

1996

AUGUST

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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The typing is done by Lily Avery. The printing, packaging and posting
is done by Doug and Maureen Wells.



This month's cover design was drawn by Lesley Boorer specially for our
Golden Jubilee Anniversary and we shall be using it every month
throughout the year.



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S.I.F.D. BEGINNERS-PLUS DANCE, 28TH SEPTEMBER, CECIL SHARP HOUSE

An advance notice of a Dance, primarily for beginners but with some interest
for more experienced dancers, on SATURDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. at
Cecil Sharp House. The M.C.s for the Dance will be Anne Leach and Pam Radford.
We are hoping to have "Jacob's Ladder" again to provide live music. Please make
a note of this and tell anyone you know who might be interested. Leaflets to be
handed to friends, neighbours and strangers will be available at the September
Cecil Sharp House Dance on 1st September. To be a success, we need old faces,
and feet, as well as new, and we rely on S.I.F.D. members to spread the inform-
ation to potential new members. The Dance has been scheduled early in the
S.I.F.D. year in the hope of attracting some new members to classes.

CASPER CRONK



ALL MATERIAL FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST REACH THE EDITOR
IN WRITING BY 17TH AUGUST.

S.I.F.D. GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE, SATURDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 1996

Thank you very much to those people who have let me know that they can accommodate dancers over the Dance weekend. We have quite a selection to offer people, both in London and very near. So, if you need somewhere to stay, do let me know.

Preparations for the Dance are going well. I especially wish to thank Simon Guest who has the task of organizing five other M.C.s and their dance suggestions into a coherent and interesting programme. In addition, Simon has spent considerable time glued to his Desktop screen and has produced the Dance and Refreshment tickets and also the little preliminary notices about the Dance. Simon's creativity has been a constant source of wonder to me (ignorant as I am of modern technology!), and I thank him very much for all that he has done so far.

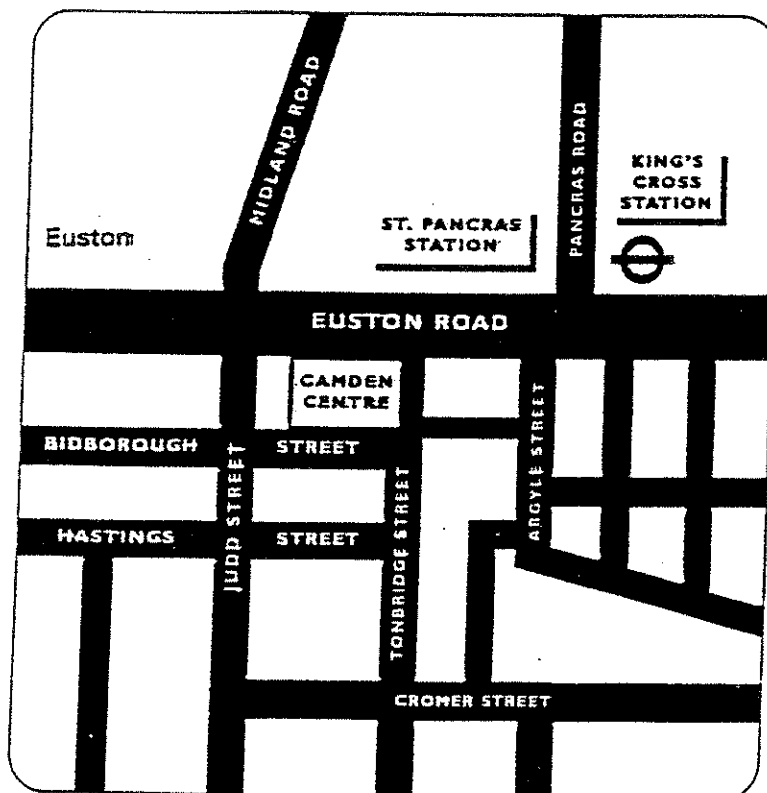
Tickets for the Dance are now on sale - from your group leader, or from me at 9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley, Herts. WD4 8AN. Tel: 01923 262763. Prices as in last month's NEWS. All cheques should be made payable to the S.I.F.D.

