

"Celebration 10"



For anyone attempting to introduce a form of dance which was unheard of in Hong Kong and then to keep it going with increasing popularity is by no means an easy job. But Lina Choi, Founder and Chairman of The Hong Kong Line Dancing Association has managed to achieve that with credibility in the last ten years. Ever since she returned to Hong Kong from New Zealand in early 1998 (after immigrating there for six years), Lina has been teaching and promoting line dancing locally as well as choreographing, leading students to competitions overseas, and accepting invitations to conduct workshops abroad.

To commemorate a decade of service in the line dancing profession, Lina hosted a 10th Anniversary party on January 21st 2008 at The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Around 360 guests attended this special occasion from 4pm until midnight. Amongst those at the celebration were Lina's current and former students, dancers' friends, families, and visiting line dancers from USA, Canada,

Australia, Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, Singapore and Switzerland. The guest of honor was Roy Verdonk, the internationally renowned line dancing instructor/choreographer/technique training coach from Netherlands whom Lina invited to conduct workshops in Hong Kong as part of the 10th Anniversary Celebration. The Emcees and Co-Directors of the Evening Showcase were none other than the highly acclaimed line dancing pros from California, Doug and Jackie Miranda.



The evening formally opened around 5:30pm with a fun party dance taught by Doug and Jackie titled "Pencil Thin What?". It was followed shortly by Lina's Dances, a half hour special (led by Lina) during which all students and guests, donned in the Association's "uniform" T-shirts danced to seven of her choreographed works. The touching moment came during the Toasting Ceremony when everyone witnessed "sweet and emotional" speeches by Lina and her business partner Pei Wah Tsang. Overall the atmosphere of the evening was fun, friendly and social, and the guests seemed to enjoy the sumptuous East meets West buffet dinner, raffle draw with prizes all donated by anonymous students, open dancing and a lively, entertaining showcase.



Toasting Ceremony



Doug & Jackie Miranda



Lina & Pei Wah's Mongolian Dance

As an opening showpiece, Lina and Pei Wah performed a traditional Mongolian Dance taught by Idy Kwong, a local instructor in Chinese Dance to thank the students for their support throughout the years. Many of the evening's dances were choreographed by Doug and Jackie especially for the 10th Anniversary. Apart from showing off their own works themselves, they

also performed a couple of pieces with Lina and some of her students. Natural at connecting with the audience, the Miranda's dancing was a joy to watch.



The Ballerina



Jackie Miranda



With a stellar solo performance, Roy dazzled everyone with his superb technical skills and charming stage presence in an original routine he created himself. It was awesome to watch such brilliant footwork and amazingly expressive body movements. Roy was the Male Advanced Open Champion in Los Angeles in 1997. Currently a specialist in technique training, he has produced many successful students who have gone on to become Multiple World Champions. At the time

this article was being written, Roy was awarded the International Instructor at the 12th Crystal Boot Awards 2008 in the UK.



Roy Verdonk



Vincent & Felicia Chia

Another entertainment treat for all was a Latin Dance number by Vincent and Felicia Chia of Singapore.

"CELEBRATION 10" was an equal combination of work and play for The Hong Kong Line Dancing Association. Prior to the party, four consecutive days (January 16-19) of workshops were held in the studio in Wan Chai. Comprising of Advanced, Intermediate-Advanced, Intermediate and Easy-Intermediate levels, a total of twenty one dances were taught in nine sessions. The list included: Soul Man; Cantaloop; Cruisin' Cha; Mama Don't Dance; Georgette's Cadillac; Big Girls Boogie; Madhouse To The Max; Hell's Lindy; Tonight I Wanna Cry; P & D Polka; La Playa; My Addiction; Heaven In My Women's Eyes; I'm Not My Hair; All 4 U; Take It Slow; Steam; Banca Cha; Slippery; Money Money Money; Shake Up The Party.

Clear explanations of steps and styling combined with a great sense of humor naturally led to raving responses from students who attended Roy's workshops. He was also very inspirational in his two 2- hour Technique sessions (one at a basic level, the other more advanced). There was so much to learn yet too little time to absorb all the theoretical details. Nevertheless, the knowledge and experience gained by the aspiring line dancing "stars" were insightful and

invaluable.

Although Doug and Jackie were preoccupied most days with preparation work for the Showcase, many were excited to see them in Hong Kong again. Students who attended workshops on the first day had the opportunity to share the warmth and fun ministered (as always) by the Mirandas during dance classes.



Congratulations to Lina and the Organizing Committee of The Hong Kong Line Dancing Association for a job well done. With such a fabulously successful and memorable 10th Anniversary, line dancers from all over the world will sure be looking forward to a grand 20th Celebration.