# Spanish Dance Society®

**Patrons: Antonio Najarro Tamara Rojo José Antonio Ruiz** Organiser: Conchita del Campo, 15 Belsize Road, London NW6 4RX info@spanishdancesociety.org Phone: 0044 7306 787373 www.spanishdancesociety.org



#### **AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2019**

We are pleased to inform you that the Spanish Dance Society is alive and well in

UK and Europe.

#### WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE SPANISH DANCE SOCIETY IS CELEBRATING ITS 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN THE UK.

AS PART OF OUR CELEBRATIONS WE ARE GIVING TO EVERY SDS MEMBER A SIGNED COPY OF OUR HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT MARINA KEETS' BOOK "MY DANCING LIFE" SPANISH AND BALLET ACROSS THREE CONTINENTS, IN WHICH YOU CAN READ ABOUT THE FORMATION AND HISTORY OF OUR BELOVED SDS.

If you would like your complimentary book, please email <u>info@spanishdancesociety.org</u> and request a copy. NB: The only cost to you would be postage and packaging. Teachers can have 3 extra books for donating to promising students as part of any internal award scheme that you have in your schools, while stocks last.

The UK and European Executive Committee also take great pleasure in informing you that we are a fully accredited Awarding Body and now a member of the competent and supportive BDQT. We will be offering Ofqual UK Government recognised examination qualifications via GQAL during the first half of 2020 onwards. These qualifications will run alongside our Original Syllabus exams for those who want them.

We are offering free SDS membership until January 2020 and look forward to welcoming any of the original members of the SDS who wish to register and retain their membership with us.

Please contact <u>info@spanishdancesociety.org</u> if you are interested in joining us for a very exciting future with many excellent projects and events in the pipeline.

We hope you will enjoy reading this Newsletter which also gives you a link to our newly designed website <u>www.spanishdancesociety.org</u> where you can see what the SDS members are doing in Europe and the rest of the world.

We wish you all a very successful and joyful dancing year ahead.

UK and EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### PRESIDENTS' REPORT

#### EXCITING NEW FUTURE FOR THE SPANISH DANCE SOCIETY

Dear Members of the Spanish Dance Society,

It is with pride that I welcome, under the inspiring leadership of Conchita del Campo, all the hard working members of our boards and committees in the UK and Europe. Now at last we are free to present a choice of examinations, so long requested by our members.

Our Founder, Rhoda Rivkind in Johannesburg, supported by the Chairperson Wilcarina Yeates, has given generously of her support to lead us to an exciting future with our enthusiastic teachers. After seeing our syllabus, our new Awarding Body, has given us our OFQUAL Government Recognition. The future is 'Rosy'. Outsiders who value our aims and ambitions over 54 years, hastened to add their contributions. At first worried by the misconceptions being circulated about the SDS, the Editor of the 'Dancing Times', Jonathan Gray, published in that journal an article explaining the aims and achievements of the Society for over 50 years on five continents. From Christopher Rodriguez, One Dance UK, came the explanations to inform me of the workings of the copyright (Intellectual Property) laws which I passed for the Society's use. To both these amazingly kind individuals, I sent our Certificates of Appreciation, which were duly acknowledged.

My son Nicolai worked hard to retrieve our website <u>spanishdancesociety.org</u> redesigned for us by Von Schele Lottering in Johannesburg. Please visit it, and if you have a website please refer to it. Conchita has issued several Special Awards to our loyal Organiser in Italy Maria Louisa Ihre, our teachers Daniela Perrone, and Concetta Pandolfo in Italy, and Vassilis Skepetaris in Greece. Finally, the talented choreographer Albert Sans in Sitges (Barcelona), has given us the right to use the dances from his company Esbart Dansaire de Rubí.