A map is printed below so that you may all see the exact location of the hall. The entrance will be on the Euston Road, opposite King's Cross Station. There are facilities for disabled people, and plenty of parking round the side roads.

In response to requests, we shall be publishing in the September SIFD NEWS a partial list of dances for 12th October, so that members can do some revision in advance!

KAY KEDGE

Society for International Folk Dancing
GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE



Entrance in Euston Road

Bus: 14, 18, 30, 46, 63, 73, 77a, 214, 239
Underground: King's Cross, Euston
Rail: King's Cross, St. Pancras, Euston

Come in Costume!

CANE DANCE WORKSHOP REVIEW

American teacher, Helené, gave a three-hour evening workshop in Hastings. Her subject was the Egyptian cane dance, an old folk dance which derived from martial arts practice, in Upper Egypt. Nowadays, it is performed with camel canes, which are often decorated with spiralling patterns in gold and a contrasting dark colour.

During the three hours, Helené certainly gave us good value for money. She crammed an enormous amount of movements into the available time, so that even the most experienced dancers amongst us came away with a wealth of ideas to add to our repertoire. Most movements were fast and it proved a challenge to perform them at this pace. By the end of the course, beginners were exhausted, but fascinated.

The routine she showed us is complex and involves many pair dance elements. The variety of contrasting movements - from gentle to aggressive, from sensuous to lively- should provide a good show at any event. Helené pointed out the typical rhythm of the saïidi music (doumtek, doumdoumtek) and showed us how to drop our hips forward and backwards following the rhythm. Helené wore a long black Egyptian baladi dress, decorated with gold sequins. She also gave a performance of Egyptian Ghawazee (gypsy) dance and played sagat (finger cymbals).

The Durbar Room at the Hastings Museum was the most fantastic backdrop one can imagine for an Oriental dance workshop. Two storeys high, with delicately arched and carved wooden walls, diwans, displays of historical Oriental costumes, it inspired the imagination, and although it was not cheap (£60 including insurance) it was worth it.

Helené came to Hastings as part of her European tour, and she was also teaching similar workshops in Birmingham, London and Amsterdam. We hope that she'll come again on her next tour, maybe to teach a Ghawazee routine.

CHRISTINE HALL



"AWALIM" IN LONDON

Christine Hall's student dance troupe, "Awalim", were among the performers at the Alternative Dance Festival in June at the Victoria Embankment Gardens, London. Not as technically perfect as some of the stunning contemporary dancers, but certainly one of the most photographed groups of the afternoon. "Awalim" have already been invited back for next year's dance festival. Who else is going to be there? Wouldn't it be a good idea if participants got in touch with each other before the event - to arrange to take photos for each other, for example.

"AROUND THE WORLD" - Music and Dance Show

"Around the World in 180 Minutes" is the theme of a music and dance cabaret show in Gillingham, Kent, in aid of C.L.I.C., a children's charity. "Awalim" troupe will represent the countries Turkey and China with folkloric dance performances. The event takes place on SATURDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER, at the Black Lion Leisure Centre in Mill Road, Gillingham, and the organizers expect an audience of 800-1,000. For information and tickets, contact Councillor Ray Griffiths, Gillingham Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5LA. Tel: 01634 282038. (I was originally given 14th as the date; please check. Ed.)

CHRISTINE HALL

MUSIC for two more dances from Wilf Horrocks on p.12. Please let Wilf know, on 0181 642 3629, if you would like music for a particular dance.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

The discussion on what constitutes "folk" reminds me of an incident at an E.F.D.S.S. Albert Hall Show many years ago. A small group of people, clad in pinafores, milking aprons, laced-up bodices, mob caps, smocks, corduroy trousers etc. etc. appeared and paraded slowly round the arena. They carried a banner: "WE ARE THE FOLK. GIVE US BACK OUR DANCES". This also illustrates another element of the folk syndrome; you must be Properly Dressed. This creates problems for us; should we change for each dance?

