doing Run Me Like A River** [White party at Vegas Dance Explosion 2017](#) (video by Jodi Harmon)



**THIS YEAR THEY HAD:**

**“Swing Time” Room:** Take Swing, Cha Cha, Waltz, Night Club 2 classes and more ... with John Lindo, Dwight and Sandi Nelson, and John and Jo Kinser!

(The swing classes were full and everyone I talked with about them absolutely loved learning from these instructors.)

**NTA (National Teacher’s Association) Dance Fundamental Classes:**

Class taught by Kelly Gellette. The NTA is an International organization that offers personal training and coaching for dancers, incorporating many dance styles. The NTA makes learning to dance easier by knowing the basic dance fundamentals every dancer needs. It is a great starting point for new dancers as well as for those who may have been dancing longer and want to improve their knowledge of dance. Schedule of dances as follows:

Wednesday I Basic moves

Thursday II Triple time moves

Friday III Turns

Saturday IV-A Basic dances

**FLASH MOB** – We have FILLED the Riviera Hotel lobby and the Westgate lobbies with our flash mobs! We aim to fill the Westgate lobby again! This year’s dances are: *Lonely Drum* (Improver by Darren Mitchell) and *Clap Snap* (Intermediate by Philip Sobrielo and Rebecca Lee). We will have workshops scheduled for these dances so you can participate! (We had a really good time doing the flash mobs and they were packed.

Here is a video of the Flash Mob doing Lonely Drum: [LONELY DRUM Line Dance Flashmob \(Darren Mitchell\) - 2017 Vegas Line Dance Explosion](#)



THE INSTRUCTORS FOR 2017: (I had not met quite a few of these and I enjoyed meeting them and taking some of their classes.) Doug and Jackie had a really comprehensive survey at the end of the event which asked for: the instructors/choreographers we liked best this year and asked these questions:

What did you like most about the event? What did you like least about the event? What instructors would you like to see here next year? Other comments. There was also a rating scale that included how you would rate the Hotel, hotel staff, rooms, ballrooms, floors, variety of dances taught, quantity of workshops, room temperature, technique workshops, repeat workshops, overall quality of instructors, evening dances, individual theme nights, extended 1 1/2 hour lunch break (but you could still dance in the open request room if you wanted to), Extended dinner breaks, flash mobs.

#### **Instructors & DJs**

##### **INTERNATIONAL INSTRUCTORS:**

Jeff Camps – Belgium  
Jonas Dahlgren – Sweden  
Rob Fowler – England  
Maddison Glover – Australia  
Jo & John Kinser – England  
Rebecca Lee – Malaysia  
Shane McKeever – Ireland  
Peter Metelnick – England  
Guillaume Richard – France  
Raymond Sarlemijn – Netherlands  
Philip Sobrielo – Singapore  
Daniel Trepas – Netherlands  
Roy Verdonk – Netherlands  
Ivonne Verhagen – Netherlands

##### **AMERICAN INSTRUCTORS:**

Michael Barr – California  
Joanne Brady – Delaware  
Michele Burton – California  
Will Craig – North Carolina  
Amy Glass – Oregon  
Doug & Jackie Miranda – Tennessee  
Dwight & Sandi Nelson – Arizona  
Kat Painter – California  
Brenda Shatto – California  
Jo Thompson-Syzmanski – Colorado  
Trevor Andrew Thornton – Florida  
Ira Weisburd – Florida

**NEW THIS YEAR:** World Renowned Swing Instructor John Lindo!

HERE IS THE SCHEDULE OF DANCES TAUGHT. I really hope you will share your favorites with me so I can post it in the newsletter. There were SO MANY taught and I could not possibly take all of the classes (5 ballrooms all day long Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) so we have to depend on one another to mention the dances we like so people can teach them around the world. Just send me your feedback and reports to [tkandr@aol.com](mailto:tkandr@aol.com) and I'll include it in the newsletter -- don't worry about spelling and grammar. I'll fix it.

[http://www.vegasdanceexplosion.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017VDE\\_WorkshopSchedule.pdf](http://www.vegasdanceexplosion.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017VDE_WorkshopSchedule.pdf)

In my short little survey and reading posts online, here are a few that stood out for people so you can start checking them out (in no particular order but just ones that I saw, learned, or other people mentioned to me that they liked): You can see the level of the dances on the schedule above.

