



# STEPPING OUT

**Marianka Swain** talks to long-time member Jacky Logan about same-sex demonstration team the Pink Dancers

**N**ext year is a special landmark for the Pink Dancers: their 20th anniversary. “We’ve represented same-sex dance for such a long time,” notes Jacky Logan, who joined the troupe in 1993 with partner Mary. “We started out with four dancers; over the years, we’ve had 50 people performing with us. That’s part of the reason we have such supportive audiences – chances are there’s a former Pink Dancer somewhere in the crowd! There are plans afoot to reunite all the alumni dancers next year for a big anniversary celebration.”

Photographs courtesy of Jacky Logan

The group was founded to give same-sex dancers the opportunity to develop. “Back then, there wasn’t much of a competition scene and you couldn’t do medals in non-traditional pairings,” explains Jacky. “But dancers wanted to push themselves and show people what they could do.”

“We’ve since performed around the world, and it’s a tribute to the courage of these dancers that



we were the first same-sex group performing at events like the 1995 Trafalgar Square Festival, the

1997 Labour Party Conference and on *MOVE IT*’s main stage.

“You never know how people will respond, but we haven’t had an adverse reaction yet. We’re particularly proud of showcasing alternative partnerships, whether it’s male/male, female/female or girls leading guys. The more people see these possibilities, the more they become part of the dance – and social – norm.”



Top and above, the Pink Dancers

contribute and shapes his choreography around us, making it very organic – but he’s definitely a magician. We concentrate on our parts

The Pink Dancers are primarily an amateur performance group rather than competitors, “which suits our ethos – we have a big age range, we love to bring out the emotional, lyrical side of ballroom and we focus on community, not just pure ability. We’re a co-operative, working together on all aspects, from choreography and costumes to decoration and logistics. When we perform abroad, we travel together and often share rooms, so getting on is crucial!”

However, Jacky credits one of the founder members, choreographer Ralf Schiller, as the key to their longevity: “Ralf isn’t dictatorial – he lets us

of the dance and it’s only at the end that we realise the overall effect of his creation – it’s like we’re colour daubs that together form this beautiful work of art.”

The Pink Dancers’ annual Zodiac Ball, held to raise money for expenses such as hall hire, travel and costumes, took place on October 22, where the group premiered their new number to great acclaim, and they’ll reprise it at Jacky’s Jukebox at the Rivoli Ballroom on December 3. If you’re interested in inviting them to perform at an event, email Jacky at [jacjoke@aol.com](mailto:jacjoke@aol.com) ●

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