I was once taken to task by a Scot for referring to Scottish Country Dancing as "folk". I was told it was national dancing with a classical element. He must have been right; he was wearing a kilt. R.S.C.D. members enjoy a continual addition of new dances to their repertoire at a rate almost equalling that of the Israelis' and I have never thought of their dances as "folk". Perhaps we should become the Society for International National Dancing, or the Society for International Ethnic Dancing.

With best wishes,

MICHAEL CLARK
14 Weldon Close, Church Crookham,
Fleet, Hants. GU13 0BG

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of a friend and colleague who is in a bit of a hole at the moment. Approximately ten years ago, at the age of 40, she was in a serious car accident where, amongst other body parts, her hip was fractured and dislocated. She defied all odds and made an amazing recovery to dance and teach dance again. However, the constant wear and tear on top of such damage has now caught up with her and she is in almost constant pain and has not been able to dance for the last nine months.

Her consultant has now suggested the choice of a hip replacement, resulting in limited but pain-free mobility and therefore poor chance of dancing freely ever again, and no hip replacement, living on pain killers but dancing with her current limited mobility.

I have suggested that we write to various organizations and ask if, in their newsletter, they can ask if there is anyone out there dancing on a hip replacement and what does it all really mean? If anyone could take the time to respond to her, c/o me at the address given below, I will happily forward their letters. Thank you for your help.

JUDY KING
6 St. Leonards Road,
Winchester, Hants. SO23 0QD

Dear Lily,

I picked up from the "Ontario Folk Dancer" that Michael Herman had died at the age of 85. His wife, Mary Ann, had died four years ago.

Michael was a great help to the Society in its early years and we were very much dependent on his "Folk Dancer" series of books and records. Maybe some of our older members will remember about him; we visited them in New York in the 1960s.

JACK RICHARDSON
Dept. of Chemical Engineering,
University of Wales, Swansea,
Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP



ORIENTAL DANCING

Beginners' evening classes in various forms of Oriental dancing start in September at the Adult Education Centres in Hastings, Bexhill, Rye and Maidstone (and possibly in Rochester and Tunbridge Wells). For details, 'phone me on 01580 850687. I am currently working on an assignment in Mongolia where I hope to learn Mongolian folk dances to include in my Oriental dance repertoire.

Are there are S.I.F.D. members who speak Arabic and Turkish? It would be so useful to us if we knew and understood the lyrics of the folk songs to which we are dancing. My own knowledge of these languages is not sufficient. I need someone to write down the Arabic text (in Latin alphabet) of some taped songs, and also an English translation. I'm prepared to pay a small fee.

CHRISTINE HALL
Finchden, Sandhurst,
Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5JS



S.I.F.D. 50TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE IN THE NORTH

We are writing on behalf of the Loidis members who attended the recent Golden Jubilee dance, to thank everyone who was involved in the organization of this most enjoyable event. Special thanks go to Julie Korth, who, as co-ordinator, ensured that the evening was a great success.

An interesting programme of dances was prepared from lists provided by all four groups. We all contributed food, which resulted in an excellent spread, the highlight of which was the Annviersary Cake. Some of the music was provided live. However, this part of the programme was curtailed by the unfortunate tumble taken by Neil MacDonald, the accordion player, resulting in a badly sprained ankle. We hope by now he has fully recovered.

This is the first time that the Northern Groups have danced together, and we hope that we can all meet up again before too long.

JEAN & IAN WILLSON
Loidis I.F.D.G.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1995-96

The final membership figures for the year from the 1 September 1995 to the 31 August 1996 from ledger records are:

	1995-96	1994-95
National members	586	585
Overseas members	<u>42</u>	<u>44</u>
Total membership	<u>628</u>	<u>629</u>
Associated Classes	20	22
Affiliated Groups	40	41

The SIFD NEWS production and distribution Team, (Lily Avery, Editor, Michael and Edwina Holdup, envelope preparation and Doug and Maureen Wells, photo-copying and dispatch) currently handle 616 copies of the SIFD NEWS per month, including two copies to each affiliated group (as required by the Constitution).