As ever, your Life President, Marina Keet de Grut, October 2019

#### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

A very warm welcome to the Spanish Dance Society newsletter! I am Isabel Baquero the Chair of the SDS in the UK & Europe and feel very honoured to preside on the board of such a distinguished society. The outstanding work of the Spanish Dance Society has been internationally acknowledged and is a global success. Its founders and creators have been awarded many Honours and medals by the Kings Don Juan Carlos I and Don Felipe VI of Spain. I deeply admire and support the professionalism and ethics of the newly elected Executive Committee in the UK & Europe. I am especially

interested in, and personally very excited about all the projects that we are developing for the SDS in the future.

The Spanish Dance Society is a very welcoming and inclusive dance organisation, the dedication of its teachers is exceptional and so compelling. The OFQUAL Government recognised SDS Syllabus encompasses all the richness of the unique and vibrant Spanish dance culture. The SDS syllabus is demonstrably tailored to suit age and ability with a choice of two types of examinations, both comprising Junior graded examinations from Primary, to a Senior vocational syllabus, and it concludes in Teachers' examinations of "Instructor de Baile" and a final "Profesor de Baile".

As we know dancing is a universal language. The Spanish Dance Society brings the thrill and exactitude of this very eclectic dance form, which is very close to my heart!

Lastly, we are delighted to invite you to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the UK.

After all, as Anna Ivanova affirms in her book 'The Dancing Spaniards'..."Spain has been called the land of Siestas and Fiestas". And that's all from me now.... Let's Dance and Viva the SDS!





This page will be a feature in our future newsletters, where we will present a Spanish Dance Society members profile so that we can all network and more importantly, get to know each other. Members are invited to send in their profiles.

#### MARINA GRUT (MRS M KEET DE GRUT)

Dame of the Order of Queen Isabel of Spain Hon. Life President of the Spanish Dance Society (SDS) Professorial Lecturer Emeritus, George Washington University, USA Member of the *Conseil International de la Danse* (CID)



In 1989 King Juan Carlos I of Spain invested Marina Grut as Dame of the Order of

Queen Isabel of Spain (*Lazo de Dama de la Orden de Isabel la Católica*), given in recognition of her services in presentation and preservation of Spanish dance. The award has also been given to esteemed artistes like Carmen Amaya and Antonio. In Sweden she received from Princess Christina the 2008 Gold Medal of the Carina Ari Foundation "for honouring the art of Swedish dance" with her book *Royal Swedish Ballet. History from 1592 to 1962* (Georg Olms Verlag, Hildesheim, 2007).

In 1987 Grut was presented with the Special Achievement award by the Hispanic Institute for the Performing Arts in the USA. In 1997 the Spanish Dance Society in the USA presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to her, and the Mayor of Washington named a day in her honour. The International Association of Blacks in Dance bestowed "the Outstanding Service Award for many years of service to dance in Metropolitan Washington DC" in 2003.

Grut studied ballet at the University of Cape Town Ballet School in South Africa and danced in their company, before her love for Spanish dancing led her to specialize in that art form. She taught Spanish dance and ballet history, and choreographed.

Besides the above-mentioned Swedish ballet book Grut has written numerous articles for dance magazines and international encyclopaedias, and the books *Spanish Dance* (University of Cape Town, 1971), *The History of Ballet in South Africa* (Human & Rousseau, Cape Town, 1981), *The Jota* (Spanish Dance Society, 2001), *The Bolero School* (Dance Books Ltd, London, 2002), and her autobiography *My Dancing Life – Spanish and Ballet Across Three Continents* (The Book Guild Ltd, 2017). She also contributed to the Spanish Ministry of Culture's symposium *Encuentro Escuela Bolera* in Madrid in 1992.

She choreographed not only many performances for the University of Cape Town Ballet Company but also major ballets such as *Misa Flamenca* and *The Three-Cornered Hat*, as well as several ballets for the Cape Performing Arts Board; for the *Danza Lorca* company *Percussion Bolero* and *The Magic Circle*, also in Cape Town. In some of these the Spanish dancer José Antonio (Ruiz) , the former Director of the Spanish National Ballet, was guest artist.

