

PRESS RELEASE
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Contact:
Doree Clark, 415-254-4250
or Mary Currie, 415-793-8420

**Celebrating their 30th Anniversary, the *Don't Quit Your Day Job Dancers*[®]
Present THEATER OF DREAMS**

May 31 & June 1, 2018, Showcase Theater, Marin Civic Center, San Rafael, 8 pm

Join **The Don't Quit Your Day Job Dancers** in celebrating their 30th anniversary as they present the original "dansical" **THEATER OF DREAMS** on Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 8 pm at the Showcase Theater, Marin Civic Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA. Tickets are \$30. Purchase online at tickets.marincenter.org or visit or call the Civic Center box office at 415-473-6800. Note: service fees apply.

What if some celestial event opens a doorway and from a space in-between - where reality and magic touch - magical creatures wander into this world? Will we find ourselves enchanted, shimmering with wonder, where we are everything of possibility? **THEATER OF DREAMS** is about incredible coincidences and the finding of things lost. It's about time travel, guardian angels, and fairies. It's about dreams that feel like reality, and reality that feels like a dream.

Come be inspired!

Celebrating 30 Years, 1989 to 2019

The Don't Quit Your Day Job Dancers really began when Doree Clark started teaching Luigi jazz classes in a small dance studio over a bagel shop on 87th street in New York City. Migrating to California in 1987, she wanted to continue teaching and capturing the same feeling she started growing in her classes in NYC – the feeling that we all have something to say, and that anyone can dance – and Doree has the skill, vision, and patience to teach any one to dance. In 1989, Doree founded the Marin County-based Don't Quit Your Day Job Dancers (DQYDJ Dancers), while holding down her then day job as a Dance Therapist. The idea was to bring the thrill and voice of dance to those with experience and those with absolutely no experience. DQYDJ Dancers are just ordinary people that have the courage to be extraordinary. The DQYDJ Dancers became a Bay Area phenomenon and remain so today.

Doree Clark is first and foremost a dancer herself. Starting at the age of 13, she competed in ballroom dance competitions with her brother Jonathan. In 1968, they won NYC's prestigious Harvest Moon Ball in Fox Trot and the All-Around Championship.

"I think dance and the performing arts has always been a platform for my voice and the voice of others. It's a way to share stories, life lessons, and love. I always wanted to entertain people but, of equal

importance to me, I wanted to share stories with audiences, to have them see through my eyes, to have them connect and be inspired. The DQYDJ Dancers are my dear friends. I always tease them that they are my super power and it has been through them that I have been able to do this awesome work.”

1989 to 2001

The first public performance of the DQYDJ Dancers, “Dance at the Gym” was held in the Marin Headlands, in a funky artist warehouse with 35 dancers. The company grew to 140 dancers, from age 6 to 70, representing a range of day jobs – from general contractor to attorney to administrative assistant to store clerk and more. The company performed annually to sold-out shows at San Francisco venues including the Cowell Theatre and The Palace of Fine Arts.

Doree created shows that were electrifying, big and brassy and wildly funny, sexy and colorful. From duets to choreographed numbers that included the entire company, the idea was to have fun, no matter your talent level.

Using dance classes- Jazz (beginner to advanced), Ballroom, Tap, Musical Theatre, Belly Dancing – as the foundation from which each show was built, and every class would become part of the show and specialty numbers would be added into the mix. With a company of 140, it takes a lot to bring a performance to the stage. Each show was executed with great detail – using volunteers from the company to design and sew costumes, build sets, stage manage, do hair and make-up and a whole lot more.

This was the era where the shows were like Barnum and Bailey’s extravaganzas (minus the animals).

2002 to 2014

In 2002, Doree decided to shift her focus away from the huge shows, and open her own dance studio in Sausalito. The studio was transformed into a 100-seat black box theater for the company’s bi-annual shows. Doree dubbed her performance “dansicals” – to describe their blend of music, dance, and whimsy. The DQYDJ Dancers trimmed down to about 60 dancers. Using this more intimate setting, it became important for Doree to tell stories and tell them the way she saw them. This was a wildly creative time for the company, where telling stories that had life meaning took the lead and was easier to do with a smaller number of dancers in a intimate setting.

