



Spanish Dance Society

Sociedad de Danza Española

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WINTER NEWSLETTER



Dancer: Marina Keet de Grut

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT DAME MARINA KEET DE GRUT

Dear Members all over the world

What an extraordinary year this has been!

The resilience and resourcefulness of the dance world has led us to find new ways of teaching and examining through embracing and developing cinematography, technology and internet skills.

Teaching on-line is by no means ideal, but the 'silver lining' is that some teachers have been able to reach a wider audience in different countries and our students can at least continue their studies and keep developing their expertise during these difficult times.

Last July the SDS UK and Europe set up an on-line Store for our members and I am very happy to announce that the DVD that accompanies my book 'The Bolero School' has been carefully presented as a course of study and is now available in digital format for you to download and study at home. I hope you enjoy it and find it useful for your Spanish Dancing careers.



Here is an excerpt of the Bolero de L'Alcudia danced by Nancy Sedgwick and Joan Fosas.

(Click below to view)

<https://vimeo.com/479539700/34b1667080>

Below is something of what I wrote about the Pericet family in my book published by Dance Books Ltd, 2002:

"Having been passed on to each successive generation in the direct line, as taught by their grandfather, the Pericet method is all that remains of the exact steps and dances of the Escuela Bolera as it was in the 19th century. They thus go back to the first Angel Pericet (Carmona, 1877-1944) and his teachers of that era in Seville, Amparo Alvarez (La Campanera), so beautifully sketched by Doré, and Maestro Faustino Segura. Whether the changes of style and steps are changes for the better is a matter of debate. Should the style remain for posterity with rounded open arms, and a forward tilt of the body, or be allowed to evolve and therefore change?"

"The Pericet connection is by no means our only link with the Escuela Bolera, but it is the most direct link over the centuries. There are many other teachers of this classical school (mentioned in the following chapter) in Barcelona, Seville, Cádiz and Málaga. Maria Mercedes León, for example, speaks of her contact with the daughter of a teacher in Madrid called Maestro Roy and how he taught many more steps and certainly more intricate beaten footwork than found in the Pericet heritage. This could, of course, be Roy's own choreography." I then went on to deal with links between Cecchetti and the Escuela Bolera.

When Angel Pericet Jiménez, the father of my teacher Eloy Pericet Blanco, moved to Madrid in the 1940s he changed the Escuela Bolera style to compete with ballet, and taught it with upright arms, for which he was much criticised by the purists. However, other important teachers like Luisa and Rafael Pericet kept the original style.

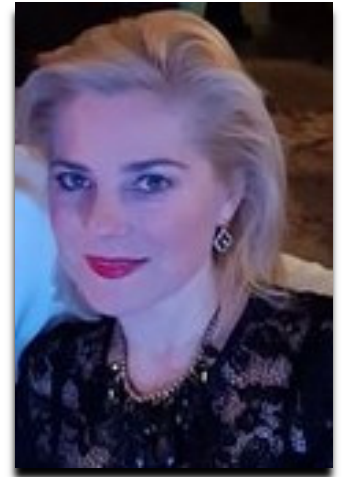
With all my best wishes for your important work, as well as for Christmas and the New Year,

Marina Keet de Grut,
Dame of the Order of Queen Isabel of Spain

MESSAGE FROM ISABEL BAQUERO
CHAIRPERSON UK & UNITED KINGDOM

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members at the Spanish Dance Society, also to their friends and families, a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!



2020 has been indeed a very challenging year for all but as difficult as this has been, at the SDS we have had many successes as well.

This year has brought new ways of thinking, new ways of operating, and stronger and creative systems of global communication.

Spanish Dance has kept us 'going' and has also kept us universally connected.

With my very best wishes,
Isabel.



MESSAGE FROM CONCHITA DEL CAMPO ORGANISER UK AND EUROPE

Members, Colleagues, Affiliates and Friends,

I hope you are as delighted as we are with the design of our new logo. Anabel Garcia, Nuria's talented daughter who has a master's degree in Architecture, added the dynamic male dancer to the original female creating an exciting powerful visual image, and Cheryl Crossen White surrounded the dancers with our English and new Spanish name. We are thrilled to finally represent the flamenco male and female energies united and dancing together.



We have since re-designed the Teacher and Part Exam certificates using the logo, and Youla Papas our Organiser in Greece has assisted in the production of our lovely new medals.

Like our President Marina Grut says in her letter, during these pandemic months most of us have embraced methods of online teaching and learning, and we have already successfully held 'Remote' SDS exams in various Centres across Europe.

Our preferred exam format is through video forwarded securely via We-Transfer, rather than zoom, due to the precarious reliance on internet connections.

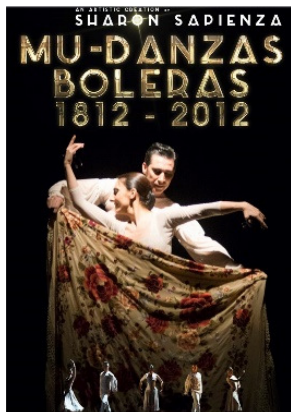
To keep you informed of our activities since the Spring Newsletter I will list the events in chronological order.

Our previously arranged Examiner's Standardisation and Training to be held in London with all European examiners attending on the 8th and 9th of April had to be postponed until the 17th and 18th of October. Helen Mence the Responsible Officer for GQAL did a remarkable job of co-ordinating 18 examiners live on zoom. This was no mean feat because as well as the European examiners we included some from as far afield as Mexico and South Africa.