She co-founded the Spanish Dance Society in South Africa in 1965; notating, printing and publishing the syllabus and the music. In 1977 she founded a branch in Italy, and in 1982 in the USA. There, between 1982 and 1993, she taught Spanish dancing at the University of Maryland and, as Professorial Lecturer, at George Washington University in Washington DC.

There she also founded the Spanish Dance Theatre company in 1982. The company presented performances and lecture-demonstrations at venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian Institute, the National Gallery of Art, and the National Geographic Society in Washington DC, opening the Goya exhibition in Boston with dances from that era; and in New York at the Juilliard School of Music, as well as annual performances in the historic theatre of the Museum of Natural History.

In June 2003 she presented a lecture-demonstration on the *Escuela Bolera* at the New Orleans International Ballet Conference, celebrating the Louisiana Purchase.



Marina at 21

Now she lives in London, where she is Hon. Life Working President of the Spanish Dance Society. She writes for *The Dancing Times* in London, and was a critic for the now discontinued *Flamenco International Magazine*. Born 1934, married for more than 60 years to Dr Mikael Grut. They have three children and eight grandchildren.



Marina's Company in America

#### ISABEL BAQUERO WHITE – BA (Hons) A.R.A.D.

Isabel Baquero is a professional Choreographer, Dance Coach and Performer.

She originally trained at her parents Dance Academy in Barcelona in Classical Ballet, flamenco, folk/classical Spanish dance, jazz, tap, roller skating and ballroom dancing!

In 1990 Isabel came to the UK on a scholarship, where she successfully completed and graduated with Honours in the "Dance Performers" Course at the London Studio Centre and was awarded the 'Advanced Certificate' from the Royal Academy of Dance.



She has worked as a professional dancer in several productions for the BBC, including *Wives and Daughters, Madam Bovary* and *Daniel Deronda*, and has performed in various films, notably *Shakespeare in Love, I Capture the Castle* and *Pride and Prejudice*, in which she was also appointed Assistant Choreographer. Isabel has performed in many productions with the English National Opera and the Royal Opera in Covent Garden. She has had a very influential role in the choreography department and as lead Dancer and Dance Captain in Sir Richard Eyre's production of *La Traviata* for the past 25 years in London, China, Germany, Japan and Barcelona!

Her choreography credits include flamenco dance in *Strictly Dance Fever* in both 2005 and 2006, *Barber of Seville* for Garsington Opera, *Carmen* at Longborough Opera, *La Rondine* at the Royal Opera House, Movement Director of *The House of Bernarda de Alba* at the Theatre Clwyd and Flamenco Dance Coach & Choreographer in Mike Leigh's film *Happy Go Lucky*. Isabel was also the flamenco dance coach on BBC1's *Strictly Come Dancing*, and for Ray Quinn & Maria Filippov in the 2014 series of ITV's *Dancing on Ice*. She has a B.A. (Hons.) degree in Dance Education from Middlesex University. Isabel's final year dissertation was focused on 'The Impact and Values of Spanish Dance training in the Cultural Education and Performing Arts in Great Britain'.

Her choreography work is featured in the acclaimed Warner Brothers film *Wonder Woman* (2017) directed by Patty Jenkins with actors Chris Pine, Dany Huston and Gal Gadot.

Isabel currently works as a freelance Choreographer and guest dance teacher in prominent Performing Arts Institutions such as Lamda, the Arts Educational School and as a Movement coach in the prestigious Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House. The **Spanish Dance Society** is delighted to announce the introduction of our new

### Affiliate Membership status.

We want to welcome all with a love for Spanish Dance to join us under the SDS umbrella.

Registered Teachers and Student Members of the SDS already benefit from many courses and workshops and Newsletters due to their professional dance qualifications. However we are aware that these benefits are not as easily accessed by our graded students and 'loyal mature students' connected with the SDS through our Teachers dance schools.

The SDS is an inclusive society and it is important that anyone with an active passion for any form of Spanish Dance does not feel isolated from activities that may be advertised by the SDS or any other relevant dance events.