2015 to Today

The DQYDJ are 25 strong now, performing one show a year at the Marin Civic Center’s Showcase Theatre, San Rafael. Doree’s focus shifted once again. Her stories became more personal, with a desire to connect to the audience through the life experience that we all face - using dance as her canvas. Her shows tell a story, they have a theme, they have a point, they make you think about what you believe. The stage becomes a platform for what needs to be said about life.

THE 2019 DON'T QUIT YOUR DAY JOB DANCERS ARE:		
Name	Day Job	Years with the DQYDJ
Doree Clark	Director/Choreographer/Teacher	30
Shantala Davies	Dancer/Choreographer/Teacher	9
Helga Dietrich	Executive Assistant	25
Jan Rose Distel	Producer Age with Attitude TV	10

Roni Douglas	Dentist	7
Judy Edghill	Office Manager	30
Vanessa Franco	Preschool Director	6
Charles Gardiner	Environmental Consultant	30
Susan Gladwin	Sustainable Business Strategist	4
Jennifer Gotti	Human Resources Manager	6
Deborah Hodson	Executive Search Consultant	12
Lisa Hoytt	Photographer/ Journalist/ Actress	2
Trevor Hughes	Independent Consultant	2
Sara Kendall Gordon	Dr. of Acupuncture/Functional Medicine	6
Gene Karas	Matthew Turner Boat Builder	30
Sumi Lewis	Email Marketing Consultant/Designer	12
Celeste Lococo	Accountant/Dance Teacher/Choreographer	18
Carole Lombard-Hughes	Personal Assistant	30
Katherine Marcus	Elementary School Teacher	2
Edward Phillips	Contract Administrator	1
Larissa Pommeraud	E-Commerce Executive	1
Amy Rankin-Williams	Nonprofit Executive and Professor	3
Cynthia Segal	Lawyer	16
Michael Serecsko	General Contractor	30
Ingrid Serenne	Pilates Teacher/ Choreographer	30
Lisa Star	Admin/Singer/Voice Actor	30
Bill Stephens	Superior Court Judge (Retired)	5
Luciana Welch	Customer Service Manager	17

Doree Susanne Clark

A child prodigy, Doree Susanne Clark, partnered with her brother Jonathan, became a ballroom champion at age 16 when the couple won the prestigious Harvest Moon Ball. This led to a guest appearance on the Ed Sullivan show, and quickly after that, Doree had her own television dance series entitled "Watch Your Step."

Doree and her brother toured the Northeast, opening for blues great Billy Daniel, and starring in Philly's Fever, a salute to Pete Rose. At the same time, Doree developed her choreographic and dance skills, training with teachers such as Luigi, Chuck Kelly, Phil Black and Anahid Sofian.

In 1987, Doree moved to the west coast. She began by offering a few classes in jazz and ballroom, attracted some wildly dedicated students whose talent ranged from strictly beginner to the professional dancer, and from this motley crew fashioned a dance company, The Don't Quit Your Day Job Dancers.

The Don't Quit Your Day Job Dancers are a Bay Area phenomenon. The characteristics of a Doree Clark show are high energy, fun, sexy, provocative, emotional, beautiful, and entertaining. Doree's ability to choreograph for dancers at every level while simultaneously entertaining and stimulating her audience is a unique and wonderful gift. Doree is continually evolving as a choreographer, and her most recent shows have introduced theatricality into dance. Each act tells a story through a number of different

dances, and some acts include speaking parts as well. Musical dance theatre may well be evolving and revitalizing itself through Doree's enormous creative vision.

A Few Quotes from DQYDJ Dancers – Past and Present

Current Dancers

Judy Edghill - "I am so proud to be dancing with Doree and the Don't Quit Your Day Job Dancers! I always feel happy, inspired, moved and grateful when I am at class, and the thrill of performing is always exhilarating! Doree is a genius!

Vanessa Franco - "This will be my 6th year dancing in one of Doree's "dansicals" and I absolutely love it. I had no dance training prior yet when I'm in one of Doree's classes or shows I feel that anything is possible. Doree knows how to gently nudge us out of our comfort zone and provide a safe platform to express our inner dancer and creativity. Doree is charismatic, creative, patient, warm, funny, caring and one of the most inclusive and accepting people I know - people are not turned away from her classes or made to feel less than - she accepts you as you are. I have also met some amazing people in her dance company and made some very good friends. Doree should be on the top 10 list of most influential women of this generation. She touches the lives of not only the people who dance with her but the audiences too- her stories are always magical, inspiring and uplifting!"

