

Always Leave a Little Sparkle Wherever You Go...

There are **defining moments** in our lives that change **who and what we are**. My decision to not listen to what the world told me to do and to follow my own heart and be who God destined me to be...was one of those magical instances **that would change my life forever**.

And so it is... Here is my story ~ I hope it will inspire you to listen to that small still voice inside you that knows. **Yes, you beautiful woman** - I'm talking to you -

You - the one that yearns for something more; you - the one with the **hidden treasures of the heart**; you - the one that knows who you really are and **what you are truly capable of**... yes - You!

Three key figures in my life told me I couldn't dance. I was teased as a little girl, was pulled off the stage in a middle of a ballet concert and told by several others that I didn't have the ability to move.

For years, this imprinted in my mind that I couldn't do the very thing that my mind and body instinctively knew how to do. It touched my soul to move to beautiful music... it made me feel light and happy... and yet there were all these forbidding voices inside my head that said that I couldn't do it; that I just wasn't good enough.

As a teenage girl I took a course in dance lessons or two, but the rooms were so overcrowded that I didn't have the space to develop my creativity and to step into my genius.

After having an exciting romantic interlude with a suave Frenchman (who incidentally) also implied that I wasn't getting the moves fast enough - I got fed up and returned back to SA where I made enquiries to attend a dance school.

I walked into the studio, demanding no tacky sales proposals and asked what the course would cost. Maurice, the dance owner at the time, asked to take me for a spin around the floor and it went graciously actually, stupendously well. Well, I was offered a **position on the spot** - (Little did I know that he was looking for a female dance teacher at the time). Oh my word - **talk about serendipity!** This was soooooo meant to happen.

And so my dancing career got started up... being the ambitious person I was - I stayed there only for 8 months, then got trained up as a qualified dance instructor and started my own Latin American Dance Studio (despite once again being told I couldn't do this).

And so "Brazilia: - my gorgeous sparkling star was born - The electrifying venture that changed my life. Not only did I out do myself and fulfil a lifelong ambition, but I got to meet my partner there and a whole host of other wonderful people, that still continue to be my friends to this day.

At one time I had close on 180 students at any given moment and was told that it was one of the most energetic, vibrant dance studios of its time (as suggested by the student following). Brazilia was not only a huge amount of fun, but also a brilliant success where I got to put a smile on the face of more than 7000 people throughout SA and exceed my dreams of performing live on stage.

My fabulous "workdays" consisted of doing sassy dance teambuilding programs; teaching kids some "à la mode" moves (at more than 12 schools in the peninsula); and I was able to strut my stuff with glitter and diamante at sparkling fundraisers and other showbiz events during my 12 year reign.

(The most glamorous being **dancing on tables for cosmetic houses**; teaching gorgeous models **how to move**, dancing on wine barrels in **movie productions** and being interviewed on my favourite radio **talk show**). Talk about 'wow'.

Top Billing Magazine, Fair Lady, Style, Die Kat were also gracious in providing me with huge exposure with full colour pages in their magazines. **I-Entertainment** likewise invited me to do a **TV talk show** which was awesome.

To add to this thrilling time of my life, I was also sought out to do choreography for several International TV Production Companies; 2 of which, invited me to be one of their latin dance performers in their commercials as well. Lights. Camera. Action. I felt like a dark-haired **Marilyn Monroe** celebrity with all the attention!

I'm not sure if the highlights of my dancing career were the showbiz events, the snazzy dance lifts, seeing my name in lights, the dazzling corporate functions, or the prestige of being invited to put together a dance production for the Far East – I'm not sure – but I do know that it was a grand, grand time of my life – and the experiences were magnificent, beyond measure.

This enchanting season has now come to an end and has transformed itself into another invigorating adventure ~ I now use hip shaking and shimmying of shoulders for government seminars and **women's empowerment** workshops. And once again it is proving to have its own rewards in developing potential and inspiring women to greatness; Every woman is encouraged to **power up, take control and elevate herself** to splendour. And they do! ☺

“Surround yourself with the **dreamers and the doers**, the believers and the thinkers, but most of all surround yourself with those who see **the greatness within you**, even when you don't see it yourself.”

- Edmund Lee

In the words of Les Brown the famous world renowned international speaker whose course I recently attended, said:

“I tell you my story, not to impress you, but to impress upon you... that believing in yourself works.”

Had I not taken the chance – I would never have known **the sweet taste of victory**. I would never have known what it means to really live fully alive!

I conclusion **I am the heroine of my own life**. It took me a long time to get there, but I can honestly say now that I like myself and am **proud of what I've achieved**. Despite the fear and uncertainty I still got up, showed up and took the courage to take a great step into the unknown - And in doing this - it opened up a world that I could never have imagined or dreamed would come to pass.

I did it. I succeeded and I **have story to tell**. And you can have all this **in your own way too**. And for those of you who are sitting on the fence or have a fear of the unknown, I leave you with this...

“Until one is committed there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, **always ineffectiveness**. Concerning all acts of initiative there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans:

That the moment one definitely commits oneself, **then Providence moves too**. All sorts of things **occur to help one** that would never otherwise have occurred...

A whole **stream of events issues from the decision**, raising in one's favour all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamt **would have come his way”**

- W H Murray

You can be and do more than you ever believed possible. Your time is now. I urge you to press forward and let out the champion within. Reach for that prize, your victory, your dream – **your pot of gold** is awaiting you at the end of the rainbow...

Go Forth and Take it!

Yours in Glitter

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