

**APRIL FOLLIES AND DANCING WITH THE QUEERS WORKSHOPS**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010**  
**WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS**

**LEE FOX** is originally from Georgia but now calls Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, his home. He is the Director of Dance for the International Association of Gay/Lesbian Country Western Dance Clubs (IAGLCWDC) and a past president of the National Dance Teachers Association of America (NDTA). He has been teaching Ballroom, Latin, and Disco since 1978, and Country/Western since 1991.

Lee has his licentiate degrees in the International Standard and International Latin Styles with the Imperial Society of the Teachers of Dance (ISTD) and his master's degrees in the American Smooth and American Rhythm Styles with the North American Dance Teachers Association (NADTA). He is registered to adjudicate with the National Dance Council of America (NDCA) and the World Dance Council (WDC). A former ballroom competitor, he has judged several competitions in the United States including the United States Dance Sport Championships (USDSC).

Lee and his ballroom partner, Scott, competed in ballroom at the Gay Games in Amsterdam in 1998 and the Gay Games in Australia in 2002 making the class A finals both times. He and his country partner, Chris, were the first Championship winners in the IAGLCWDC Couples Competition in 1998 and have performed at many hoedowns and fundraisers. Lee is a member of Southern Country South Florida and has served as the choreographer/instructor for the Dream Team for six years and the SunDancers for five years. He is also one of the original members of Crossfire, an all male dance team, winners of the 2005 international country-western dance competitions. He currently serves on the Board of the North American Same-Sex Partner Dance Association (NASSPDA).

**LEMINGTON RIDLEY** has been dancing for over 15 years. his titles include 2005 Men's Latin A World Champion and 2006 Men's Latin A Pink Jukebox Champion. As a performer, he has been all over the world. As a clothing designer, his pieces have been featured in commercials, films, on celebrities and on the dance floor. He was the director of the "Show Unlike Anything On Broadway" and "Stories Without Gender" at the 2007 and 2008 5-Boro Dance Challenge, and he produces/directs an annual Halloween event in Bermuda.

**SOLOMON SINGER** has been competing for a decade now. With his life-partner Richard, he won the gold medal in Advanced Country Western at the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago. They were 2005 Men's US Rising Star Latin Champions and co-directors of the 5-Boro Dance Challenge. Most recently, Solomon was the Open Div 1 Champ at the 2009 Dallas Dance Festival. Solomon has performed all over the US and Europe and can be seen dancing through "Mona Lisa Smile," "Mad Hot Ballroom," and "Enchanted.

Together Lemington and Solomon have performed all over the United States, most recently in Sacramento, CA. They hope to bring the beauty of same-sex partner dancing

to new audiences all over the world and will be competing at the Gay Games in Cologne, Germany this August.

**BENJAMIN SOENCKSEN** is originally from Germany. He looks back at a career of over 40 years in the world of partner dancing, having gained experience by studying, teaching, and performing all styles and learning about their history. He competed in International Style Latin and Standard all over the world for about 30 years.

Benjamin has taught, coached, choreographed and staged couple and group pieces, and managed several dance studios (for the past 19 years Stepping Out Studios, the only Studio in New York City to have OUTdancing as part of their programs).

For the past 16 years, Benjamin has also been actively involved in the same-sex partner dance scene. He competed in 2 Gay Games, 2 Eurogames, and various competitions in Europe and the US. This culminated in a 4th Place at the 10-Dance Championships of the Gay Games 2002, in Sydney, Australia. He has since retired from actively dancing but continues to be involved as a judge (Eurogames 2004, in Munich, Germany; Pink Jukebox Trophy 2005, London, UK; 5-Boro-Dance-Challenge in 2007 & 2008, NYC; Philadelphia Liberty Dance Challenge, 2006, 2008, & 2009; invited to Gay Games, Cologne, Germany, this year) and a coach for same-sex couples in all styles.

Benjamin also acts as an advocate for this sport, which led him to help start up DAGE (Dancesport Alliance for Gender Equality) in NYC, and he currently serves on the Board of NASSPDA (North American Same-Sex Partner Dance Association).