The Affiliate member will receive our Newsletters and will be entitled to discounts on various selected workshops and classes provided by the SDS, plus other Flamenco and Spanish Dance related events and products as advertised online during the membership year.

The Teacher would then qualify to be awarded with an introducer discount by way of points, also awarded to them by the end of the membership year.

If you think you would be interested in this scheme to encourage your students to be more connected to the worldwide SDS 'family' please contact us at info@spanishdancesociety.org



## AWARDS

## **FIDELIO**

The Spanish Dance Society was honoured with the Fidelio award in 2017 in recognition of its major contribution to the Washington DC arts community.

Artistic Directors of the Spanish Dance Society Theatre Company, Nancy Sedgwick, Lourdes Elias, Jaime Coronado and Chairlady Evelyn Woolston May received the "Fidelio "Music Award on behalf of the Society for its contribution to the Artistic Life of Washington DC, America.

## LUKAS AWARD

Nuria Garcia, artistic director of Escuela de Baile London and Spanish Dance Society teacher, recipient of the 2015 Lukas Awards - FLAMENCO SCHOOL OF THE YEAR.





ESCUELA de BAILE WORKSHOPS

All schools are welcome to attend our courses and we offer discounts to Spanish Dance Society members, so please contact Nuria if you wish to attend any of these

#### courses.

Don't miss out on our Christmas Workshop with Ana Morales.

LINK TO CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP: <u>http://ledb.co.uk/flamenco-workshops/christmas-</u> workshop-2019-ana-morales/

#### **EASTER WORKSHOP:**

Flamenco Easter Course in London with Escuela de Baile.

Guest artists **Pilar Ogalla** and **Marta de la Troy** from Jerez de la Frontera.

10-13<sup>th</sup> April 2020A dancer from Cádiz, she has worked in the best companies: Cristina Hoyos, Rafael de Carmen, Manuela Carrasco, Antonio Canales etc ... she made her debut in 1982 at The Falla Grand Theatre of Cádiz in the show "The Streets of Cai", composed singers, guitarists and dancers oldest on earth, as Juan Villar, Adela "La Chaqueta" (The Jacket), Alfonso of Gaspar, etc.

As a solo artist, she has been a guest artist in Javier Barón's companies; in the shows Dime, Flamenco, and punto. These shows were released in France and in El Monte de Sevilla respectively, in the Flamenco show of John Ogalla, and in the Peña



show by Andres Peña. She opened along with the dancer Alicia Marquez in Austria the show, 'Two woman, two looks". She has won the Unity award in the dance category. She is already considered one of the most prominent female performers at the moment. This workshop is extremely popular and only a prompt booking can ensure the workshop of your choice. Please phone if you are unsure of your level. For more information please visit **www.ledb.co.uk** or send a email to **info@ledb.co.uk** or call 02089054554.

### **KENT**

## Folkstone still لر doing Flamenco!

Our fabulous Señoras and Señoritas down here in the beautiful 'garden of England' are still signing up with the SDS. The Folkestone Channel Tunnel and Dover Port are very much part of our lives, as in this part of the world we have many budding 'Flamenco Afficionado's' going backwards and forwards to their second homes in Spain.

A brief history of the SDS in Kent will tell you that it was started at the Hasland School of Dance in the Victorian seaside resort of Herne Bay in 1982 where we had our first examination session. It quickly progressed to establishing a second base in Broadstairs at the Page Mason School. A small company under the South East Centre for Spanish Dance soon developed where many performances were done throughout Kent over the years. Companies such as Euro Tunnel, Radio Kent, TVEI, Ashford Burrough Council, Gulbenkian Theatre and Tunbridge Wells Corn Exchange loved having our SDS trained Spanish dancers back time and time again to perform for them. People were amazed that dancing so authentic to Spain could be possibly performed outside Spain. Julia Valdez(SDS Teacher homegrown from Kent) and myself took our little budding 'Estrellitas' to many a 'Council Feria', where we joined Morris Dancers and Folk singers to get our wonderful art form seen and appreciated. No easy task when one considers that most English people (we are not talking London Folks here) think that the Fandango is something you do on the table with a rose in your mouth after a night out! In the meantime our wonderful dancers were progressing from strength to strength through the SDS examinations under the auspices of the delightful Gillian Page whose words to me when she first saw our syllabus were, 'I know a good thing when I see it' and continued to enthusiastically support Spanish Dance until her sad death last year.

