

Frequently Asked Questions

About

Israeli Dance Plus!

What in the world is going on here?

This is Israeli Dance Plus!, a session of recreational Israeli and other dancing. Everyone is welcome! Please read on.

How do people know what to do with their feet?

Many of them don't. The rest know this particular dance and are doing its steps.

What do you mean by "this particular dance?"

The dance that belongs with the song now playing. Each dance is about three minutes long and has its own name, music, and steps. So at any one time everyone in the room is theoretically doing the same thing. In the course of an evening we play about sixty different dances.

How does anybody learn sixty different dances?

It's much easier than it sounds—you could learn a dozen dances tonight! The dances are built out of a few basic steps and everything repeats several times during the music. By the way, no one knows *all* the dances we play; if you did every dance, you wouldn't have time to meet people and socialize and make friends.

OK, how do I learn a dance?

There are two ways. First of all, we teach dances at every session: Somebody stops everything, asks people to make a big circle, and shows the dance step by step. Every night we teach two or three dances. So get in the circle and pay attention to the teacher! (If you *don't* feel like learning the dance, we beseech you to be as quiet as possible so people can hear the teacher.) Every dance taught will be played again later the same evening and most will be reviewed the next week.

So what's the second way of learning a dance?

By watching. During the early part of the night dances are easy enough that you can learn the pattern without being taught. Lots of people are doing this, just following along and learning. Find somebody knowledgeable to watch. Most experienced dancers will be happy to dance next to you and talk you through dances as they are played. (Look on the stage for more flyers about folkdance rules of the road.)

Can I just do that all night?

Absolutely. There's just one catch: as the night goes on, the dances get harder. The level gradually progresses toward fast, complex, or otherwise tricky dances. Don't worry—you'll be doing them soon, since you'll learn how to pick up harder dances. And if all else fails, it's always fun just to watch.

What if I want more teaching?

From time to time we have special sessions for beginners; look for our announcements. And don't hesitate to demand these sessions if there aren't enough of them! Also, there are also lots of folkdance sessions around the city, some intended primarily for beginners. Check out the flyers on the stage or ask somebody official-looking for suggestions.

How do I know what dance is playing?

The projected display shows you the past, present, and future: You can see the names of the most recent dances, the dance now playing, and the ones that are coming up. The colors tell you whether it's a circle dance, a line dance, or a partner dance. Be sure to find a partner for the dances listed in red!

Find a partner?

You heard me! When a partner dance is taught or played and you want to try it, you need a partner. To get one, proceed toward a likely looking person (men or women can do the asking, by the way) and choose from the following: "Want to learn this?" "Do you know this one?" "Do you have a partner?" "Would you like to try it?" After the dance, you can continue with "What's your major?" or whatever.

Once I know the dances, how do I ask for a specific dance?

In the corner of the room you'll find a whiteboard where you can write your requests. You are encouraged to put down the names of dances you want to do, and we'll try to work in as many as possible.

So this is "Israeli Dance Plus!" What does the "Plus!" mean?

It means that we don't limit ourselves to recreational Israeli dance! We do a little bit of folkdancing from all over the world and we dabble in other genres too. Sometimes we do this at special sessions, sometimes mixed in with our regular session. Watch for special announcements and listen to the music!

What if I hate it?

Impossible. Anyway, if there's something you think is particularly bad (or good!) be sure to let us know. You can email info@israelidanceplus.com with your comments and suggestions. Or just talk to us. We need input from newcomers desperately; we already know what the old-timers think. And be sure to visit our website: <http://www.israelidanceplus.com/>

What do I do next week?

That's easy: come back! Next week some different dances will be played, but many will be the same. That way you can practice what you know and learn some new ones. Or you can come just because there are a lot of people having a good time. Either way, it's a pretty good evening for five bucks.