Power Mix, Maddison Glover  
Mates of Soul. Guillaume Richard  
I Won't Back Down, Rachael McEnaney-White, and Jo Thompson-Szymanski  
Clap Snap, Rebecca Lee (this was one of the flash mob dances and was already popular)  
Dunk It, Kate Sala and Neils Poulsen  
White Summer Dress, Daniel Trepert and J. Yoon  
Deeply in Love, Jackie Miranda  
Lipstick Tango, Michele Burton  
Yeah, Michael Barr  
Thunder, Will Craig and D. Malenfant  
Everybody's Groovin', Jo Thompson-Szymanski  
Here Right Here, Jo and John Kinser (another one mentioned a lot)  
Boots, Maddison Glover  
Lay it Back, Shane McKeever, Fred Whitehouse, and Guyton Mundy  
Run Me Like a River, Verdonk, Kinser, Richard, Camps  
The Ghost of You, Verdonk and Holtland  
Lonely Drum, Darren Mitchell (this was one of the flash mob dances and was already popular)  
Electric Love, Amy Glass (this one was mentioned a lot)  
Maniac, Jonas Dahlgren (I heard about this one a lot)  
Party Train, Rebecca Lee (fast and cute)  
Oh, Mama Hey, Jo Thompson-Szymanski and Guyton Mundy  
She's Gone, Verdonk, Dahlgren, and Camps  
Woo Woo, Rachael McEnaney-White  
Old and Grey, Rob Fowler (the dance doesn't look like the name so check it out. Music reminded me of Lay Low)  
My Reason, Verdonk, Camps, Alart  
Hurts Like a Cha Cha, Trepert, Ward, Whitehouse  
Take it High, Rebecca Lee  
Speak to a Girl, Amy Glass  
Should Be Loved, Rachel McEnaney-White

Here are the videos of dances that Stacy gathered that were taught at the event.  
Here's the Vegas Videos that I gathered of dances that's been taught at the event

<http://www.worldlinedancenewsletter.com/stacyj/2017-vegas-videos.pdf>

Also, here is Jessie Chan's Youtube Page with videos from the weekend:

[2017 Vegas Dance Explosion](#)



I will also include "Reports from Others" on the [www.worldlinedancenewsletter.com](http://www.worldlinedancenewsletter.com) web site so you can see picks from other people once they are added. I try to do a report and Stacy tries to add the information to the site after every event we can gather the information and all the reports from events I attend are on the site.

If you would like to order the official videos from the event you can contact:

DDM Productions, 535 Maggie Mack Lane, Sevierville, TN 37862-4547 (I don't see a web site but it might be on the [www.vegasdanceexplosion.com](http://www.vegasdanceexplosion.com) site.

2017 Dance Instruction/Demos \$35; 2017 Dance Shows, \$35; Have it All, \$45. Shipping is an extra charge.

BE SURE AND MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE VEGAS DANCE EXPLOSION 2018. If you have never been, you are missing ONE GREAT EVENT! Thank you, Doug and Jackie, and your amazing staff for making everything run like clockwork, for making every day a new adventure in fun, and for hosting the largest U.S. Dance event for all of us! Can't wait to do it again.



Carol Craven

Owner: [WWW.WORL DLINEDANCENEWSLETTER.COM](http://WWW.WORL DLINEDANCENEWSLETTER.COM)

Owner of World Line Dance Newsletter Group on Facebook

## REPORTS FROM OTHERS:

**SUBJECT: VEGAS DANCE EXPLOSION 2017**

**FROM: mbuben2727@yahoo.com**

Wow, another amazing weekend in Vegas. To start off, the open dance floor was bigger, the praise worship was great, the choreographers were awesome, the shows were extremely talented, the Motown show was awesome & it was just plain GREAT! I loved dancing with my friends & some new friends too. Everything was so well organized, everything went off without a hitch. If anything did go wrong, Doug was always visible. One of the best workshops. Thank you Doug & Jackie, choreographers & DJ's.