It was a memorable occasion and an impressive experience to be together, united for once, and have the examiners demonstrating their dedication to the future of the SDS by generously contributing their knowledge and expertise. We had a few trainees among us, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Eleni Giannopoulou, Stella Pappa and Vasileios Skepataris from Greece and Cheryl Crossen White and Nuria Garcia from the UK.

We wish them all the best and a successful completion of their training.

At this point I would like to mention that the South African Executive Committee has unanimously decided to collaborate with us and offer the GQAL UK Government Accredited Route to the members that come under their jurisdiction. They will however also continue to offer the Original Syllabus route for those who want it. We are so glad and relieved that we are working together again and will be able to be in close contact with all our SDS members worldwide.



The MU DANZAS performance at the Peacock Theatre in London scheduled on the 19th of April was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

The Company was created by and is now dedicated to the memory of our gifted student Sharon Sapienza. The dancers present exquisitely performed Escuela Bolera dances. We hope the organisers in Malta who were being assisted by Deborah McNamara Caruana our Organiser in Malta will consider re-booking the visit when global conditions allow. Video Promocional mu-DANZAS BOLERAS: <https://vimeo.com/37382440> (view this exquisite preview.)



During the summer term we continued with our plans to upgrade and validate the General Graded Programme of Study, and Victoria Ramos (Vicki) made the most of the lockdown opportunity to film and make a video of the new Grades 1-8, which are danced superbly by Cristina Otero and Miguel Ruiz Parra. The video is now for sale in our Store which is accessible to all registered members and students who are under the guidance of an SDS teacher.

<https://selfy.com/spanishdancesociety/>

We are delighted to inform you that by Christmas we will also have available in the Store the video of Marina's book 'The Bolero School' compiled by Nicolai Grut and offered as a download in a carefully presented 'course' format for students to study the steps and dances with an enhanced clarity of progression.

From 29th to 2nd of August Vicki organised and held our first SDS Summer Course in Jerez.



Due to Covid she arranged free online workshops at the beginning of each day for our SDS teachers who could not attend, to learn the new exercises and dances for the Grades 1-8.

During that Course Marta de Troya taught her graceful and flowing Guajiras with a Bata and Fan, and Caña with Bata and Shawl which will go into our new Advanced 1 and 2 Grades respectively, and Ana Morales created a magnificent Soleares for our Professional Development Grade.

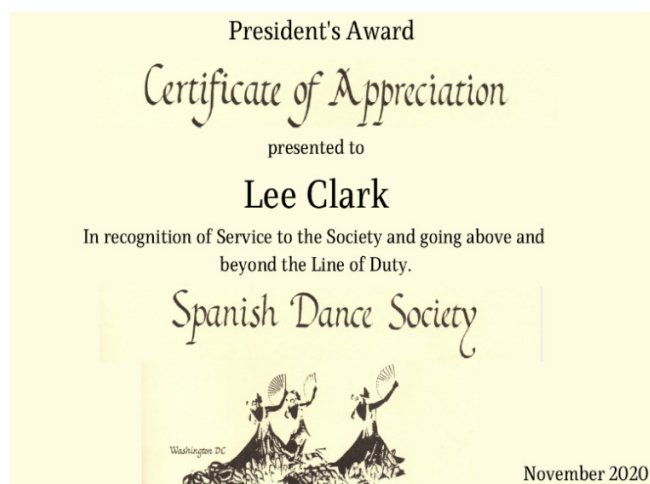
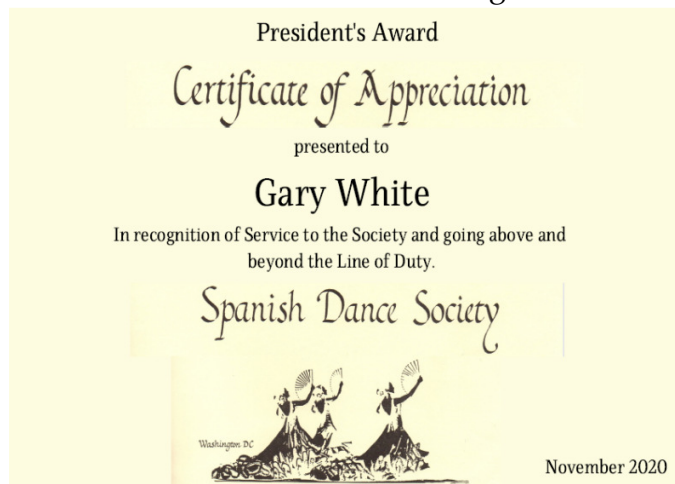
The Vocational Programme of Study has now been established and we are very pleased to let you know that the renowned and world famous teacher Manuel Liñan has donated a Tangos choreography for our Advanced 2 Grade which will be taught in a Course to be advertised in 2021.

We have aimed to achieve a balance of challenging yet manageable Vocational Grades utilising all the Original exam material as well as adding new material, providing a rich variety of styles.

