

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

"We dance for laughter, we dance for tears, we dance for madness, we dance for fears, we dance for hopes, we dance for screams, we are the dancers, we create the dreams." Angela Monet

I hope you have all been keeping safe in these difficult times since our last Footnotes edition. The COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, and our thoughts are with all our members and their families who continue to be restricted as a result. To help, we all need to support each other by staying positive and checking in with each other regularly. Folk dance has provided the conduit for this assistance, allowing a wide range of shared emotions to be expressed and experienced.

In some Folk Dance groups new opportunities to spread the word about folk dancing has been a side benefit of this pandemic. As some groups now meet in the open in a public park setting, it has given rise to passer-by enquiries. This in turn has led to additional people joining our Folk Dance groups. What a bonus!



Folk Dancing in the Park

Given our current future uncertainty in dealing with this pandemic it has been quite problematic for scheduling dance workshop event dates. This has meant that even workshops with local teachers may not yet proceed till government restrictions are more relaxed. Not knowing when our borders will open for international travel has also postponed our planning for visits by overseas dance specialists. In the interim, we are exploring the possibilities of internet video-linked workshops. The good news here is, many dance teachers overseas are already doing this.

Please continue to enjoy your dancing, one creative step at a time ...

Paul

EXCITING NEWS!
Virtual Workshop with IRA WEISBURD on
Facebook Live 11 October 2020
See page 3 for details.

REPORT FROM BULGARIA

At the beginning of June, after three months of lockdown, dance halls were finally opened albeit with limited numbers and distancing. What a joy to dance "live" again, to hear the music and to be with friends. It felt like being reborn! At "Zornitsa," the Bulgarian stage group with which I dance, we practised not only many combinations but also a few dances and in Women's Shoppian Dance, for instance, it was quite funny to run around the room keeping the choreography in place whilst distancing. Sadly, this exhilarating period was short-lived as we now have summer holidays until the end of September.

Luckily "Balkantsi," the Greek traditional dance group, will continue throughout summer. *Zeibekiko* is of course danced alone and for the circle dances we keep the distance by holding onto belts or scarves.

With the majority of workshops cancelled but with thoughts turning to the sea in this hot weather I decided to go to Greece for six days. There is very strict protocol for entering Greece from Bulgaria but nevertheless it was worth it! With two stops including the border, where many of us were tested, we arrived at our destination, Stavros, in five hours. Having grown up in Sydney, another passion is to be in the sea and it was wonderful. There were very few people. One evening by chance I saw two "Zornitsa" dancers who were holidaying at a nearby beach with their small son and I spent a day with them. Another evening, whilst walking in the village, I came across a group doing Greek traditional dances and was invited to join in. It was the local club having a lesson outdoors. What luck to be in the right place at the right time!

I wish all readers of Footnotes the very best during these uncertain times and hope that you have the possibility to keep on dancing, one way or another!

Anna Travali