So it is with great delight that we are now able to announce that her school will now be the examination centre for the SDS in Kent under my old pupil Elizabeth Gray. 'Lizzie', as we all know her, is an IdB1 Member of the SDS and along with other students of mine who have danced flamenco professionally in such far flung places as Japan and Bahrain and also the West End we warmly welcome them as they take up the baton in this Gateway to Europe (whatever the Brexit result) to continue to establish the SDS syllabus and standards of Spanish Dance throughout Kent and across the Channel.

Alicia Rosas (Cheryl Crossen White ARAD IdB)

## **ITALY**

A big welcome and thank you to **Maria Luisa Ihre** (Organiser for Italy) for her loyalty and assistance to the Spanish Dance Society over the past year.

Also to **Concetta Pandolfo** and **Daniela Perrone** for their loyalty to the Spanish Dance Society.



Maria Luisa's pupils rehearsing for the International Dance Day on 29<sup>th</sup> April (also Maria Luisa's birthday).

#### INSTRUCTOR de BAILE

Congratulations to Concetta's pupils, Allesandra Bonaccorsi and Angela Monica Leone for gaining their IdBI. We welcome them as teaching members of the SDS.

#### BURSARY AWARDED

Congratulations to Carla Bonaccorsi and Margherita Russo from Daniela Perrone's school in Sicily for winning the Bursary for outstanding exams.

They have been awarded with the opportunity to join the Escuela de Baile's Christmas or Easter Flamenco courses in London which are run together with the Spanish Dance Society in London. Escuela de Baile are happy to give 2 bursary's each year for work of excellence.



## Examining Tour Italy

Conchita del Campo

My four-day examining trip to Italy started on Thursday the 21st of February at Maria Luisa Ihre's special and extraordinary studio ' La Cueva ' in ancient Rome.

Her adult pupils as always exude individuality and the joy of dance. She entered junior and senior levels which were all presented with panache and aplomb. We also had an Estilizada 3 and two N7 medals awarded. I would like here to congratulate Valeria Rolli on passing her PAE F with Distinction and would like to welcome her to join the SDS membership.

We celebrated everyone's success at the local Pizzeria, as is the tradition. When in Rome....



An examining tour usually has its moments of surprise and sometimes stress.

This time it was provided by Mount Etna deciding to throw up a cascade of ash...Maybe it was the excitement of my imminent visit...So Ryanair decided to cancel our flight to Sicily on Friday morning due to Catania airport closures. Daniela Perrone came to the rescue and found Maria Luisa and I, a flight on Vueling at 7am. At 11pm Maria Luisa and I finally managed to retrieve our booking and print our boarding passes...We are both challenged by technology, so you can imagine the situation - not having a clue how to download an App and find it's password...I take my *Cordobes* hat off to you computer and mobile phone Geeks.

Wish you had been with us...We subsequently somehow managed to wake up and get the taxi at 5am (that's another story), only to arrive at the beautiful *Fumincino* airport to be told there was a 3 hour delay due to Etna still puffing away.

Thank God the session at Daniela's beautiful *Arteballetto* studio up the mountain itself was at 4pm. So all in all, perfect timing and a lovely photo of Etna smoking to share with you all.

Daniela's students as usual are professionally polished and presented some wonderful work. They were all junior grades with ages varying from 8 to 23.

I remember a few years ago discussing whether we could give 100 points....Well there were two S.A girls Carla Bonaccorsi and Margherita Russo who were superb and so exquisite I couldn't find a single fault.