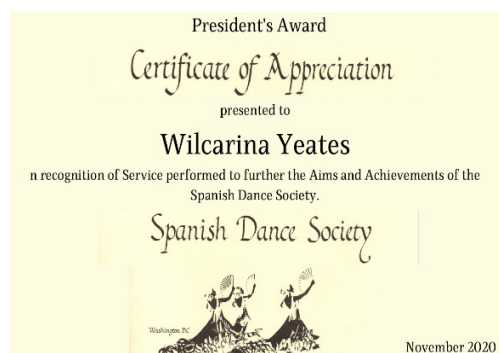
There will be an addition of a choreographic element to each Grade thereby encouraging the students to develop their own personal style and increase their ability to be creative. The candidates will be required to produce a Personal Profile Manual reflecting and notating their progress and thoughts about their Spanish Dancing studies plus any extra-curricular interests or activities they may want to share or keep for their own records.



Our European **President's Awards** this year go to Lee Clark from the Board of Dance Qualifications and Training (BDQT) and our Treasurer and Membership Liaison Officer Gary White, due to their invaluable assistance in establishing our brand.



The South African President's Awards went to Wilcarina Yeates (Chair), Fiona Rodel (Examiner) and Veronica Williams.



I would like to conclude by thanking Carmen Martinez Martinez for updating and translating our General Graded Theory book into Spanish and extend my gratitude to all the Committees, Boards, Advisors and members who are giving so much of their time and actively contributing towards our success, to Von Schele Lottering for editing and embellishing our Newsletters, and last but not least to our brilliant teachers who are continuing to support and be part of this excellent Society by offering our wonderful method to their appreciative students.

I wish you all a heart-warming Christmas Season and a prosperous and resourceful 2021.
Conchita del Campo, SDS Organiser.

IN THIS EDITION WE ARE PRESENTING THE PROFILES OF YOUR REMAINING UK & EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

CONCHITA DEL CAMPO

SDS UK and European Director and Organiser

Conchita del Campo was born into a Spanish dancing family. Her father Doroteo was a refugee from the Spanish Civil War and met her mother Margarita at the 'Hogar Español' in Bayswater London. Along with her elder brother Dorio, who later became a principal dancer with Houston Ballet, the family studied Spanish dancing for many years with the renowned teacher and excellent artist Lucile Armstrong. Eventually the family established their own dance group called 'Los del Campo' specialising in regional dances from the provinces of Aragon, Castilla, Valencia, Murcia and in the latter years Tenerife, one of the Canary Islands.



Los del Campo

Conchita and Dorio started performing from the tender age of 6 in concert halls and theatres with their parents and various other well-known dancers of the era. They were both the first of six students of Leonie Urdang who arrived in the UK from South Africa to set up her Academy in North West London. They continued their professional dance training at the Arts Educational Trust School from the ages of 11 to 18. Dorio went on to perform classical ballet and settled permanently in the U.S.A.

Conchita continued dancing with 'Los del Campo', supporting their charitable events for the RSPCA and other animal charities, while also dancing professionally with Ballet Rambert, Ballet International, Scottish Ballet, Royal Opera Ballet Covent Garden, as a soloist in Münster Germany, and in Galas with Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev. She was an 'extra' dancer for many years with the London Festival Ballet, and also a founder member of Harold King's London City Ballet. She partnered Wayne Sleep in his first 'Dash' company, assisted Anthony Van Laast in various films and TV shows, and after attending a choreographic course with Robert Cohan, founder of the London Contemporary Dance Company, she herself went on to choreograph for TV programmes, pantomimes, commercials, flamenco pop videos, and also created Spanish dances for festivals and for a short-lived West End musical.



In 1985 her parents organised a tribute to the Spanish King Juan Carlos and his wife Sofia at the Hammersmith Odeon to celebrate the unity of the Spanish people under the monarchy after many years of political unrest. The presentation included artists and friends Marisa Robles on the harp, José Luis Garcia on the violin, Paco Peña on guitar, Enrique Perez de Guzmán on Piano, and the dancer Maribel La Manchega in a Cuadro Flamenco with Antonio Vargas singing and Paco Peña and El Tito playing guitar. The Grupo de la Comunidad Gallega with Rafael Porro leading the Gaiteros also donated their services and enhanced the historic celebration.

It was while performing in Beirut with the Lebanese Caracalla Dance Company that Conchita started teaching Jazz, Contemporary and Classical Ballet.

This led her to apply and successfully achieve a professional dancers' teaching diploma in 1984 with the Royal Academy of Dancing in the UK, which led her to teach Pilates, Spanish and Classical Ballet as a full-time member for 29 years at the London Studio Centre theatre school in Kings Cross London.



During those 29 years her interest in health and fitness led her to become a Circuit Training Instructor, a Pilates Teacher Trainer for the Body Control Pilates Association, an examiner for the Pilates Foundation, a Reiki Master and a Cranio-Sacral Therapist.



It was in 1988 that she came across the work of the Spanish Dance Society (SDS). She was very impressed and immediately appreciated the value of the constructive and progressive syllabus and programme of study that it offered to students of all levels and ages, enabling them to be educated in the Regional, Classical and Flamenco styles of Spanish dance, and included within the theory papers the knowledge of the history, costumes and music.

She took over Victoria Ramos' school in Ladbroke Grove and soon started entering pupils for exams. By 1993 she achieved her SDS Maestro de Baile Diploma and in 1998 completed the training to become one of their International Examiners.

Conchita helped Robert Harold and Helen Wingrave with information for the new edition of their book 'Spanish Dancing' (2001), and helped proof read the Hon. Life President of the SDS Dame Marina Keet de Grut's book 'The Bolero School' (2002) as well as assisting her with the making of the video which accompanies the book. <https://vimeo.com/458199874/5f25e16c25>



CONCHITA, MIKAEL, ELOY PERICET, MARINA.

