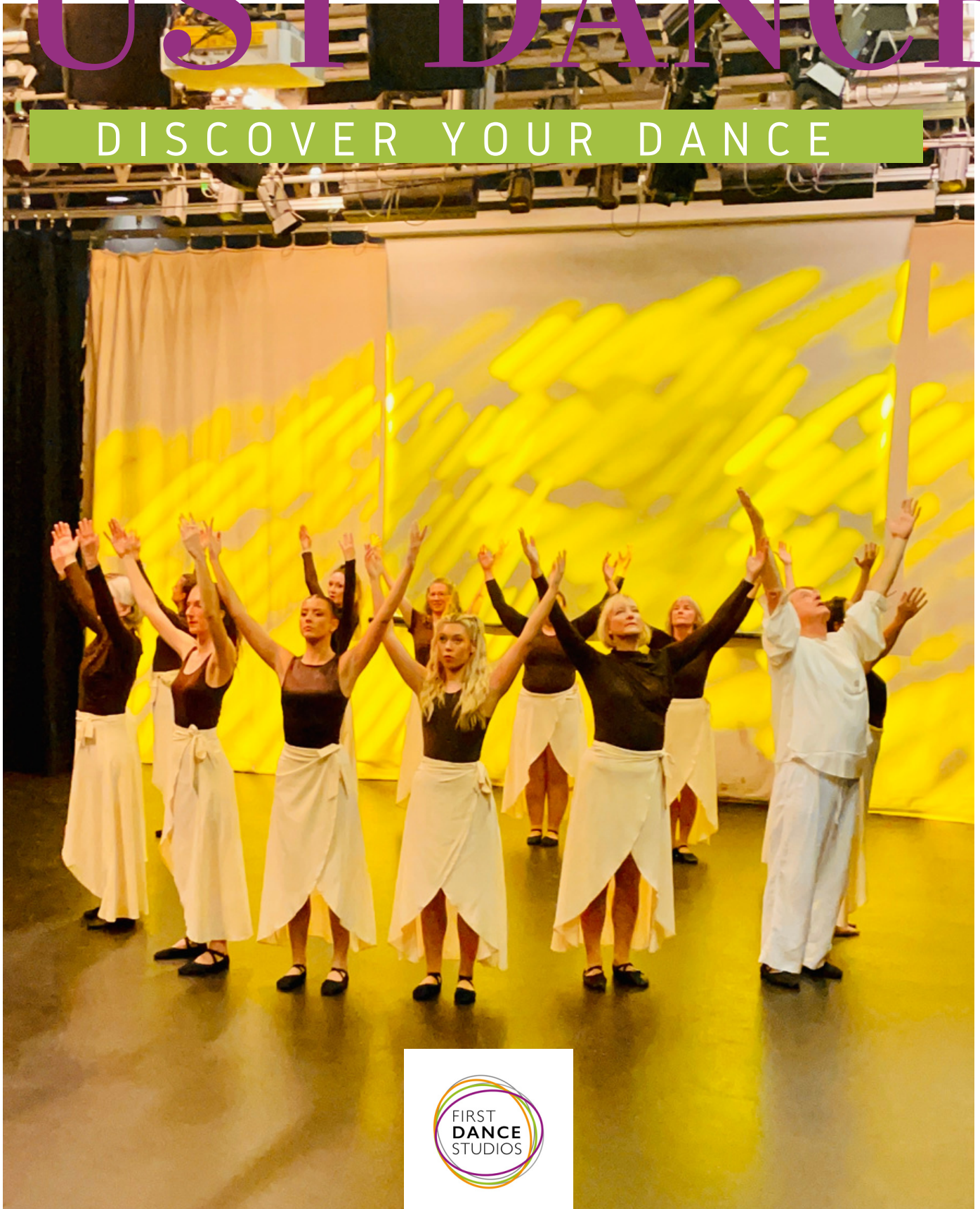


JUST DANCE

DISCOVER YOUR DANCE



DANCEATHON - INNOVATE- SING IT LOUD
LET'S DANCE - FRIENDS - DATES



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"I'm so grateful to everything you all do for the studio, to all the amazing teachers and to the people behind the scenes that keep the studio going. "



Dear FDS Family,
Welcome to the December Magazine. Have you got your mince pie and mulled wine ready to go? Then read away!

I can't believe how quickly 2022 has gone – we had the first four months of the year in proper “full-on show mode” and then we finally got to see “It's All About The Vision” on stage – how incredible and emotional was that!

We settled down to see in the summer with classes, courses and workshops and of course the first Vision Project, which people got involved in singing, dancing and art workshops. Autumn came, the Vision Project concluded on the day that we lost our Queen – an emotional year all round.

Onto November and we had amazing performances from our dancers and singers. Two pieces were showcased at Innovate 22 and the singers of First Voices sang out loud and proud.

What has been wonderful is how you have supported the studio, be it through coming to classes or coming to watch the shows, we wouldn't be here without you so thank you.

We have an exciting 2023 lined up with workshops, performances, new numbers and a lot of fun. More details to follow in the New Year and check out the timetable for a few small changes.

