**The Cycle of Dance**

Do you have a dance plan? If you have just started your dance experience you trust your instructor and studio to provide some direction for your selection of dance types, participation in social or show experiences, and your instruction. As an amateur couple you respect your partner’s preference or skill and choose the primary dance styles to pursue. As a professional couple you do the same. As a pro-am partnership the professional tends to take the lead, but respect needs to be expressed to the amateur student since they are providing monetary backing for the plan to occur.

In the whole scheme of existence there is a life cycle. There is one in dance, too. It is a journey with possible detours and change of direction. You think you know where you want to go and choose your dances. You begin to build a foundation, identify your preferences and skills, experience and learn by your mistakes, then continue to mature and grow as you cycle through the process again and again. The concern is that with the excitement and emotional intensity of the dancing, students tend to forget that the money is a driving force to keep the cycle in motion and moving forward.

To instructors, studios and coaches:

1. Success is measured in time and repetition. If you want the student to return and be a happy customer with continuous financial investment, you need to behonest regarding cost for lessons and events.
2. Teach them about long range planning in the dance community detailing options about a) what is available, b) what it will cost, and c) what is best for them relative to budget and skill.

To the student, amateur, and professional:

1. Know your objectives, know your budget, and know where you want your cycle to travel. If for a year, for 5 years, or for a career, plan accordingly.
2. Be **honest** with yourself; get **trusted** input from an experienced professional regarding your skills and the best options in or outside your area.

Attached are two charts which have been useful and effective to me over the years. Remember: Honesty is the best policy. The hidden eventually comes to light, causing interruption or destruction in the cycle. Keep the path clear and moving.

*May your dance cycle be a happy and continuous one!*