

SALSA NEWS

Live Music, Latest Dance Events

by Lee Knights

The Grand Salsa Weekend

One of the friendliest, chilled dance weekends around has moved from Folkestone to a brand new venue at The Heythrop Hotel in Oxford, Friday 6th to Monday 9th March.

Co-hosts Salsa Calientita's Clay and Debbie and Salsa Promotions' Jane Hollis promise the usual mix of chilled late night parties, a line up of popular instructors and friendly vibe at the Heythrop Hotel, Enstone, Chipping Norton. Headliners include Super Mario, Marchant Birch, Moe Flex, Terry and Yolande Lewis.

Photo: Mike Payne
www.londonsalsascene.co.uk



To book: www.salsacalientita.co.uk email: salsapromotionsuk@tiscali.co.uk.

Contact Jane 01582 455 407 / 07976 615 650; Debbie & Clay 01753 535 009 / 07973 390 440.

CubanaFest

Cubanafest is a new launch this year and it's set to go through the roof. Topping the bill are sizzling Swedish timba crew Calle Real, making their UK debut at the festival, plus a jumping line up of some of the finest instructors and performers around.

This is going to be one mother of a feisty 3-night, non-stop Cuban-style Party, with all the right spicy elements, in the height of summer, by the Sea at the stylish Sinah Warren Hotel, Hayling Island, from Friday 5th-8th June.

Book now at: www.havananights.co.uk.

More: 07817 983 291.

To be or not to be qualified?

To be or not to be qualified - that is the question for salsa instructors now.

Overnight, it seems everybody's taking or talking about taking a qualification. Post a comment on this topic on any salsa forum, and expect the thread to spiral on for days. A bevy of new salsa teachers' awards has come on stream, with more in the pipeline and courses are filling up fast.

The spur has been a recommendation by the Government that teachers working in the public sector need to be qualified by 2010. This four year old DfE statement has created a wave of confusion among dance teachers both in the public and private sectors.

Like many salsa instructors, I've been teaching for years without a qualification. I was in the market for a fast-track, intensive course tailored for experienced salsa dance instructors that would fire-proof me. A new course with a strong bias to practical teacher training, the International Dance Teachers' Association (IDTA) Salsa Instructors' Diploma delivered by Dance Mode and Salsa Naturally fitted the bill.

Getting this little piece of paper has turned out to be more personally satisfying than I imagined. My little piece of paper with my "highly commended" grading has given recognition, validation and a sense of worth to years' of informal teaching.

Currently, the Government has no plans to apply the 2010 deadline to salsa instructors teaching adults privately. This is mainly directed at dance teachers in the public sector working with children and adults, according to Sean Williams, Director of the Council for Dance Education and Training (CDET). "My advice to all dance teachers is to take a recognised qualification, ensuring they comply with any future official requirements," Sean Williams concluded.

More on the new IDTA Diploma for Salsa Instructors, contact: Suzanne Mendonca www.dancemode.co.uk on 0700 341 8771 or Ruth Ferguson, www.salsanaturally.com 07852 284 259.

More on the CDET at: www.cdet.org.uk or 0207 240 5703.

Nomads Clothes Collection

Feel good party frocks for the dance floor.



Romantic winter warmer from Nomads.

I've been having serious wardrobe worries lately - nothing does it for me. My stand-bys are jeans and t-shirt but there's no buzz wearing the same old same old. So I've been actively scouting around for dance floor fashions that have the 'Buy It or I'll Die Regretting It' factor. The Nomads collection hits the spot - their fair-trade clothes are beautiful, colours vibrant, fabrics feel good to the touch, and look as good as they do in the catalogue.

More: www.nomadsclothing.com or call 0845 1306 633.

Eliades Ochoa

Eliades Ochoa, one of the greats of the Buena Vista Social Club, in concert at the Barbican, Silk Street, London, Saturday 28th February, 7.30pm. Tel: 020 7638 8891.

More and to book: www.barbican.org.uk or www.comono.co.uk. Tickets: £27.50.

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