

Beginner Dance Party - Hints For Success

- For SRDIAA Workshop, September 20, 2014

- Updated 2014-09-19

Know Your Audience

- Age, gender, dance experience, alcohol served?

Use Genderless Dances

- Start with patterns that can be done by single dancers

- Suggest having boy-boy or girl-girl partners

- “No Sex Required”

Have Fun Yourself

- Your attitude will be infectious

- Have more than one way to explain each move

- Be flexible, be prepared to change

Invite the Audience To Have Fun

- The word “dance” may scare off some potential dancers

- Encourage new dancers to join in at the start of every dance

Give The Audience Success

- If they succeed, they will have more fun

- They are more likely to continue to dance

Get Down On The Floor

- Get involved with the dancers, join in the circle

- A demonstration is worth a thousand words (e.g. Dosado)

- Consider using a wireless headset

Get The Dancers Moving As Soon As Possible

- Avoid long-winded teaches

- Add new moves one or two at a time

Start With Simple Moves

- Circle Left, Circle Right, Forward & Back

- Add Dosado, Elbow Turns, and Stars (two-person & four-person)

- Add clapping - helps new dancers feel the beat

Use Simple Formations

- Keep sets short, inexperienced dancers may tire easily

- Circles, Lines, Sicilian Circles (mini-squares), Trios

- Re-use the same moves, but in a different formation

- Save squares for later in the event

Music

- Should have a solid beat

- Jig rhythm (6/8 time) gets their toes tapping