Conchita's dedication to the SDS and loyalty to its founders, among them Dame Rhoda Rivkind, Sir Geoffrey Neiman and Dame Marina Keet, inspired her to take the helm and become one of the UK and European Directors alongside Nuria Garcia and Cheryl Crossen White a former colleague and fellow teacher.

With help from her esteemed advisors she found and established an excellent working relationship with Lee Clark from BDQT, and Helen Mence and Ivor James from the new, dance related awarding body GQAL so that the Society could maintain its UK government OFQUAL recognition status, and with the backing and support of her experienced, highly qualified and creative Executive Committee and Boards of European Examiners and Organisers she is confidently leading the Society towards an exciting future.

ALICIA ROSAS / CHERYL CROSSEN WHITE

DIRECTOR AND EXAMINATION STANDARDISATION OFFICER

I was born in Dublin Ireland in 1956 and lived in the foothills of the Wicklow mountains for the first four years of my life, quite near the birthplace of Dame Ninette de Valois. She once attributed her creativity to her growing up in such fairy tale surroundings. I always understood that sentiment and would hear my own inner dance rhythms amplified in those surroundings as my Irish 'fiddle playing' grandfather never failed to be interested in whether I was, 'still leaping around?' So, it was a shock to my little four-year-old self to be torn away from my 'gypsy life' roaming around mountains and lakes and being the centre of my own imaginative stories, to boarding a very large 'boat' called the Pendennis Castle, on my way to somewhere called South Africa.



Little did I know that when we docked at some sunny palm tree lined country called 'Las Palmas', that I would be transfixed by a vibrant and colorful type of fairy tale that I could never possibly have imagined.

Watching the group of people who came on board the boat to dance for a 'hatful of pennies', changed my life. The sight of their beautiful dresses of velvet and silk as they jumped and leaped mesmerised me and when



more dancers came on with spotted dresses and colorful shawls making a sound that I had never heard before but recognised as rhythm, I resolved there and then that one day I would learn how to do that.

That opportunity came in 1965 when as a young 8-year-old RAD ballet student, at Gwen Dowell School of Dance, I saw one of her pupils dancing a 'classical Spanish' dance in a beautiful yellow lace dress to music by Granados.

I also fondly remember watching Jennifer Crew/Calix, who had just returned from dancing with Pilar Lopez in Spain perform a 'Soleares' in a stunning orange and black 'Cola' and begging my mother to allow me to join her Spanish Dance classes, where she taught the SDS syllabus in Krugersdorp.

On my first lesson with this wonderful, talented and shy lady I felt that I had found my 'fairy godmother'. She recognised that I too was shy but helped me to release my inner performer through the medium of this powerful and noble dance form. (I write this in tribute to her memory as she died of breast cancer a few years later). A great loss to the teaching world of Spanish Dance in SA.

I later auditioned and joined the JHB High School for Art, Ballet and Music as a student of Wilcarina Van Niekerk/Yeates. I consider myself enormously privileged to have trained under all these wonderful teachers including Marjorie Sturman, Ruth Inglestone, Jean Beckley, Dame Rhoda Rivkind, Mercedes Molina, Sir Geoffrey Nieman and Bernice Lloyd among many. Although Spanish Dance was my first love, I auditioned in 1973 for PACT Ballet Company and was accepted as an aspirant, although my heart was torn having been asked by Mercedes Molina to audition for her company.

I loved ballet but not enough to miss the opportunity of auditioning to replace a dancer who had to fly home to Spain with an illness from 'Los Tarantos'.

I joined Carmen 'La Terremoto', Lolita Paris and SA Spanish Dancers Manuel Bernal and Luis Mayo and guitarist Hiroshi Someya as a lead dancer on their tour of SA and surrounding countries.



I had regularly travelled to Spain and the UK to study and my association with José de Udaeta who taught at Cologne University started in 1972 when he first saw me dance at the age of sixteen and politely called me over at the end of the class to enquire who I had trained with. I explained that I had trained in South Africa with the SDS and he was amazed and said he had never seen somebody dance all three styles with such good understanding and knowledge. I was thrilled to give full credit to the SDS and told him that I would spread the word about his

Courses in Sitges and that he should, 'watch out, because we would be coming to conquer Spain!'. He threw his head back and laughed at my teenage presumptuousness, assuring me that Spain would welcome us.

To my delight this came true in 1990 when José and Sitges hosted the 25th SDS anniversary and to see dear Dame Marina Keet our Life President and all our lovely teachers from all over the world contributing to, sharing and promoting the art and knowledge of Spanish Dance for the benefit of all made me so proud to be associated with this wonderful Society.

Currently I run my own school in Kent and have had the honour of choreographing Spanish Dance for various institutions such as the Gulbenkian University Theatre and Chatham Theatre in Kent, promoting the Spanish Dance Society to many counsels, companies such as Eurotunnel and media including the BBC since 1982.

My Spanish Dance students themselves have won many accolades including the 'All England' dance competition twice. Others went on to become professional dancers and teachers throughout the UK. I have also taught dance in many English schools as a peripatetic dance coach and fully qualified supply teacher.