As agreed at the AGM in London on the 3 December 1995, the subscription rates for the year 1996-97 (unchanged from 1995-96 but noting the new Affiliation subscription for Music Groups), due on the 1 September 1996 are:

	£
Town Member *	14.00
Joint Town Members	19.80
Country Member	10.50
Joint Country Members +	14.00
Junior Member	2.30
Life Member ++	165.00
Group Affiliation	23.30
Music Group	18.00

* Address within a radius of 30 miles from Central London or Central Birmingham.

+ Any two members living at the same address.

++ Subject to two years continuous membership and Committee approval.

If you would like a receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope otherwise I shall assume that one is not required.

Many thanks to many members and groups for prompt renewal of subscriptions.

The 1996-97 subscription forms contains a request to Overseas members to add a donation of £5 to help cover the cost of airmail postage if required. This more or less formalises what normally happens anyway because many overseas members have been doing this annually for a long time. This applies mainly to overseas members outside the European Union because the airmail postage rates of the latter are considerably higher and not all overseas members require airmail dispatch. Thanks are due to the many members who have in the past donated extra and also thanks in advance to other members for helping in this way.

Our Publicity Officer George Sweetland had a brilliant idea for Jubilee Year and backed it up by a tremendous amount of painstaking work by carrying out a major statistical review. So as to overcome problems of working at different locations he took temporary possession of my membership forms and my predecessor Roland Minton's cards and performed a count of the membership over the last ten years. The resultant statistical summary is as follows on the next page. Leaving the statistics and returning to normal membership duties and dancing, with best wishes for Happy Dancing for this Special 50 Golden Jubilee Year of 1996-97.



Alan Morton
Honorary Membership Secretary
& Groups Liaison Officer

Year	1946-86	86-87	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96
Mem-no	5000-	5100-	5200	5300-	5400-	5500-	5600-	5700-	5800-	5900-	
< 5000	5099	5199	5299	5399	5499	5599	5699	5799	5899	5999	
Pre-1986	434										
											Total UK Members =
86-87	401	98									434
87-88	384	77	86								499
88-89	351	64	71	73							547
89-90	347	62	62	50	72						559
90-91	340	48	50	49	53	67					593
91-92	314	42	52	41	42	47	55				607
92-93	298	39	36	34	37	38	39	60			593
93-94	275	37	30	31	37	26	35	36	55		581
94-95	265	33	32	34	31	22	34	32	43	53	562
95-96	249	30	29	29	31	17	28	27	35	43	579
										45	563

Notes:

1) The presentation format was designed by George.

2) On taking over from Roland Minton in 1985 I left all the long standing members with their membership numbers unchanged and then started a new series of 5000 onwards. Each year I started a new century so that every set of 100 numbers represents the joining year thus facilitating the analysis.

3) Working from different sources, i.e. forms as opposed to the ledger, the overall figures are in some cases up to 4% less than the ledger totals that correspond to my overall reported totals but it is hoped that they portray the trends. The differences arise primarily because of missing forms where in some cases, members have sent in a subscription without a form and during the peak renewal time it has not always been possible to file a renewal note.

4) Prominent membership statistics are: Ledger total 586-434 (1986 total) = 152 members gained over the last 10 years. Subject to the above mentioned up to -4% accuracy; the hypotenuse of the triangle represents the new members of the related year and the bottom line indicates how many members of that year remain. The trend of diminution of new members joining is a cause of concern but it is somewhat counter-balanced by the increase in the number of groups (see 6 below). The year 1990-91 still shows the highest membership total as yet attained. Scanning the columns from top to bottom shows a high drop-out in the first year.

5) Overseas members have been excluded in this analysis because some of their subscriptions are paid by UK members, there are 13 non-paying members where for overseas relations reasons e.g. past teaching services, it is difficult to arrive at a statistically useful total.

6) Associated Classes (run by official SIFD Teacher) and Affiliated Groups have followed an increasing trend. In 1986 there were 13 and 23 respectively (from SIFD 40th Anniversary Publication 'Society for International Folk Dancing 1946-1986') and they have increased over the last 10 years to 20 and 40 (not including the West Midlands Branch).

INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD, LLANGOLLEN

It was good to be back at the Eisteddfod again this year, having missed the last four. The biggest change I noticed was, of course, the new ugly Pavilion building housing the major events but it does mean that we, the audience, are not in danger now of getting blown away or buried when the former giant marquee collapses in the strong winds, or getting rained on when the roof can no longer stand up to a downpour. Part of the new structure is permanent and the other part strongly built to withstand the weather.

Other changes are the increased number of stalls and tents selling handicrafts, souvenirs, "ethnic" clothing etc., and the increased number of dance activities. In addition to the adult folkdance and folk music competitions, there is now a folkdance competition for teams of children, a day of workshops with dance group members, an evening Ceilidh for the dance groups to get together in a social gathering for informal dancing, and a similar Ceilidh for the children's dance teams to do the same. Also, the folkdance teams have a larger part than before in the evening concerts. Although the choral items are superb, it is good to see that the dancers are not being completely overshadowed, as they appeared to be at one time, and now form a larger part of the week's programme. In addition, there were the usual spontaneous dance performances in the streets, in the hotels, and around the town. It was also nice to be able to buy a video cassette (as well as audio cassettes) less than twenty-four hours after the event.

The standard of dancing and folk music this year was very good indeed, particularly by the four teams who were awarded the four highest marks, and the winners were truly worthy of their success. As usual, George Sweetland will be giving you his review in detail - so I won't spoil it by telling you who won!

LILY AVERY



DANCE STUDIES, VOL.19 "THE TRADITIONAL DANCES OF THE OUTER HEBRIDES"

Centre for Dance Studies, Les Bois, St. Peter, Jersey JE3 7AQ, Channel Isles.
Price: £9 plus p. & p.

This new issue contains just one study only - on Scottish dance in the Hebrides, written by Joan Henderson.

In the 1980s the authoress conducted extensive fieldwork in the Hebrides, and this study led to direct comparisons with the Scottish dance tradition on the mainland. Also, the religious differences existing between the particular islands produced marked differences in the traditional dance repertoires. This has enabled Joan Henderson to trace the flexibility of a living dance culture, as opposed to the set patterns of the cultivated and codified dance tradition of the mainland. Anyone interested in Scottish dance at a specialist level will enjoy this very well researched work.

ROBERT HARROLD



When sending in material for SIFD NEWS, please print
in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of people, places and dances, unless typed.

VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS, LONDON

Our season on this stage continued on 23rd June. Many thanks to Doina East European Folkdance Group and to the London Turkish Dancers who performed to a large audience on a hot summer's day. Doina were proud to wear their new genuine folk costumes from the Czech and Slovakian regions. Shortly after the show started, an odd character wandered on to the stage and firmly sat there for two or three dances, in spite of protests from the dance group. In the end, he was removed by some of the Gardens staff. Thank you, Doina and the London Turkish Dancers for your contribution to the entertainment.

On 29th June, a dry but cold Saturday, the Rainmakers from Letchworth, Herts. went on stage. This was a welcome return after two or three years' absence. Their programme included dances from West Europe, Mexico and Israel. Much to the dancers' surprise, the audience included some real Mexicans! "Jacob's Ladder" band played most of the music including a spot during the interval while the dancers changed costumes. Thank you to both the Rainmakers and to "Jacob's Ladder" for travelling quite a distance to perform at the Embankment Gardens.

On 30th June, Balaton Hungarian Group alternated with the Philhellenes Greek Dancers. Again there was a large audience including a number of Hungarians, amongst whom were four au pair girls newly arrived in London and who came up to talk to Balaton after the performance. There was a slight technical hitch at the beginning of the show when the taped music faded away, but the dancers continued until someone managed to restore the sound again. Thank you, Balaton and Philhellenes for being professional enough to cope with all eventualities!

KAY KEDGE

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DANCING WITH PROPS by Christine Hall (copyright reserved)

Zills

Finger cymbals, or zills (called "sagat" in Egypt), are shaped metal disks, usually made from brass, with rubber slings. You slip one on the thumb and middle finger of each hand, then hit them to get a high, metallic sound. To differentiate the rings of the left and right hand, you can vary the time the disks are in contact but this requires remarkable skills as we are talking about tiny fractions of a second only. It is much easier to play one hand with the two flats hitting each other and the other with the flat of one disk hitting the rim of the other. Less experienced dancers can cheat by using smaller zills on one hand and larger zills on the other.