**SUBJECT: VEGAS DANCE EXPLOSION 2017**

**FROM: JODI HARMON**

Finally, with PES subsiding, I can share my thoughts about my first Vegas Dance Explosion. In a word: PHENOMENAL!

Doug & Jackie Miranda, I really wanted to meet you, but every time I saw you, a song came on that I HAD to dance to. (Darn those DJ's!)

PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- \* Meeting people from all over the world -- Europe, Malaysia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Alaska -- including an adorable 82-year old still dancing.
- \* Dressing as Rebecca Lee for costume night and dancing New Thang and Clap Snap with her.
- \* Video screens showing what's being played in all 3 rooms. (This is a HUGE help to sore feet, eliminating the need to run from room to room to see what's playing.)
- \* The dance lobby!
- \* Choreography winners do a one-wall demo after their award. This is great for those of us who didn't attend the competition.
- \* Doing the Barn Dance for the first time.
- \* Watching the extraordinary number of choreographers still on the dance floor late at night. Kudos to [Louis St.George](#) for reaching into the archives and playing their classics -- especially [Jo Thompson Szymanski's](#) -- and keeping them dancing till the wee hours. (Based on the "likes" I received to my videos of Cotton Eyed Joe, Dance Ranch Romp, Swingin' R's, Razor Sharp, many folks loved this as well. As an aside, it boggles my mind how the younger dancers know Jo's and other classics that are 10 - 20 years old. I wonder what dances we are doing now will be the classics in 20 years.)

SHOWS:

I adored the shows. The choreographers teach during the day, dance and amuse us to the wee hours of the morning and ALSO choreograph and give a dazzling performance in these shows. I don't know how they do it!

Jackie demonstrating Tinikling with Guillaume Richard and Roy Verdonk!

INSTRUCTORS/WORKSHOPS:

A great lineup of instructors with varied styles and levels!



FAVORITE DANCES:

Dunk It and Party Train

WISH LIST – JUST TWO MINOR ITEMS:

\* Personally, I prefer live demos. I just couldn't get a feel for them on the TV as they were rather short (1-wall), quite "vanilla" and poor sound.

\* The pool is closed with temps in the 70s and clear skies? (This is not a VDE thing; it was explained to me that's common in Vegas. But WHY? It seems to me they could at least keep the pool deck open to lounge around.)

Thank you, Doug & Jackie for a phenomenal time. Sign me up for VDE 2018!

LINK TO MY VIDEOS:

Vegas Dance Explosion 2017

<https://vimeo.com/album/4857423>

Jodi Harmon

**SUBJECT: DANCIN' WITH MARILYN, OCALA, FL**

**FROM: Marilyn McNeal, [BoarsNestFarm@aol.com](mailto:BoarsNestFarm@aol.com)**

Arrived home from the Vegas Dance Explosion at 5:30AM Monday due to plane delays! Thank goodness we were traveling with Carol Craven, who is so entertaining that the many hours in the airport weren't so bad, but the drive home from Tampa at 3AM wasn't fun. Recovering today after a full day of classes yesterday!

This event amazes me each year. There is no other like it. Wednesday night Doug announced 740 dancers had arrived (we among them) and the rest danced in on Thursday for a total of 1,529 dancers. The huge ballrooms were decorated, the awesome Line Dance lobby with seating everywhere was filled with vendors, food options and decorated with flags from all countries present plus photos of all the instructors, all rooms had fantastic sound systems, several DJs working hard, and those 1500+ dancers having a ball. I hope you experience this event at some time in your dance life. I was so happy to see people here I hadn't seen in a long time and somehow, the whole week just flew by.

Each night the instructors put on a different show for us, professional and entertaining. We also like the Sunday morning Praise and Workshop in the line dance lobby, where Doug and Jackie planned 5 dances to inspirational songs along with short scripture readings and thankfulness for our many blessings. Class act!

Sooooooo many dances taught and re-taught on different days at different times so we could catch up on missed ones. Vegas has so much to offer in addition to the event that most go sight-seeing during the week, as we did. We enjoyed the Celine Dion concert (incredible), Fremont Street at night, lunch at the Flamingo, dinner at Peppermill, the Motown singers from D & J's Pigeon Forge theater, and at different times we traveled in a limo, public bus and the

Monorail right outside the door at the Westgate! All easy to navigate and we really like this hotel for it's convenient location.

