

## That's Dancing

Carlos and Marielle Pabon are making Ballroom and Latin dance accessible to everyone through their studio, That's Dancing Ballroom and Dancesport Center in Jessup. That's Dancing is an independent, family-owned studio that has provided a welcoming, stimulating environment for dancers of all ages and skill levels since 1992.

That's Dancing focuses on both American and International styles and their student involvement spans all levels between social and competitive. Weekly activities include private instruction, group classes, practice parties, coaching workshops, theme parties, exhibitions, showcases, and much more.

"Usually people come to the studio for different reasons—to learn something new, get in shape, meet people, prepare for a special event, or spend time with that special someone," Carlos says. "I love seeing

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how my students develop. Seeing the gradual changes in their skill level that they can't see, and then being there when they experience a breakthrough is just so rewarding."

Carlos began his dance training in ballet and jazz, but really found his passion in ballroom dance. Carlos began teaching ballroom dance in the 1980s and competed professionally in the American and International Latin styles, winning awards and championships in both categories. Carlos is also a national adjudicator with the National Dance Council of America. He is certified with his Fellows in all dance styles with the National Association of Dance Teachers and is also licensed with the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (I.S.T.D.).

Carlos's wife Marielle is the business manager for That's Dancing. "We're an independent studio, but we run it like a franchise studio," she explains. "We offer

all the same things, but our environment is what sets us apart from the competition."

For \$10 per person, That's Dancing offers a half-hour private lesson and evaluation to introduce those interested in ballroom dance to the basic elements and packages the studio offers, which include multiple lesson packages to fit any budget and schedule. The private lesson packages are customized to each student's personal dance goals, while the studio's group classes are designed to accommodate different levels and dance styles.

"A lot of people watch *Dancing with the Stars* and they think, 'I could never do that,'" Marielle says. "But you can be a social dancer, you can learn to dance for yourself and you can find great outlets to do that—weddings, cruises, or anywhere the urge to dance strikes you."

She adds, "While there is no partner necessary and we have partners available, taking lessons can also be a fun alternative to the typical date night. It's a great way for a couple to connect."

Ballroom dancing can also be the perfect fuel for a competitive spirit. "There's this whole other side to the ballroom dance world that is both glamorous and glitzy," explains Marielle. "Ballroom competitions can give a student a goal to work toward and offer a great sense of accomplishment and achievement."

The Pabons organize two NDCA-sanctioned ballroom dance competitions: the Baltimore Dancesport Challenge every March and the Northcoast Ballroom Championships, held in Cleveland, Ohio every June.

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