

'A ranch, south of Spain, with a dance floor' is his dream destination. He hopes to be dancing always. Words make stories and stories reach the universe for their realisation... .

The sustained narrative in our chat defines him as an entertainer and this gives him happiness. Little wonder that in his dream of a ranch he envisions hosting events and dancers there. Are we invited? He is the protagonist, we move along.

DANIEL TREPAT

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# DANIEL TREPAT



When his parents separated, his mother moved with him from Spain to the Netherlands when he was nine. 'After rain comes the sun', he believes. His mother started teaching line dance in this new country. Soon she had 300 students. "My mom taught me how to dance".

Now training dancers for competition gives him a sense of achievement. He feels equally delighted to be dancing with social groups. The first page on his website says 'dance is my reality'. Surely he uses it to explore his inner wealth. 'Spreading joy drives me now', he says in different ways through the chat... I endorse that Daniel. He established a connect with me instantly, in one of his Streamline classes, by responding to my request that he should try counting in Hindi. 'Ek doh teen, chaar, paanch...' he says it was hard, but he did it, and well.

Line Dance is the biggest dance sport in the world, the cheapest too, and you do not need a partner to dance all night. In Line Dance: there are the competition dances and the social dances. He says, 'these are two different worlds'. At events, competition dancers will dance socially too. Do I sense disappointment when he talks about social dancers not crossing over to competition dance rooms to cheer? They prefer to stay cocooned in their social dance zones.

Having been 14 times world line dance champion and three times in the highest category he says 'he's been there and done that'. Hearing this young man say, 'I have retired' makes me feel that this is just the new buzz word. He could not be serious. I guess this is why dancers are finely graded in their understanding of the dynamics of their body in motion. They just know.

I HOPE I CAN BE AN INSPIRATION... |

He prefers to train and judge now and encourage others to compete. 'It is time for other young people to take over and do what I did'. 'I hope I can be an inspiration and people can look up to me the way I looked up to my mentors. He speaks of Roy Verdonk's school that prepared him for competitions and dance events and Darren Bailey and the others who helped him to become his own man in the world of dance.

He is a peoples' person and the part he enjoys about his career is the frequent travel. New people, different cultures and variety in food make the experience rich. The day we chatted he was stepping out to eat the famous Indian curry. He wonders why he was picky about food as a child. His travels expose him to the layers and textures of the dance experience across the globe. This is probably the reason that he enjoys line dance the most. It is quintessentially diverse.

| HAPPY FACE



IS MY MOTTO |

Exploring WCS boundaries is his other dance drive. Robert Roysten's musicality inspires him and he hopes to train further in a particular dance institute in New York. Partner dancing holds a challenge of meeting the other half, and that interests him. He is a fan of the JordanTatiana pair. Hip hop lyrical offers an excitingly versatile dance world too.

His cherished moment of fame came when he won with a staggering majority at a German awards event. The voting rights were with the Swiss, Austrians and Germans. To have won four times out of the eight he was nominated for, as the best international dance instructor, without pitching for votes, was an honour. Things fall from the sky? There was hard work behind it, rest assured.

Memories of backstage pranks, with his friends Jose and Pim, make him blush. He is not sure if he can share stories of boyish tricks played on each other, obviously with x rated elements. Once he went on performing, while the other two closed the stage curtains. This had to be avenged with Jose being shown 'an 18+ film' while he was in the middle of his show in Sweden. Jose started stuttering, and the signature laugh might have found its origin then.

Spaces between lines and words are undefined but I understand when he says he regrets having fallen out with some co-choreographers and dancers. He thinks now that it was unnecessary and sadly they will not return, even if an apology is extended. To this he adds that his mother's assistant never came back after they fell out with each other. They split and she started another school.

His cool appearance is sometimes deceptive, says he, and he adds that he might look casual and calm before a performance but his composure deserts him often before he enters the stage. And then the 'ooh la la' moment happens with his sexy moves and he is ready for the applause.

Here you have a dancer who likes all three streams of Line Dance, Country, Nuline or Modern and Soul. He speaks of another trend, the Catalan style which he believes is an old traditional Country style and should not be called Catalan. Pick any, and he enjoys teaching it, his flexibility is his appeal. And the appetite for Line Dance has not mitigated during the pandemic.

And Daniel, since you have thrown it up in the air, remember not to invite mosquitoes at your Spanish Ranch. JP does not like them.

He sends his love to the LDF team and ambassadors for the excellent reach out initiative. In appreciation of the Mental Health Awareness drive on the 26th of September, he says reaching out to those who are low tide, is an act of love.

Once upon a Time

HAPPY FACE IS MY MOTTO  
BY MONICA BHASIN

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