THANK YOU Doug and Jackie for this weekend experience above all others. You are so talented and your organizational skills amaze all of us. True entertainment specialists! Kudos also to your support staff who have your back all weekend. The registration desk – do those gals ever get to go home? They are always there, smiling and ready to help you out with any questions. We had an absolutely great time and appreciate all your hard work, and your personal attention to everyone, like taking first time choreographers out for Taco Bell at 3AM? Please, go rest!

I will be going through the dance classes I took and teach some of these new ones starting with my Wednesday night class in Ocala for Intermediate/Advanced crowd. Ray and I have a full week of family obligations so the rest will be on hold. Have a blessed week everyone!

**SUBJECT: DOUG & JACKIE MIRANDA'S VEGAS DANCE EXPLOSION, WESTGATE HOTEL, NOV. 7-12, 2017**

**FROM: Judy**

Aaaahhhh, It's good to be back. It's like seeing a dear old friend again after 5 years and dazzled by how much the friend has thrived and prospered. Everything bigger, better. brighter and Phillip has gained an ounce. So for 6 glorious days and nights the Explosion at the Westgate hotel was the epicenter of the linedance world, reverberating with over 1500 dancers from 27 countries and 47 states. Arguably, it's the biggest, longest linedance event in the universe. I kid you not, the earthlings have cornered the linedance field, according to a reliable source. And I mean BIG: 5 super size ballrooms and 1 regular mainly for techniques & swing, 15 choreographers/instructors from 9 countries, 13 from the US and 5 DJs. Obviously, to write everything about an event of this size in readable length is unachievable. A shallow excuse for the fact that I didn't do everything or see everything that the event has to offer nor can I remember everything that I've done and seen since this memory has been around for ahem...?.. never mind. It's compounded by the fact that Vegas, being the entertainment capital of the world, is both a blessing and a curse, as it sirenly ensnare your precious time with its myriad offerings. It's like, I was in Vegas for 1 week and I've only seen these? I went to a 6 day linedance event and I've only danced these? Add to that the silly idea of bringing a book to read on the plane that turned out to be a romantic whodunit suspense novel and picking it up after dinner the suspense is killing you, you can't put down until the end, you look up from your book, it's 11:00 o'clock, you dress quickly to do some dancing until 2:00 AM which you've never done before because your cinderella dancing time is no later than midnight, so you annoy your circadian clock which quits on you rendering you sleepless and by the time you overcome your grogginess you've lost a whole morning of dancing. Okay, where was I? Right, the VDE.

If the luminaries, the choreographers/teachers, are the constellations, the stars are the dancers. So many beautiful dancers! The Canadians were singled out to be the biggest representation among all the countries present. But allow me to mention, and if this sounds like bragging, it is, that the dominant presence in the event were the SF bay area dancers. Everywhere you turn, you see a friendly bay area face. They came and came, from choreographers/teachers and DJ like John Trentacosti, Brenda Shatto, Susan Dodge, Cathy and Claudio Dacumos, Rita Cheng, Kathy Chang and Limay Flavel, Van and Celia Liang, Mary Ann

Niclaus, Dolly Urquhart, Doris Volz and Carol Clark, Christopher Gonzales and Megan Barsuglia; and dancers even in wheelchair like Pat Monte pushed around by Lois Butler (that didn't sound right) and Kathy Whitman in a walker. Carolyn, a former bay area dancer and teacher who was in braces when asked how she can dance despite all those things around her body stated what is universally true that your endorphins kick in when you dance making pain disappear from your mind. I was ecstatic to see John Bowen and Gina Mello who used to teach and hold dances in the bay area before moving to Hawaii.