The Irish in me has always loved a good story and my admiration for Dame Marina Keet, who in her love for this unique and wonderful dance form has documented so much for future generations, knows no bounds. So when she asked me to help support and head up the new SDS board with the lovely and extremely hard working Conchita del Campo and Nuria García, for UK and Europe I was honoured but most of all humbled, as I am so aware of all the hard work and years of 'blood, sweat and tears' that so many fabulous teachers have put in to this, 'beautiful baby', never should it be, 'thrown out with the bath water!'. I know that we all agree that even in these difficult days for all of us we have something so unique and special.

NURIA GARCIA

Director and Flamenco Advisor SDS

Nuria is one of 4 sisters born in Johannesburg, South Africa

She started Ballet dancing classes at the age of 3 and Flamenco classes with Gitanella at the age of 4.

Her first SDS teacher was Theo Dantes and she started entering for exams when she was 7 years old.

Nuria's mother was keen to enter her for dance competitions and on a memorable Festival

Competition in South Africa Theo had choreographed a national dance for her which required a small loaf of bread as a prop. Just before her solo everyone was searching for the missing loaf and Nuria admitted she had eaten it because she was hungry!

While the entire family was holidaying in the UK Nuria, now age 11, was admitted into the All England Sunshine Competition and won the Cup for 1st prize in her division.



Nuria attended the Johannesburg High School for Art, Ballet and Music, during which time she was also taught flamenco and Spanish Dancing by Mercedes Molina, Rhoda Rivkind, Geoffrey Neiman and Florence Bonegio.

Her parents decided to emigrate to the UK in 1980 and Nuria continued her dance training after school hours at Stella Mann's Academy where she also successfully achieved a qualification as an Royal Academy of Dance teacher.

Her love of Spanish Dance led her to study in Spain with famous teachers including Manolo Marin in Sevilla, La Tati, Josele, Adrián Galia, and Antonio Canales in Madrid, and she proceeded to dance professionally with the avant-garde flamenco/contemporary dance group Von Magnet for 5 years, extensively touring Europe while also making several TV appearances. Subsequently she danced with many renown flamenco companies including Juan Martín's, Paco Peña's, Fiesta Flamenca and Grupo de Jerez, again touring Europe and performing in well-known theatres and the flamenco clubs Mouriños, Costa Dorada and Costa Brava.

In 1988 she took over the direction and flamenco training of the Escuela de Baile students when her sister Victoria decided to move to Jerez de la Frontera in Spain. She is currently the Head Teacher and Artistic Director, and it is now Britain's largest flamenco school.

Nuria's students have won several important dance awards including Greater London Arts 'Young Dancer of the Year' twice and were regional winners of the Barclays Youth Dance Award. Several students have won scholarships to full time dance schools and joined professional dance companies in Britain and noticeably the Javier La Torre and Israel Galván companies in Spain.

In 2017 her school won the Lucas Award for Best Flamenco School. Over the years she has taught Spanish dancing at Elmhurst Ballet School, Arts Educational Schools, workshops for the Sadler's Wells Theatre Flamenco Festivals, master classes at The Place in London, El Centro de Baile Jerez and as far afield as Thailand.



Her gift as a choreographer has led her to choreograph shows at the Peacock Theatre, The Hackney Empire and the Lillian Bayliss in London. She worked as Head Choreographer for advertisements for Sony, Nissan and Gypsy Kings. Videos for Souxsie and the Banshees, Miguel Gallardo, Robert Palmer and the Gypsy Kings. Her choreographies for theatre and opera companies have included Harvey Goldsmith's Carmen and Opera 80. Her creations for TV shows include About Face, Red-Hot and Blue, Music Makers and Strictly Come Dancing 2019.

She has appeared in documentaries about her work in Y Flamenco, Opening Shots and Capital Women.

Nuria really appreciates the invaluable training that the SDS gave her in her formative years. She encourages her students to do the classical and regional SDS exams as well as the flamenco parts because it teaches them the rich variety of Spanish culture and challenges and develops their physical skills and enhances their artistic knowledge.

Nuria met her partner Ivan Garcia at the bar Sevilla Mia and they now have two grown up children called Ana Belen and Ivan.

JACQUELINE CHRISTIE
SECRETARY



Jackie was born in South London and studied RAD ballet from the age of 4 and fell in love with dancing. At the McAlpine Ballet School she had the opportunity to be taught the SDS syllabus by Victoria Ramos and her sister Nuria Garcia. At the age of 14 she joined the children's company La Escuela de Baile and toured around London performing in shows, demonstrations, competitions and on TV.

Jackie completed the SDS teachers IdB1 and IdB2 at the London Studio Centre with Conchita del Campo and subsequently taught with her. At the same time, she completed the Advanced Russian Ballet exams and performed at the Sadler's Wells Theatre in Handel's opera "The Tempest", and several other Holland park operas during their summer seasons. She has also studied with Felipe de Algeciras and performed in the Vauxhall Peña.

Jackie has been teaching the SDS syllabus at the McAlpine Dance School in south London for over 25 years to children and adults. She also taught flamenco dance courses at: Morley College, Lambeth College, Lewisham Adult Education, City Lit and other south London schools. She supports her local community by sharing her SDS passion and love for flamenco by putting on performances, demonstrations, competitions, and entering students for SDS exams.

Jackie has worked for several local authority across London in a variety of services areas, carrying out different roles and skills: administrator, customer services, financial control, and complaints services.



OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- Advanced Russian Ballet

PROFESSIONAL DANCING ACTIVITIES:

- The Commonwealth Institute: Ballet and flamenco performances Sadler's Wells: The Tempest
- Holland Park Court Opera: Marriage of Figaro & Verdi's La Traviata.
- TV: BBC Opportunities show
- Peña Flamenca de Londres: Student performance
- Imperial College of Music & Arts: Flamenco dance show
- Wimbledon Theatre: Flamenco and other shows
- Dance Around the World: Student flamenco demonstration
- La Rueda Restaurant evening flamenco shows
- La Manada Flamenco Show: Assistant choreographer
- St Thomas' Hospital: Flamenco Extravaganza Charity Show
- Lewisham Broadway Theatre: Pensioners Annual Flamenco Celebration



GARY WHITE - TREASURER AND LIAISON OFFICER

Gary was born in Glasgow to Scottish parents. His father worked for GSE Plessey in charge of putting in telephone exchanges Worldwide. They travelled extensively and Gary spent most of his childhood in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia and South Africa.

Gary studied Marketing and successfully achieved a Diploma in Management Studies at the University of Kent UK.

He met and married Cheryl Crossen while working for Barclays Bank in Johannesburg South Africa, and in 1978 they both settled in the UK where he worked for the Banque Brussels Lambert and then as Foreign Payments supervisor for Marine Midland Bank UK.

He spent 10 years as a Treasury Manager for Rexam Graphics responsible for every aspect of approving new accounts, performance of customer accounts against budget involving 34 million pounds of foreign exchange exposure through letters of credit and bills of exchange. Progressing to Senior Accounts Manager which involved extensive market research and product development specifically tailored for each market segment in countries such as Greece, Egypt, Turkey, Scandinavia, Kenya, Tunisia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. His main achievements were the implementation of several product launches and initiatives, and he also introduced improved policies for both customer complaint handling and delivery schedules which proved vastly successful over time.

In 2001 Gary became the Managing Director of White Line Paper Products and later started his own GB Home Improvements Company establishing a reputable local business within the construction industry both in South Africa and the UK.

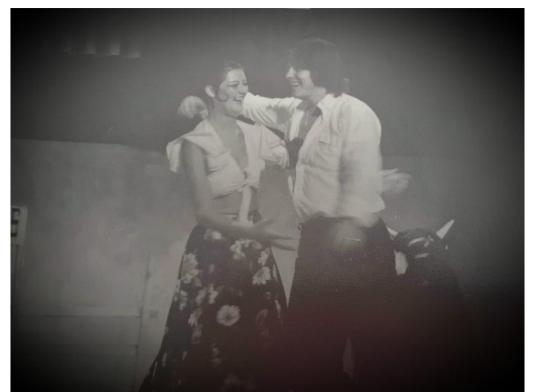
Gary and Cheryl have now settled in Folkestone. They have three sons and are expecting their fifth grandchild.

From the outset of their relationship Gary helped Cheryl as Stage Manager for all her Spanish Dancing shows, occasionally participating, as you can see in the photograph.

His enthusiasm and loyalty to Cheryl and the SDS led him in 2019 to become our Treasurer, Memberships Liaison Officer and recently Chief Examination Secretary while also working for Carlisle as a (STTS) driver seconded to Euro Tunnel Works Train Department.

In his own words he is: 'An experienced and effective credit control manager with over twenty years' experience. A strong background in account management, customer service skills at national and international level, combined with excellent interpersonal and administrative skills. I am very well organised with a keen eye for detail. I feel my hands-on approach and ability to get things done would be to the company's advantage and I have never flinched from any challenge that comes my way'.

We are very grateful and really appreciate all he is doing for the Spanish Dance Society, especially brightening up our lives with his marvelous sense of humor and true dedication to our cause.





LETTERS FROM OUR BRANCHES

YOULA PAPAS-DIMOU

SDS Organiser and Examiner GREECE & CYPRUS

Living in the difficult times with COVID-19, Greece together with all countries all over the world have been suffering economically and psychologically.

Unfortunately, the arts are suffering even more.

Due to the closing of dance schools' teachers and dancers are out of work but have found solutions and are working online offering the public the opportunity to carry on doing what they love. Having this solution has helped many professionals to keep up their standards and once schools opened Spanish Dance Society in collaboration with Spanish Dance Association managed to hold examinations in July 2020 here in Greece.



We would like to congratulate all teachers on their fabulous work and a big BRAVO to all their beautiful students.

Eight great teachers had students take their exams in July namely Lilian Bourtzia (PdB), Vana Malokini (PdB), Stella Pappa (PdB), Melina Tatsi (IdB 2), Euan Mattheous Trinder (PdB and SDS examiner), Paschalia Tsekoura (IdB 2), Katerina Tsitoumi (PdB), Niki Zervou (IdB 2).

My congratulations to ANASTASIA MILIONI for winning the International Bursary for 2020 (LILIAN BOURTZIA - teacher).

Cyprus had their exam session at the end of October with 2 DDE1 students online as it was not possible to travel to Cyprus.

Congratulations to Katerina Ioannou for all your hard work and a big congratulations to both your students.

We also welcome all new members after obtaining their PAE examination.

We're all at home getting ready for Christmas setting up our Christmas tree and decorations and hope that we will re-open our schools soon to see our students up close.

Our Nov/Dec exam session has been postponed to a later date hopefully before the end of 2020.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy new year and to soon be together again.

Stay safe and healthy.

YOULA PAPAS-DIMOU

MARIA LOUISA IHRE ORGANISER ITALY & SICILY

From Italy with Love - so needed in these virulent Pandemic waves - to you All.