Gene Karas – "I remember the show where I was a wanna be SUPER HERO. I roller skated across the Palace of Fine Arts stage chased by another dancer. I was going pretty fast and almost skated off the stage. Thanks to another dancer who caught me and keep me from ending up in the audience."

Sumi Lewis – "Our current show is called "Theater of Dreams", but that is what every show is to me. Being a member of this company has given me the opportunity to express myself creatively and find a place where people come together to create a new and completely original show every year. And somehow, the end result is always magical! Doree has incredible vision, and it is such a delight to help her realize that vision by designing costumes for the company, creating all types of characters with her direction, and performing to my best potential. Dancing with The Don't Quit Your Day Job Dancers gives everyone the opportunity to dance, make wonderful friendships, and grow and gain confidence in all aspects of life. From my first tentative class with Doree to portraying Wonder Woman, I have had an incredible journey and look forward to what is to come."

Carole Lombard-Hughes – "I had never danced in my life and actually it had never even occurred to me. All of my friends were dancing with the DQYDJ Dancers, so I thought "what the heck?" and gave it a shot. The next thing I know Doree said we be dancing in the next show. Over my dead body said I. But somehow I made it on stage. And then the magic happened. "The roar of the crowd, the smell of greasepaint" and I was hooked 30 years later I am still doing it and am ever so grateful to Doree for making my life so special.

Cynthia Segal – "I will never forget how nervous I was going to that first tap class at StageDor 16 years ago. I had never danced before but always wanted to learn. What I found was total support and a family of friends who I treasure. With DQYDJ Dancers my love of performing found expression. I have been a wayward nun, Carmen Miranda, and a guardian angel. Dancing with DQYDJ Dancers has allowed

me to turn off my brain and turn on my soul. Doree, to you with love and gratitude for a wonderful ride.”

Lisa Star – “One thing is that Doree Clark has created a community of passionate performers and given them wonderful stories to bring to life for 30 years... And my life has been enriched beyond measure to have the experience. And where else would I have the opportunity to jump out of a cake in front of 1,100 people!”

Former Dancers

Mary Currie - “I had never danced a step in my life. Doree and I met in NYC and then, after we both moved to Marin, she somehow convinced me to join her Beginner Jazz class. I was sacred, really sacred, but I did it. My two left feet began to move. It was a thrill and kind of terrifying all at once. Doree always made me feel free of my fear.”

Adam Dale - “I remember one year when we had to write a little bio of ourselves for the program and I wrote: Adam Dale, Skinny as a rail, Can't really dance but at least I'm not in jail.”

Ralph Parker – “Every morning, I am still doing my wonderful DQYDJ Dancers warm-up exercises that I did at the beginning of every class, and before every show, (most memorably at the Palace of Fine Arts.) Keeps me limber, active, safe, and young!

Madeline Schaider: “One of many life lessons learned from dancing with Doree and the DQYDJ dancer for over 20 years. No matter what happens, keep smiling, dancing and movin'! Came in really handy when my skirt came off in a Swing Dance number – I just kept dancing and everyone thought it was part of the Act. Great life lesson to remember – it has come in handy over the years in daily living! Best years of my life dancing with Doree!”

Patricia Ter Heun: “A few of my treasured memories: I liked the time that Jasper (one of our now former dancers) put on the wrong costume and had to rush back to the dressing room so the guys could help him out of that costume and into his DRESS with Bonnet for his next number. Or there was the time I started my flamenco dance but the curtain didn't open and then it flew open with a woosh and almost knocked me off the stage. Feeling of God and compassion for humanity standing reaching for the heavens when playing an Angel in the show Angels and Demons.”

Debi Thiel: “Doree's jazz classes were grouped by ability, Jazz 1 being for beginners all the way up to Jazz 4 for advanced dancers. I started in Jazz 1 and over several years, had worked my way up to Jazz 3. I wanted so badly to be in Jazz 4. That next year I worked really hard on my dancing skills, taking private lessons, etc. The day she told me I had graduated to Jazz 4 was one of the happiest days of my life! I was so proud of myself. One of the greatest highlights of my life was dancing in the front row of a Jazz 4 routine on the stage of the Palace of the Fine Arts! I will carry those memories with me for the rest of my life.