Of the constellations, some of the best and the brightest were there and some I'm meeting for the first time. I'll just mention a few: The most lovable of them all is IVONNE VERHAGEN, a 2-time world linedance champion, tall, beautiful with legs that go from here to next year and hair that can cover the universe (I'm riveted by hair as mine has been deserting me and I can count the ones that stayed) and so unaffectedly warm and friendly. Her dance OPEN YOUR HEART is one of my favs from the event. It moves and touches your heart. JONAS DAHLGREN from Sweden could be her male counterpart, so friendly with a big bright smile and dances with graceful fluidity. His dance MANIAC was another of my favs. JACKIE MIRANDA's DEEPLY IN LOVE to How Deep Is Your Love by the Beegees although this was a track by Donnie and Marie Osmond. Fabulous dance, another Blessed. JO THOMPSON-SZYMANSKI teaching EVERYBODY'S GROOVIN in a ridiculously gorgeous blinging boots that matched the colors of her top over tights showcasing her beauty queen image. Also taught BOOM POW, two more to add to my favs. Must mention the beloved sprite of the event, REBECCA LEE from Malaysia with her signature beribboned headband and ponytail who together with the beloved male sprite PHILIP SOBRIELO created the sensational flash mob dance CLAP SNAP.

I missed both flash mob dances, got engrossed dancing at the lobby, the best open dancing lobby in all of eventdom. It's big, bright, airy and the best DJs especially friendly JOHN DEMBIEC. It's surrounded by tables, and vendors and massage station and food stand. You have everything at your fingertips if you need to shop, eat, get a massage in between dancing. Marci told me she hardly took any workshops, she spent her time at the lobby. I can't say I blame her. There was continues dancing at the lobby by day (it can't get any better than that) and at night there were 3 enormous ballrooms: the Majestic where the performances and programs were held so it had tiered seats in them, smaller dance floor with nightclub lighting and crowded as heck so I stayed away from it. Danced most of the time at the All-Request Ballroom where it's bright, bigger dance floor, not as crowded and sometimes DJ MICHAEL DIVEN comes on the floor to lead the dance like SHAKE YOURSELF LOOSE. All 3 ballrooms have giant screens showing the dances to be played in each ballroom so you can go from room to room following the dances you want to do.

There were 4 nights of special performances and 3 theme nights. For the International night, JACKIE clad in a Pilipina patadyong danced the indigenous Philippine folk dance, the TINIKLING. It's a dance not for the fainthearted. One has to dexterously, in rhythm with the music, skip in and out of two clicking long bamboo poles being held by two people at both ends clicking them to the music. Tinikling dancers do this with a partner from slow to faster and faster rhythm and clicking. Jackie did a marvelous job at it then proceeded to teach GUILLAUME (say GEEYOOM, I say that because I don't know about you, I find French names impossible to pronounce) RICHARD and ROY VERDONK to dance it to the delight and laughter of everyone. MADDISON GLOVER lead a squad of black clad body-slapping dancers. PHILIP SOBRIELO choreographed and

lead a zombie dance on halloween night. I missed the Sunday's performance having been delayed coming back from the Australian Beegees Show.

THE SOUL OF MOTOWN, Doug and Jackie's hit show at their Majestic Theatre at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, came with them and performed to a sold out crowd at the International theatre at the Westgate Hotel. It can hold its candle in the entertainment capital of the world. It's that caliber for sure. With the current state of affairs, it's a much needed breath of fresh air to be regaled and wowed by an all African-American singing ensemble whose voices reach to the heavens and lifted your spirit with them. They got the audience dancing and singing and then picked JO ANNE BRADY to go onstage to dance with them. Well, you know Jo Anne, she should be on stage. Toward the end of the show, the singer whom I least expected to do it, did cartwheel, flip and split to raucous applause. This was followed by a rousing rendition of Uptown Funk and because it was Veterans Day, it ended with the audience on its feet to roof-lifting patriotic songs and a standing ovation.

I wanted to see a magic show and picked David Copperfield. I went with the expectation of, well, a magic show. And he went along with my expectation, coming out in a blue shirt like he was going out for a walk in the garden not the flashy, tuxedo outfits that magicians usually wear. Then when I thought this must be the show's highlight, he follows it with another mesmerizing highlight and another and another.... I came out bug-eyed and blown out of my wits. When O first came out at the Belagio, it took me to the clouds, then I saw KA and it took me to the moon. David Copperfield took me to the milky way. The VEGAS DANCE EXPLOSION is the David Copperfield of linedance events. BRAVO DOUG and JACKIE MIRANDA! MUCHAS GRACIAS and MABUHAY!

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