Despite our Government decision to close and shut down the culture world because it's "not a priority" as they say, we go on believing how important Dance is for social life and for our psycho-physical balance.

So more than ever we tried to connect to each other inventing and creating new training possibilities, at home on-line and even by telephone when wi-fi was on strike as well as Penny and me in Rome with 2 of the 3 Teachers in Sicily.

Cettina Pandolfo and Grazia Maugeri, Daniela Perrone piloting her Dance school from the Province of Bergamo where she was sent to be the Headmaster for a big state school.

I want to thank Victoria Ramos for having organized from Jerez such stimulating and wonderful courses online with Marta de Troya that I follow twice a week.

Penny Whiting for positively engaging herself as Examiner for our Exam-session now before the end of 2020.



Penny Whiting & Student



Students of Maria Luisa Ihre

My IdB1 candidate Mara Gramolini who has faithfully followed my lessons with perseverance for months and also Valeria Rolli for studying with assiduity her SAE (F).

ONLINE CLASSES:

TOP LEFT: Student of Cettina Pandolfo (Sicily) RIGHT: Daniela's Student, Bacio.

BOTTOM: Student of Grazia Maugeri (Sicily)



Last, but not least a big thank you to Conchita del Campo always so caring and available and cheerfully finding a solution to different matters and situations.

BUON NATALE a TUTTI VOI
Maria Louisa Ihre

DEBORAH CARUANA
SDS Organiser and Examiner
MALTA

At a time of great uncertainty on when the pandemic crisis will blow over, in Malta we have seen heartening examples of how dance schools are coping with and adjusting to the severe disruption COVID-19 has brought. There is a great deal of resilience out there. Despite the curtailing of dance hours, reduced class capacity and dancing with masks, we have all soldiered on for the love of dance absorbing the financial restraints this new way of operating has entailed.

This December will be the first time in many years, when we will not be holding our International Spanish Dance Seminar which also welcomed members from Italy, UK and Greece. Nonetheless, we look forward to a time when we can all be together again, and our Maltese teaching members wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a New Year full of peace and hope.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of our local teachers, to thank Conchita del Campo for working tirelessly behind the scenes, keeping everyone happy and up to date.



CARMEN MARTINEZ MARTINEZ SDS (SPAIN)

This year 2020 has probably been one of the toughest years we have ever lived through in recent years. That is why, from Spain, we want to wish you all a prosperous 2021 full of happiness and new experiences, with the hope that the dramatic situation that is being lived around the world will improve!

The appearance of the Covid-19, caused a general confinement of the population to be ordered in Spain on 14 March, which would last for 3 long months. All the social and economic activity of the country was paralyzed, with all that this entails. But without a doubt, it must be understood, that health and safety is the first priority.

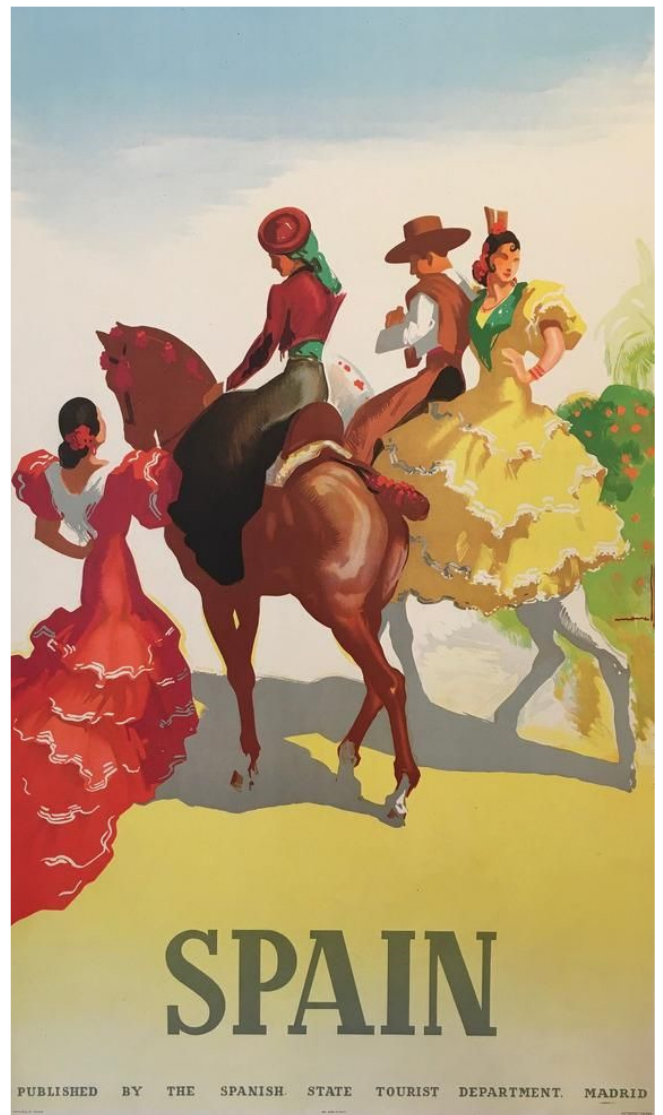
From all unfavourable situations, we have to try to find something positive, and this has helped us reinvent ourselves and look for alternatives. Online classes, from home, became the new work tool of most schools, so that all students, could continue to enjoy their love of dance. It has not been easy, but with the efforts of all teachers, students, and family members we have achieved this and our students have been able to continue their training.

