



1) **Where do you live?**

Jo and myself live in a little village called Verwood which is situated on the South Coast of England just before you reach a town called Bournemouth which is right on the Beach.

2) **When did you start dancing and how did that happen?**

I started Line dancing in 2002 after my mum had a group of local Line dancers to do a demo and teach at her Birthday party. She was keen to start dancing full time after that, so much so she convinced the group (Marshalls Linedancers) to start an absolute beginners class right across the road from where we lived. Mum dragged me along to the first session, I had no choice but to go along. To be honest I thoroughly enjoyed my first proper experience line dancing because I think I was good at it and picked it up fairly quickly. I think that's why I have stuck with it to this day because it is the only thing in life I have really ever stuck at. When I was younger I used to play instruments, Guitar, Violin and joined other youth clubs but never really stuck at it. Line dancing is funnily enough the only thing I have seen through.

3) **What is the first dance you ever learnt?**

The first dance I ever learnt was California Freeze. I still teach this dance to my absolute beginners but vary the tracks to keep it interesting and keep the beginners interested.

- 4) **Where is the most unusual place you have ever line danced?**
The most unusual place is probably Bournemouth Pier. I filmed one of the LDF dances down there a few years back and had some unusual looks while filming it.
- 5) **Does anyone else in your family have the line dancing bug? If so, who?**
Mum Angela, and my Wife Jo both Line dance. My Mum introduced me to line dancing originally. After a couple of years break from dancing she now comes to my classes and events which is great. I met Jo at the Great Dorset Steam Fair back in 2007 at a Line Dance display I was running. So yes that's 3 of us in the family who are Line dancers. Jo is also a very good teacher.
- 6) **What made you decide to choreograph, and what was your first dance?**
My choreography started around 2005/2006. I was listening to pieces of music and just experimenting with steps and sequences. At the time I didn't submit the dances to get published (I don't think I knew how to that at the time) but these dances were purely for my enjoyment to see if I could choreograph. After a while I wrote a dance called "Through The Grapevine" to the classic Marvin Gaye song. I decided to send this dance off and it was the first dance of mine to get published. This was a highlight for me and certainly a confidence booster to think I could do more of this choreography. For the first couple of years I was writing a lot to classic Motown tracks because that's what I was listening to at the time and not many dancers were coming out to this style of music. Other dances I wrote at that time were "Fool in Love" to Why do Fools Fall in Love by Diana Ross and also "My Lady Soul" to a track of the same name by The Temptations.
- 7) **What does line dance mean to you?**
Line dance is everything to me, it is literally my life. I do this as a full-time job so run 9 classes and then travel at weekends. The great thing about Line dance is that you meet so many different and wonderful people from the dancer, the artists, instructors and fellow choreographers. I wouldn't change it for the world.
- 8) **Describe yourself in 1 sentence.**
I am very loyal. Whatever I put my heart into whether it is dance, life or friendship I will always be very loyal.
- 9) **What does everyone need to know about you?**
Believe it or not I am quite a shy person. When I am 'out of the spotlight' and not teaching, I find it hard to approach people and talk to people which at times might come off as arrogant as I keep myself to myself. This is not the case; I am just very shy. When I get to know people it's a lot easier but initially I find it very hard.
- 10) **Do you have any advice or tips for anyone wanting to choreograph?**
Would say if you are starting to choreograph dances, make sure you choreograph for yourself. Make sure you write dances to music that inspires you and that you are passionate about. Don't over complicate them and make them "do-able". If you don't like the music and you are not passionate about the dance, then chances are not many other people will be. Do it for yourself. Keep it fun.