

# Once upon a Time

**ALISON JOHNSTONE**  
**NULINE DANCE**

**LINE DANCE INSTRUCTOR : CHOREOGRAPHER**

**30 YEARS**

**WWW.NULINEDANCE.COM**

**KARMA IS FOR REAL**

**by MONICA BHASIN**

30 years ago she visited a night club in America where she saw people line dancing, and she thought it would be a great dance routine for her senior movers. She carried it across the ocean, and nurtured it. Has she looked back?

See for yourself.

Some years later Alison saw an entire floor dancing to her choreography. Guess which one? We like most of them, but this one was Dance Monkey, of course. She rejoiced. 2018 got her the 1st Crystal Boot Award, another moment of joy.

In her words, her line dancers, across continents, have experienced elements she picks from all cultures, for instance in Dildaara they saw Indian, which she and Sobrielo Philip worked on. An ode to diversity is the recent dance, Jeruselamma, co-choreographed with Colin Ghys. The peoples of Zezuru Shona, who live on the borders of Zimbabwe were overjoyed to see a local challenge morph into a global craze.

There are no lines in the sand. And no borders for her when she and her friends nuance line dances with influences from everywhere, right Alison?

From a baby who went for ballet classes and watched her parents dance the ballroom, Alison has had varied experience in choreographing, dancing and judging, having traveled this far. Boot scooting is fun, but line dance to her means more. It must create magic for her dancers. Nuline, her ten year old club, has a message for us all, 'Preserve and Perpetuate'.

For those who do not know her well, let me tell her story, a story of purpose.

Alison lost her husband when her daughter was nine years old. She moved with her daughter from the UK to Perth, all on her own. Though she mentions this several times in her conversation, she relates it to happy instances, for example, to people who babysat her daughter, while she led classes in a hall packed to full capacity. She talks about the lovely time she spent with her husband, and that traveling with him for work, also equipped her with management skills. Sounds like a motivated achiever, you would say. Wait for more.

A fractured spine and her doctor's advice kept her out of Line for four years. A gentleman recognised her on a cruise holiday and offered to carry her handbag, which was the only weight allowance as per medical advice. He asked if she could and would dance again, as he had followed the story of her accident. And she did. A holiday rejuvenates.

'People are the key to my door' is proudly and clearly conveyed by this woman, who does not look like she would have regrets. But we all make mistakes and her mistake, she says was, when she said, 'I do think I will have to give this up, it is so hard'. Crestfallen, her students could not believe how their teacher would discontinue what completes her, and gives her students their oxygen and social space. Going through chemotherapy had wavered her will to continue with her dance classes.

She says, 'I have never wavered from who I am', and she's helped people to work on their core. Elderly and young, alike, have learnt from her ways of staying mentally and physically strong. Technique matters, but what she values more is when they laugh and sing with her in class. 'Step back and come back later, if you are not up for competition', she will advise a young achiever.

**"YOU WILL RETURN SOON,  
JUST RIDE OVER YOUR DULL TIME".**

**How's that for inspiration?**

The word professionalism acquires a new meaning with her. Be reachable in the true sense of the word because that is what makes you a true ambassador to LDF, the Line Dance Foundation that cares for its own.

I, living in New Delhi, feel drawn into a world of shared values.

Young people that bring talent to this dance form push her to do better and be there for everyone, she says, when asked what inspires her. And here I thought, she was the inspiration!

If she was not dancing she would be cycling, and you can be sure you would join her there too. She talks about her interest in working with charitable organisations that serve people diagnosed with illnesses and need care. She never fails to reach out, we can be certain.

Did I hear her say that bouquets were presented to her as people drove past her main door, in lockdown times? And does it prove that for her relationships are forever? And if there is someone for a season, there has to be a reason? **With Nuline, she has created a lifestyle brand, 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you' and I see it roll out as she chats with me about her relationships, her work and her passion.**

Oh yes and I was introduced to her well-groomed Yorkshire Terrier with an enviable hair style. She would have 25 of them if she could.

**"KARMA IS FOR REAL" SHE SAYS**

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