

SALSA Y MAS

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CHINO NUÑEZ

Tribute to Dancers

- Alfredo De La Fe
- Ashley Angel
- Atlanta Talks
- Club Havana
- Rhina Valentin

New York
Salsa Congress
in Review

HOUSTON? NEW YORK? ... WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?



To understand the question you will first need some background.

Born in Las Vegas, Nevada, having two dance company's (Cosalda Dance Company & Cosalda Kids) in Houston, Texas, and teaching three weeks out of the month in New York. Known to the Salsa scene as "Angel", Ashley is the Founder and Director of Cosalda Dance Company, and has chosen a career in Dance Instruction." This is what I do, and what I live for" what she means is the educating of her students.

Starting as a child she dabbled in different styles of dance: Ballet, Tap, Jazz, and Modern. Taking classes in whatever the YMCA had in its program, but those styles of dance did not represent Ashley's passion. A street dancer at heart she felt the need to move in a less regimented way.

Singing, Acting, Modeling and Dancing honed her skills and lead her to develop a desire to pass her knowledge and gifts to others. In 1992 Ashley started her training to become a Dance Instructor. Giving her passion of dance and sharing an important concept even in the dance world, Quality.

Ashley's dancing career has led her as far as Ireland, where she taught workshops in Cork & Dublin. Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Colorado, Nevada, and California have also welcomed her talents. She has danced under the direction of renowned choreographers and loves the learning experience (you never know everything) is a phrase she uses often. While Ashley holds Professional titles in both American and International Styles she still continues her own train-

ing with various coaches in various styles of dance. "To give the best education to your students, you must learn from the best." So she went to New York.

Why New York? Being from Nevada, and working in Houston one would think L.A. would have been the choice for her. However, since Houston is still primarily "On 1", and since Ashley tends to enjoy the road least traveled, she put her things in storage, loaded her car and drove three days to arrive in The Big Apple, well Queens actually.... Wow!! The Big City!!

What next? "I originally came to New York to learn Salsa "On 2" from the best. I wanted to really throw myself into the scene and absorb all I could, and return to Houston to educate my students and my team. For two weeks I threw myself into every class I could. I tried not to draw attention to my professional status, but people knew me from the Congress's, and knew of my dance company. I also found work in two prominent dance studio's in the city (being a multi-dance instructor helped), and they put me in the public eye right away. So trying to fly under the radar didn't last long. It's been non-stop ever since."

New York has welcomed her with open arms. She has signed on with Spicemedia Events as their Salsa Spice Girl. Teaching Mambo classes at Club Cache in New York on Thursday's.

So how does that work? 3 weeks in New York and 1 week in Houston each month.

"It's not easy, and I can't do it alone. I have some really responsible team members that hold things together for me back in Houston. It is hard to balance the two locations. Many of my students in Houston have been with me for years and encourage this experience for me. They take their lessons with my team members while I'm gone, and resume with me when I return. My team supports each other. Knowing that whatever doors I'm able to open will be opened for them as well." Ashley proudly recognizes that she could not do this alone. The members of her team are a strong group that believes in the standards that Ashley has set.

What does the future hold? New friends, lots of smiles, moving to music that moves you! Who could ask for more?

My Thanks to New York's Mambo Dancers! You're the bomb!!

Ashley is a veteran Instructor with over 10 years of teaching experience under her belt. A recognized Adjudicator, as well as a professional Coach/Choreographer. Ashley's style of Salsa incorporates all the technique and grace of her Ballroom background, while still having the fun and sexy styles of Street Salsa. As an Instructor Ashley brings her bright energetic style to the classroom. "Making lessons fun and easy is her motto." Ashley teaches private lessons and group classes in N.Y. Salsa/Mambo "On 2", Salsa "On 1", Casino Rueda Salsa, Merengue, Bachata, Cha Cha Cha, Cumbia as well as Ballroom and Country/Western, and is available for Coaching and Adjudication.

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