

PROS AND REGULAR JOES ON THEIR TOES

Minnesota Ballet's fundraiser pairs company members with you, me and your neighbor for a night of dance

By Christa Lawler
clawler@duluthnews.com

Eric Huie's double-win at the Minnesota Ballet's Celebrity Dance Challenge lasted more than a night, more than a year, it maybe even lasted five years. In 2010, the stylist from *A Touch of Plasch* paired with then-company member Suzanne Kritzberg for "A Touch of Bollywood" — quick-paced hip-shaking and arm-waving that incorporated feats ranging from the Roger Rabbit to a cartwheel.

The duo took both people's choice, as voted on by the audience at Fregeau Auditorium, and judges' choice.

"It was surprising," said Huie, who went on to perform the choreography or a variation of it during at least three more dance challenges in addition to other ballet events. He has also served as a judge. "It was really wonderful because it's voted on by the audience, which means I did an OK job entertaining them. It was great; I'm not going to lie."

The ballet's 13th annual fundraiser pairs 12 pros with regular joes, who show off their skills in two-minute bursts of choreography. This year's "Dancing with the

DANCE: Page C4

IF YOU GO

What: Minnesota Ballet's Celebrity Dance Challenge

When: 7 p.m. today

Where: Fregeau Auditorium, Marshall School

Tickets: \$30/\$35 adults, \$20/\$25 students at minnesotaballet.org or at the door

Top: Catherine Wooten and Eric Huie perform a Bollywood dance during the Minnesota Ballet All-Star Celebrity Dance Challenge at Fregeau Auditorium at Marshall School. Huie originally premiered the piece with Suzanne Kritzberg, winning audience and judges' choice.

2014 file / News Tribune

Middle: Bret Amundson and Alex Loch perform a Contemporary Tango during the 2016 Minnesota Ballet Celebrity Dance Challenge at Marshall School.

2016 file / News Tribune

Bottom: Maude Dornfeld was a double winner at the 2013 Celebrity Dance Challenge.

2013 file / News Tribune



Steve Kuchera / skuchera@duluthnews.com
Jimmy Lovrien and the Minnesota Ballet's Sarah White practice Wednesday morning for today's Celebrity Dance Challenge.

Coordination is not my thing

Smiling while dancing, I've learned, is a lot like tapping your head while rubbing your belly — it takes coordination.

As I've been reminded rehearsing for tonight's Celebrity Dance Challenge, it's something I lack.



JIMMY LOVRIEN

A friend once described it as: "It looks like every step Jimmy takes is his first."

I guess it was obvious to her when my 6-foot, 3-inch frame trips over nothing or walks into a table.

"You're just a lot of limb," she said

Growing up, I tried most sports. However, when I was unable to connect bat with ball or reach the net, I instead joined cross-country and track, where all I had to do was put one foot in front of the other — but somehow still found ways to trip.

So when Rick Lubbers, my editor and a contestant in last year's Celebrity Dance Challenge, asked if I was interested in representing the News Tribune at the 2019 event, which pairs Minnesota Ballet's professional dancers with local notables, I'm not exactly sure why I said yes.

Sure, I had a bit of dance history. I was a dancer in my high school's production of "Grease," after all. But all I had to do for "Greased Lightning" was point my arm in the same direction as the guys in front of me. And if I got lost during "Born to Hand Jive," there was always someone across the stage snapping and clapping in time that I could mirror.

If all else failed, I had strategically positioned myself in the back corner of the stage, where any missteps might be masked.

But for two minutes during tonight's show at Marshall School's Fregeau Auditorium, it'll be just my dance partner, Sarah White, and me swing-dancing on stage.

I'll have to remember the steps, lifts and flips — all while smiling and not looking down.

As we go through the routine, I might remember most of the moves, but as soon as I'm reminded to focus on smiling, I'm sure to misstep.

"If you feel like you look ridiculous, you're doing it right," White said to me on our final morning of rehearsal.

I, along with several other local dance novices, will be looking plenty ridiculous, to the enjoyment of friends,

LOVRIEN: Page C3

Love hurts, a lot, in Polish film 'Cold War'

Polish director Pawel Pawlikowski rakes in three Oscar noms with "Cold War."

It's post-WWII, and music director Wiktor (Tomasz Kot) travels the Polish countryside recording folk songs from the locals. (Each song foreshadows ill-fated love and caste separation.)

Holding auditions for a musical production, he meets Zula (Joanna Kulig), who sings a haunting tune about the heart.

They fall for each other, but soon, the production's hijacked for propaganda purposes a la the



MELINDA LAVINE
Now Showing

government. Their love stretches across decades in Poland, France, Yugoslavia after the two plan an illegal escape.

"Cold War" is shot in razor-sharp and expressive black and white. The visuals here by Pawlikowski and cinematographer Lukasz Zal (stunner "Loving Vincent") are a

piece of art in themselves. There are meticulously framed subjects in crowded shots of collaborative energy, and sweeping wide shots that ham up a felt isolation.

NOW SHOWING: Page C4



Joanna Kulig and Tomasz Kot star in "Cold War," opening Friday at Zinema 2.

"Cold War"

Starring: Joanna Kulig, Tomasz Kot

Director: Pawel Pawlikowski

Writers: Pawel Pawlikowski, Janusz Glowacki, Piotr Borkowski

Time: 1:29

Rating: R for some sexual content, nudity and language
Opening Friday at Zinema 2

imdb.com