In June, pandemic restrictions began to become less stringent and we were able to resume some of our social and economic activities. Even if it was with special capacity reduction measures, etc., we could finally go back to the classrooms!

This made it possible that in July, we could attend the wonderful course that Vicky Ramos organized in Jerez de la Frontera. My thanks to Vicky for her love, and for delivering this exciting new project that the SDS is developing. In addition, Vicky got teachers from all over the world to follow the course online, which was a great success.

Receiving classes with Marta de Troy and Ana Morales was a gift to the senses. My thanks also to them for their dedication and their superb teaching.

In addition, Vicki was in charge of up-dating us with the new exercises and dances that are now part of the General Graded Programme of Study. Again my thanks. It's always a pleasure to take classes with you, Vicki.



In November, the exams were carried out in Spain. Vicki Ramos came as an examiner to Valencia to examine Sandra Sasera's students; and to Ciudad Real to examine the students of Esperanza de los Reyes. In both cases, the work shown by the students was great and the results were excellent.

As in many parts of the world, in Spain Festivals, Galas, Dance Championships etc. were cancelled. In my case, students participating in the ANAPRODE National Dance Competition were unable to do so as it was cancelled in March by the pandemic. The solution came in December, when the organization decided to carry it out online, where my students, who are students of the SDS method, won the First Prize and the Gold Medal, in the "Flamenco Group" modality performing a Farruca. Congratulations girls. Good job despite all the difficulties!



I would not like to say goodbye, without showing my thanks to Conchita del Campo and her entire team, for the great work and effort they are doing right now. It's always nice to talk to Conchita on the phone, always full of energy and with a smile in her mouth!

Merry Christmas to you all!
And don't let the Dance stop!

COURSES



**curso de
N A V I D A D**

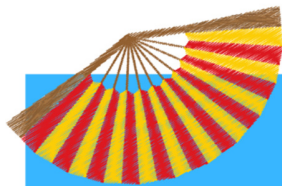
FECHAS: DEL 27 DE AL 30 DE DICIEMBRE
En colaboración con la 'Sociedad de Danza Española' o 'Spanish Dance Society'

- **FERNANDO GALÁN:** 9:30h. - 11:00h. •
FARRUCA (Nivel Intermediate)
- **MARTA DE TROYA:** 11:00h. - 12:30h. •
ALEGRÍAS CON BATA DE COLA (Nivel Advanced Foundation)
- **VICTORIA RAMOS:** 12:30h. - 14:00h. •
NIVEL AVANZADO UNO: **TARANTOS**

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DOS MESES PARA PERFECCIONAR LAS COREOGRÁFAS

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Calle Velázquez, 24 San Ginés
Información: 661 722 958
info@academiadebailejerez.com
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CENTRO DE BAILE JEREZ

SATURDAY 6TH AND SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2021

11:00 - 14:00 PRICE: 20€

WE ARE PLANNING TO OFFER YOU THE NEW
VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME OF STUDY EXERCISES WHICH WILL INCLUDE:

INTERMEDIATE VUELTAS
INTERMEDIATE MODIFICATION OF THE ESCOBILLA FROM PETENERAS
ADVANCED FOUNDATION NEW BATA EXERCISE
ADVANCED 1 REVISE PALILLOS USING OLD TAE SEGUIRIYAS STEPS 1-4
ADVANCED 1 NEW BATA EXERCISE
ADVANCED 2 NEW VUELTAS EXERCISES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADE:
MARTINETE RHYTHMS

EXTRA GIFT: NEW TIENTOS AS AN OPTION TO POLO IN GENERAL GRADE 5.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE CLASSES WILL BE ON OUR PRIVATE YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR TWO
MONTHS SO YOU CAN WORK ON THE NEW EXERCISES AND DANCE AT YOUR LEISURE.





Our UK & European Board of Directors extends to all its Teaching Members an invitation to attend our:

***Virtual* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

January 10th, 2021

4-6pm (GMT)

Virtual AGM via **Zoom** (link to be shared in due course).

Please note that in order to be able to access the AGM and receive the meeting link it is a requirement that all members who will be attending the AGM (via zoom) have to complete an online form from the Society, (the contents thereof which will fulfill the legal pre-requisites of the AGM.)

(e.g. Acceptance of committee, viewing of previous minutes etc.)

Kindly RSVP to info@spanishdancesociety.org to receive link to online form.



And what would CHRISTMAS be without a special gift!!

Our Christmas gift to you is this 1962 recording of a Disney film **“Von Drake in Spain”** featuring Von Drake, who was the uncle of Donald Duck and an anthropologist. The film introduces regional dances from all over all Spain and was made on the 8 April 1962. (Vintage 😊).

Hope you enjoy watching it and will pass it on to your pupils and family. We hope the site can handle a big demand, if not please be patient. If it buffers you may just need to be patient and push it forwards as it loads. As teachers you can perhaps give a prize to your students who recognise and can name the two mistaken flamenco dance rhythms.



LUDWIG VON DRAKE

<https://selfy.com/spanishdancesociety/p/surprise/>

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND SAFE FESTIVE SEASON AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL IN THE NEW YEAR!!

UK and EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We have sent this newsletter to you because you have not asked to be unsubscribed from the SDS mailing list. If you wish to be unsubscribed, please inform us via email: info@spanishdancesociety.org