Zills are played during the fast, lively part of a dance performance. If your routine involves a slow part, stop playing the zills, but keep them. If you continue with a different dance, slip them off and lay them on a table or on the floor near the musicians. It is a good idea to use zills for a lively finale of a Middle Eastern dance performance. If you play them at the beginning of your show, the audience will find the subsequent dances without zills rather dull. For group dances, play the same basic rhythm throughout the dance. Solo dances involve more elaborate patterns.

The best zills can be bought in Egypt or Turkey. Duller sounding, and more expensive, finger cymbals can be ordered from any British shop which sells musical instruments.

Sagat dances are almost exclusively performed by women; only occasionally will a Middle Eastern man play the zills.

CHRISTINE HALL

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sept.14th GILLINGHAM. Big Charity Cabaret Show in aid of children with cancer. With Christine Hall (belly dance and Chinese fans) and others. More performers of international dances wanted, especially in colourful costumes. Contact: Ray Griffiths, Gillingham Borough Council. Tel: 01634 282038.(?18th? Please check. Ed.)

Sept.20th WORTHING CELEBRATION DANCE for the Jubilee at The Barn, Field Place, The Boulevard (Nr. Durrington Station), Worthing, West Sussex. 7.00 to 10.30 p.m. Costume optional. £2.00 including refreshments. Information from Margaret Matthews, 01903 265879 or Jean Chennell, 01903 505763.

Sept.27th-29th DANCING/WALKING WEEKEND at Charlton Kings, near Cheltenham. There are a few vacancies. Contact Roy Clarke, 0181 367 2649.

Sept.28th DAY OF POLISH DANCING organized by Loidis I.F.D.G. Tutor: Janice Wrench. The dances will be from the "Jacy Tacy" repertoire, including some originally taught at S.I.F.D. Summer Schools. Venue: Lidgett Park Methodist Church, North Park Avenue (off Lidgett Lane), Leeds. Maps available. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £4.50 for S.I.F.D. members, £5.00 non-members. Bring packed lunch; drinks available. For further details, contact 01132 682340.

Sept.28th S.I.F.D. BEGINNERS-PLUS DANCE at Cecil Sharp House. See p.2.

Oct.12th S.I.F.D. GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE. See p.3.

Oct.26th RAINMAKERS 20TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE, 7.00-11.00 p.m. at Ickleford Village Hall. M.C. Jill Bransby. Band: "Cloudburst". Tickets: £5.00. For information, contact Richard Thom, 01438 316651 (may be Answerphone).

Oct.26th WOODVALE I.F.D.G. AUTUMN DANCE, 7.30-11.00 p.m. at Borough Green Village Hall. M.C.s: Jan Bryce, David McKie. Guest M.C.: Hugh Wood. Tickets £5.00. For more details, contact Alan Cant, 01732 883405.

Nov.1st-3rd BIANCA DE JONG AT BRECON. Residential weekend with Bianca's superb teaching of Balkan dances and opportunities for walking in a delightful area. For details, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Rd., London NW5 1DA.

Nov.30th SITTINGBOURNE. Belly Dancing workshop with Christine Hall. Adult Education Centre, 01795 425124.

Dec.7th ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY at Moorfields Primary School, London E.C.1. Contact: Irene Keywood, 0181 592 4427.



FESTIVAL IN MALLORCA

Anyone who is planning to go to Mallorca next year may be interested in the following:-

The 7th World Folkdance Festival, a biennial event, will be celebrated in Palma de Mallorca from 1st to 5th April 1997. The festival attracts mainly amateur folkdance groups from all over the world. More than 3,000 dancers, singers and musicians perform in the streets and in theatres.

Apart from the international audience, the event also attracts wide media coverage including television, press and radio from many parts of the world. The international competition offers cash prizes and trophies. For more information write to World Folkdance Festival, San Miguel, 30-4ºD, 07002 Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Fax: 34 (71) 71 35 45. Your group could participate.