I remember the famous dancer Sylvie Guillem once said ' I always aim for 100% when I perform '. I rest my case...Congratulations to Daniela and all her pupils for their well rewarded efforts.

My almost gluten and white sugar free diet always goes out of the window in Italy.

Thanks goodness I have only examined there 20 and 10 years ago. Friday night over anti pasta and pasta Concetta Pandolfo joined us to discuss the future of the SDS in Italy and the UK.

These ladies are truly remarkable and have demonstrated their strong sense of ethics and loyalty to the founders and the SDS. We are so blessed and happy to have them on our team. Saturday Concetta presented two successful IDB 1 candidates.

Congratulations to Angela Monica Leone and Alessandra Bonaccorsi (the sister of the above mentioned Carla ).

I'd like to extend to them a warm welcome to the fold of SDS teachers.

After them I enjoyed a TAE F gracefully danced by Sarah Giannome and an outstanding SAE F by Ottavia Basile.

Concetta's final session of junior grades on Sunday was very efficiently run and her children were delightful.

The adults rose to the occasion and with encouragement everyone did their best and had a fruitful experience, achieving their learning outcomes and gaining more experience for their next exams.

Maria Luisa was a great help in translating the IDB 1 reports into Italian, and on the final day helping me complete and sign all the reports and certificates before rushing off to catch our flight back to Rome.

We had to eat the Lasagne Daniela bought us ' a piede ' in the airport by the departure entrance... What a sight...We were past caring...Life on the hoof is always creative and exciting...We were true flamenco gypsies that day.

I was sad to leave such warm, friendly and caring people. They are an asset to the SDS and I'd like to especially thank Maria Luisa for her outstanding and marvelous dedication to the SDS, and also thank Daniela and Concetta for helping to organise my trip and making my stay so comfortable and pleasant.

My heart and hips have expanded with all the love, food and sitting. I wish them all the very best for their next year and exam sessions and look forward to seeing them at future workshops and courses.



<u>Mount Etna</u>

Last but not least my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our South African Head Office and their wonderful members who came to the rescue to keep us afloat and able to run an exam session. Where would we also be without our exceptional President Marina and her amazing husband Mikael standing by us to inspire us and motivated us to go onwards and upwards. Dancing is such a Joy and being around all you lovely people is Bliss. May you all have a great year ahead.

### **GREECE**

The Spanish Dance Society we have known over the years and has served us student dancers and teachers, continues to exist with examinations on the syllabus and its history.

I am very happy to be able to continue with the SDS as I have been very supported by them for the past 25 years. We are optimistic that we will continue our work with the best conditions and cooperation with the new SDS Board.

We now have the choice of being examined with the Original method for those teachers who already have dance teaching qualifications, and also exams to be conducted with UK Ofqual Government recognition for those who need to and would like to. These will be held twice a year as always.



Vassilis Skepetaris PdB Teacher, Alejandro Charon (Guitar) and Pedro Fabian (Cajon)

I would like to encourage members to continue promoting

Spanish dance by dancing and teaching the SDS material as we have always done.

The SDS Executive Committee will be helping and guiding us along this path.

Vassilis Skepetaris Profesor de baile (SDS) Examiner (IDTA) International adjudicator for Cheer (ICU) President in Greece for Majorette (MWF)





## The Spanish Dance Society Board of Directors

Extends to all its members an invitation to attend our

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2020 from 5-7pm

At the Escuela de Baile, 1-7 Amwell Street Islington, London EC1R 1UL

Please diarise date and venue. Reminders will be sent.

Finally, a huge thank you to Nicolai, Marina's son, who managed to retain our .org domain, and to Von Schele Lottering of Johannesburg who designed our new website.

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: <u>info@spanishdancesociety.org</u>

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY DANCING YEAR AHEAD, AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR WORKSHOPS, COURSES AND FUTURE SEMINARS IN LONDON AND SPAIN.

UK and EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

