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An Appetizer: What To Look Forward to At This Summer's Camp

Dance Lines by Rubye Del Harden

If you've been waiting for a sneak peek of what's going to be on the class schedule at All-Star Dance Camp this year, consider this your appetizer. Not the full meal - just enough to get you excited, curious, and already imagining yourself on the dance floor at camp.

This year's schedule is rich. Really rich. And that's both the joy and the challenge.

One thing we hear over and over from you campers is how much you love series classes - working on the same style more than one day. That repetition is where confidence grows, where things start to feel familiar instead of foreign, and where real progress happens. So this year, we leaned into that idea in a big way.

You'll see three dance themes woven throughout this year's schedule: A Focus on Foxtrot, The Tantalizing Tango and the Cheeky Cha Cha!

Let's start with Tango. This dance is mysterious, grounded, dramatic - and endlessly fascinating. This year, there are multiple ways to explore it. We're offering Beginning Bronze and Silver Tango routine classes, plus a four-day, all-levels Argentine Tango class, plus an all-levels American Tango class called Tango from the Ground Up. Four days. One dance. One evolving conversation. If you've ever wanted to really understand how Tango works - from the floor to the top of your head - this is your chance to feel its power and dynamics in a whole new way.

And for those of you who just do not want to work on Tango, each day there is an exciting all-levels alternative at the same time the Tango classes are being taught.

Foxtrot lovers, you're in luck too. Our Focus on Foxtrot means that every level will have multiple opportunities - anywhere from two to five sessions depending on level - to dig into this elegant, sophisticated but fun, versatile dance. The extra exposure allows ideas to build, not just appear and disappear. Foxtrot becomes something you own, not just something you've sampled.

For those of you who want a deep dive into Cha Cha, you are in luck. There will be Beginning Bronze, Intermediate Bronze and Silver Cha Cha routine classes. There are also additional Cha Cha technique classes like Alternative Rhythms in Cha Cha, Connection and Partnering in Cha Cha, and two stand alone classes called Fun With Fundamentals in Cha Cha. There are so many great options that you really can't go wrong regardless of what you choose.

There are more gems, too. Back by popular demand, David and Vika Nyemchek are again teaching their side-by-side Rhythm classes - featuring one each for Cha Cha, Rumba and East Coast Swing - always fun, always musical, always camper favorites.

And one class that promises to be truly revelatory is Smooth Proficiency, a four-day deep dive taught by Jim Maranto. If you've ever wanted a clear understanding of how Smooth really works - how movement, intention, and mechanics come together - this class is designed to connect those dots.

Now for an important - and friendly - word of caution.

When you look at the schedule, you're going to think, I want to take everything. I get it. I did the same thing when I first started attending dance camps. And what I learned (sometimes the hard way) is this: when you try to do it all, you often leave exhausted, overloaded, and with a head full of ideas that don't quite stick.

So this year, I encourage you to camp smart.

Think of the schedule as a buffet, not a challenge. You don't need to taste every dish to have a wonderful meal. Study the schedule. Choose classes that support your goals. Pick a focus. Leave space to absorb, practice, and enjoy.

When you plan with intention, you'll leave camp energized rather than worn out - and with a deeper, more usable body of knowledge than when you arrived.

This column just mentions a few of the appetizers. The full schedule will give you lots of opportunities to take classes in all the American Smooth and Rhythm dances, several country dances and club dances, as well.

And the full menu is coming soon.

And trust me - you're going to love what's on it.

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Videos

You can check out all of our videos from our last camp on our YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/@AllStarDanceCamp>. Videos are added as soon as they are available.

Comments? Questions?

Email our camp director, Ruby Del Harden at rubyedel@allstardancecamp.net.

About All Star Dance Camp



All Star Dance Camp is the best ballroom dance vacation! Dancers of all ages and abilities gather in Philadelphia, MS at Pearl River Resort.

In addition to a welcome party on Sunday evening, camp features four full days of classes with dinner and dance parties every evening. As always, National Champions Jim & Jenell Maranto will be headlining camp. All Star Dance Camp offers seven or more classes daily and opportunities to take private coaching with all our great camp staff members. Campers can choose their own classes and class levels. Class levels include Beginning, Intermediate and Full Bronze as well as Silver levels.

Camp tuition includes classes, dinner Monday - Thursday and dance parties each evening. Call Jill at (662) 213-0504 to register.

All Star Dance Camp

June 8-13, 2025

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Call Jill at (662) 213-0504 for registration.

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