

A Life





Of Dance

Nancy Morgan is a well known choreographer and respected instructor. Though she works mainly in the USA, she has recently linked to the Czeck republic and Tom Dvorak's events. Laurent wanted to find out more from this amazing lady....

Nancy Morgan was born in 1957 in Tampa, Florida and was one of four children. She says: "My childhood was not a happy one. My mother and I never got along and I ended up at 18 on the streets as she threw me out of the house." A difficult 18 months followed where a young Nancy lived in a dirty shack, bathed in rivers and had to steal food to survive. One night, she was assaulted at gun point and jumped out of a moving car to save her own life. At 19, she became pregnant and stayed for a while at a friend's house.

Nancy says: "My mother came by and promised me things would be better if I came home. My baby and I needed a home desperately. I moved back in." However, as before, the situation soon became untenable with more threats and insults exchanged on a daily basis. The crunch came when Nancy was forced to put the baby up for adoption as her mother threatened to throw both of them out on the streets if she did not agree. Nancy simply says: "I had no choice, I was 19. I cried most of that year away." She left home for good.

At 23, she knew she wanted to turn her life around and joined the Air force. "That was the best thing I ever did." A brilliant career in the Army followed with Nancy being

deployed twice (in Kuwait in 1991 when she won her first war medal and ten years later to Iraq). She says: "I had the honour of meeting George W Bush and his wife and they both signed my uniform collars, which made me the first person in US military history to have a uniform defaced by the President during War or any other time." She retired in 2006.

Some people would have been quite content with this string of achievements but not Nancy. Parallel to all this was her discovery of Country Western Dancing in 1990. She says: "I was not very lucky in life, and went through two abusive marriages. But I was in awe of the dancing, I did it all. Line dancing, two Stepping, Waltzing and Pattern Partner dancing...I showed up every day and danced, danced, danced."

In the late 90's, Nancy started competing. She remembers that "We bought our costumes off the shelf and they had to be Country." After taking her very first First place Trophy she continued to compete in couple while Line dancing in clubs and taking lessons.

In 1991, Nancy started to write choreographies with another choreographer Serena Cannon. She says: "From then, I started to compete in choreography as well."

In 1995, she started out as an instructor and brought dances to Tampa that are still popular today. Swamp Thang by Max Perry, Bump In the Dark by Jo Thompson and I'm A Cowboy by Nancy herself are a few that made the grade. She says: "I was never very conventional in my teaching. I like to make people laugh."

Nancy was also called to choreograph a show in Tampa, taught many times at the illustrious JG2 event and has met many stars like Randy Travis, Willie Nelson and Charlie Daniels.

Today, Nancy is a happily married woman. She says: "I met my husband in 1999 and we got married in 2001. We moved to Arkansas and it is very peaceful here. I could never imagine living anywhere else."

Nancy embodies the true spirit of a dancer. Her life has had its share of ups and downs but it can be said that dance played a part in finding happiness. Nancy Morgan is a true Line dancer and today, she is spreading her enthusiasm and energy throughout the world.

But her personal story continues in the most amazing way as the next pages are about to reveal....

Miracle





Tim and his son



Tom Dvorak



Nancy and Tim

in Prague

You have just read all about Nancy and her incredible life. Well, it gets better... And all thanks to Line dancing and a gentleman called Tom Dvorak.

In 2008, Nancy was invited by Tom to the Czech republic. Readers of Linedancer have already been introduced to Tom and the city of Pisek where he comes from. It is fair to say that Tom is trying hard to raise Line dance's profile and does extremely well as a dance ambassador.

Nancy says: "When I was invited I was very nervous. There I was in a country when I knew no one. I should not have worried as soon as I arrived I was welcomed like one of the family. That first time I taught about 140 people and I gave Tom a binder full of dances, both old and new from every choreographer I could think of." This first meeting would cement what would become a true friendship between Nancy, Tom and it seems many dancers in the Czech republic.

She was invited again in 2009. Nancy takes up the story. "I taught at the Louisiana Pisek dance Event in October this year. There were well over 200 dancers there this year, about double from last time, a great sight to see. This was also the first time a Line dance competition was held there and with over 75 entries from ages six to 80, it was a definite success. Nancy says: "I was

actually thrilled to see that thanks to Tom there were a lot more styles of dancing the Czechs could learn. Jazz, Ballet, Flamenco and belly dancing to name but a few!"

Once the event over, Nancy was invited to the Tylova Secondary School where she taught more dancing to eager young pupils. She says: "They had so much fun, it was just great to be there. I taught them Comic Strip, Cotton Eyed Joe, Cupid Shuffle and Just Mad." She also learnt on that trip how much the Czechs loved Maggie G. She says: "They LOVE Irish dancing, another form of dance altogether which you can also learn there."

From there, Nancy went on to Prague for another dance event. She says: "What happened next happened in Prague, and in a way, it is all thanks to Tom, for inviting me there and for me being at the right time in the right place."

And then a miracle happened. A true miracle for Nancy.

She says: "I received an e mail and as I read it, I felt overawed. A man told me that he

had been adopted and was born on the same day as my baby. I wrote back with some adoption information. He wrote back with some of the things he knew about. I went to his Facebook, saw his picture and could not believe it. I knew that was him, my long lost child. My son. His name is Tim Sloan and I had not seen him for 32 years, since the day he was taken from me. He had found me because my name was known thanks to Line dance." To add to Nancy total delight she also found out she was a grandmother.

"I have talked to Tim every day since. He told me he had looked for me all of his life. I was never able to have another child after him so I finally feel whole, I have my son back, I am blessed."

Nancy has come full circle. From tough beginnings, she shaped a great career for herself, has become a name in Line dance circles and now her private life is a happy, full one. She concludes: "Dance has always been everything to me and in a way, it is thanks to dance that my own son found me again. I am so grateful to God and those who are my friends and have supported me throughout all those years."