



# *What Our Customers Say About High Desert Dance Company*

*May 2014*

[http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g32607-d6665695-Reviews-High\\_Desert\\_Dance\\_Company-Lancaster\\_California.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g32607-d6665695-Reviews-High_Desert_Dance_Company-Lancaster_California.html)

["Dance Lessons in the Desert"](#)

Reviewed May 20, 2014

*I like to travel and I love to take a dance lesson (ballroom) when I visit new places; so I've had the very interesting pleasure of "test driving" many teachers. But I live here in Lancaster and am happy to say that the best teacher I ever had teaches in Lancaster. I have taken lessons for years and find Tom (Doriski) to be able to figure out how to overcome any difficulty I am having with my "moves". I have seen him work to integrate first time beginners into group lessons attended by more experienced dancers with everyone learning and benefiting from the lesson. Really! First timers are actually dancing by the end of their first lesson - in group! Just imagine what even one private lesson could do for a person who is curious to learn. Tom is as capable with experienced students as he is with those new to dance. It is a real art to be able to teach ballroom effectively, and Tom is a great artist. He is also available to teach individuals or groups for special events (quinceanera, wedding, etc.). Whether you are interested in a single lesson or a series, group or individual, I highly recommend this dance studio.*

Visited May 2014

*December 2012*

*Tom,*

*Thank you again (words really aren't adequate), for your instruction. Without dance, Michelle and I would not have met. The rest is history. We'll be back soon ....*

*Best regards,  
Mike and Michelle*

*December 2012*

*Dear Tom,*

*I got back to Santa Fe, and promptly fell on some ice on a stone stairway after our first big snow. So I haven't danced until last night.*

*I took a swing class with a young couple who dance at a venue here called Odd Fellows. They are lovely dancers and need some work on their teaching skills. All of which brings me to why I am writing to you. Judy was right! She told me that you would spoil me for all other teachers. I'm really sorry that she is so on the money, because I cannot do what she does, and I regret that I will only have small, widely spaced out tastes of you from time to time.*

*Nonetheless..... My classes with you have done more to help me learn to walk on my two legs, one at a time, than 6 months of other teachers. What a joy those hours were for me! And some of the side effects are quite nice also. As I practice my UFFL's daily, I might, for the first time in my life develop a real waistline and hopefully if I grip my thighs enough and hold to my axis I could regain shapely thighs.... Ooooh My!!! At my age, these are small favors that are dear to this child.*

*My Very Best to You,*

**Karen Machon**

*September 2012*

*Dear Tom,*

*Thank you for teaching us our wedding dance. We really enjoyed ourselves on the dance floor that night thanks to you! Thank you for being such a gracious dance host too. We're looking forward to our next dance lesson....*

*Sincerely,  
David and Anne*

*September 2012.*

*Letter from 3 students of the Second Nature program in Oregon.*

*Student 1*

*Dear Tom, I am one of your many students. Although we have never met, I've never taken a dance class in LA, your lessons have found their way to the Oregon desert. I must say, that I have no idea how to cha cha, or samba, or waltz, or tango, or foxtrot, the extent of my dancing was ballet and tap until I was seven. The lessons I've learned from you go beyond dancing.*

*You've shown me the power of never giving up on someone who is willing to learn. You've shown me the importance of patience, getting angry will never help. Just as being polite doesn't help. Your humility, reliability, integrity and determination to help people by holding them accountable to high standards. Having a high moral code to live by is so important and rare. Dedication to people, always being on time, holding people to the same standard, consistently being patient, the importance of letting go and relaxing. The list could honestly go on for days. You have been a teacher for so many people. Every person Judy meets learns a lesson from you. I know you are a humble man so I presume it may take some time for all of this to sink in. It may be too absurd to comprehend the impact you are having on so many*

*people's lives. Thank you for being one of the best teachers I have ever had. Maybe one day I will stop by for a dance lesson.*

### **Your Student**

#### *Student 2*

*Thank you for giving me the confidence to take risks that I never thought I could.*

#### *Student 3*

*I left, came back six months later, Judy is still talking about you.*

*September 2005. Tom, Wow. There are no words to express what you have given me. My lessons with you have been amazing and important to me over these past several months for many reasons. It has been fun, not a word I use very often. I have loved every single hour of my lessons. You are a class act! As a teacher and as a friend. I will keep in touch. I definitely call for a lesson if I am passing through Lancaster. Judy Toothaker*

*April 2010. Tom, the preceding note I wrote 4.5 years ago just before I left southern California. I could have written those words today. I never thought when I left southern California in 2005 I would be flying back to Los Angeles International Airport regularly exclusively to take 4 hour dance lessons with you. With every lesson I am inspired and excited and I always share with you that it was the best lesson ever. Today was amazing. Challenging, Fun, Creative. Judy Toothaker*

#### *June 2009*

*Dear Thomas and Charlene,*

*Thank you so much for your help!! We could not do well on the wedding, but you two help us a lot ☺also. We are very appreciate to your gift. Love, Nobue Reed.*

*Hi guys. Thanks you so much for the help. Sorry we didn't do better on the dance. But we tried! Thank you, Michael Reed.*

*Dear Tom! Thanks so much! In the short time we've known you, you have taught us a lot and made a big part of our wedding reception a beauty. We enjoyed it greatly and hope that you had a good time, too. We look forward to learning more and having a ton of fun doing it. Thanks for helping make our big day special. Tom and Liz Co*

*Tom, Thank you so much for making sure that we didn't look like stiffs at our own wedding. Everyone loved our dance and we really enjoyed learning it. Daniel and Maria.*

*Tom. We wanted to thank you for all your hard work and energy you put into helping us with our Wedding Dance. It was wonderful and our guests loved it. It was a beautiful moment. Thank you. As soon as we get pictures, we will send one. Love Vidal and Rigel Ganbay*

*Dearest Mr. Doriski, Words can not express how much my Mom and I appreciate all the hard work you had put into teaching my friends and I the waltz for these past 5 months. As you know, it was difficult for my Mom and I to find a reliable teacher and we were ecstatic to find you. The waltz is something I will never forget. Thank you, so very much for making my special night even more memorable. I will forever miss each Wednesday afternoon and each Saturday evening when my friends and I tried to perfect the routine you taught us so patiently. Thank you for everything, and I'm looking forward to dancing in the future! Love Tiffany Benedicto*

*Tom, Thanks for all your time and patience with the teens. Alicia's dance looked so beautiful. All the teens enjoyed all the dance practices. They all had so much fun at your studio. You made dancing fun. Thanks, Juana Diaz*

*Rose, Thank you for all your time and patience with the teens. The surprise dance was great. Alicia had so much fun dancing she even wants to have dance class now. We all loved her moves. You work miracles. She had great moves on the floor. Thanks, Juana Diaz*

*Dear High Desert Dance Company: Thank you so, so, much for your wonderful gift and support. Your caring and thoughtfulness will be always in my heart. Until I'm older, I can't wait for the day to join your company. Love always and forever to all, Christiana Velazquez.*

*Tom, I had fun in samba class. Good to see you. You are an awesome teacher. So again, thank you! You made my day! Beatrice Purifoy*

*Thank you very much for helping us with my daughter's Quinceañera. Carmen Arevalo.*

*I can't thank you enough. People are coming up to me, congratulating us on how professional the performance looked. Mr. Gamez*

***Please Stop by the High Desert Dance Company Studio  
Location at 43423 Division St, Suite 206, Lancaster, CA  
or call (661) 940-6511***