Thank you for your dancing, your singing, your friendship and support. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Emma
xx



EMMA BREWER

WHAT HAS BEEN WONDERFUL IS
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How amazing was our Danceathon? We all had the best time because we were dancing, singing and moving and because you were all there with us. It was brilliant!

Which dance, well-being or fitness disciplines did you enjoy the most? There were some choice routines, some amazing tunes and of course we raised a chunk of money for Woking Foodbank. Thank you everyone who contributed - we loved having you along.

A massive shout out to those new dancers and singers that came along. We hope you got a feel for our classes and our community. We love a bit of fun and make dance space for anyone who wants to join us.

We are so proud to have so many difference classes running during the week and in different locations. After almost 20 years we feel we provide a safe place for you to be you.

We have lots of further dance opportunities next year as well as shows and performances but more on that in 2023.



Let's Move it



Our annual Danceathon is a great way for you to experience an example of the different dance disciplines and classes we have on offer. From contemporary to commercial jazz and from general ballet to beginners tap all the way to advanced, we have a class to suit your movement needs.

In 2023 we aim to create more numbers with even more spice and have classes that cater to the all important technical needs of dancers as well as fun classes so you can just dance!





TAP TODAY

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Tap is (pull) back! Ok, that's already enough with the tap jokes but the great news is that our Technical Tap Queen that is Karen is back with not one but TWO TAP workshops this first quarter in 2023.

Tap dance is a super popular dance class at First Dance Studios and we all love it - my favourite tap step has to be that one in 42nd Street - those on a Saturday morning tap class know the one I mean, yep the one with the multiple toes. And because it is just so much fun we have now space for two workshops coming up.

So if you want to join in with our tappers then please check the dates and sign up. If you need shoes etc - we have a huge box of tap shoes at the studio so you can borrow them for the workshops and we offer advice on shoes and classes after the workshop. After all - when Julian Marsh is putting on a show, we grab our tap shoes and hoof it to the studio!

There are various tap classes each week that you can join which will suit your level. Tap dance classes are weekdays, weekends and evenings and daytime so when you feel the need to tap it out, join us!

Tap Basics - We run a beginners tap workshop and this year it is starting on Thursday 5th JANUARY at 8pm. This is a 6 week course. It is great for complete never-put-tap shoes on before people as well as those that used to tap dance but haven't done so in years or decades. Email info@firstdance.co.uk to save your spot.

Tap Basics +

After you complete the tap workshop join us as we take what you learnt and put it into weekly practice. This class is great for those that also have a little bit of tap knowledge. Technical steps as well as a routine are covered.

Intermediate/Advanced Tap

For those tappers that have quite a few hours and technical steps under their belt but are looking for a refresher to work those tap techniques to take you to the next level we have Intermediate/Advanced Course Starting 23rd February 2023. A chance to really drill down your technique to make each step really count.

[For a full view of the Tap Timetable then have a look here.](#)

[To see tap classes in action look at this video here.](#)





INNOVATE 22

Every year Dance Woking organises a show called Innovate. It is a mostly contemporary showcase performance and this year the theme was "New Beginnings" and it certainly was a new style that we saw with two of our amazing choreographers putting together some fabulous pieces. Artistic Award winning Creative Director of First Dance Studios, Emma Brewer and x7 times World Tap Champion Diana-Louise Towe brought together two groups that really danced something quite special. For those that went along to watch it live, thank you and what a way to spend an evening.



Emma worked on a piece called "Immersive" which was inspired by Van Gogh and his paintings and was full of free flowing movement. The ballet piece combined classical and contemporary dance. The piece was set to Luca Longobardi HCR Variation. The wonderful ballet dancers, some the first time performing with us successfully captured the dramatic essence of the musical beats and the powerful imagery of sunflowers blooming.

Diana worked on a piece called "Breaking Free" which represents the struggles and tough times that feature in everyone's journey to finding and achieving new beginnings. This piece conveyed an important message to the audience; despite the challenges we all face in life, there is always a way to break free, find the light and discover new and exciting chapters in our lives. The song choice was "Lovely" by Billie Eilish and Khalid and a wonderful use of prop that gave both strength and resistance to the piece summing it up wonderfully.

Thank you to all at Dance Woking for putting this fabulous showcase on once again.

DANCE SHOW

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



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Special Offer

FITNESS
FIESTA



We have a very exciting event in store for you all in January 2023. When you fancy trying out a fitness discipline with First Dance Studios, then come along and join us. Let's get into fitness in a fun, fiesta way!

This Fitness Fiesta is for everyone. Total beginners who might be a bit nervous about how to start. Let this be your year to start your fitness journey. And also for those that want to add in extra fitness into their workouts to spice it up a bit.

This fiesta focuses on a holistic approach to health and fitness so the whole event will be diverse with something for everyone.

On the Saturday 14th January Super Sophie will take you on an afternoon Fitness Fiesta. Sophie will talk you through health and fitness and what we do weekly at First Dance Studios so you can see the array of activities.

There will be an opportunity to work on a personalised goal setter so you leave with clear fitness goals (in my case, making my quad muscles stronger for grand jetes and my lats stronger so I can hold my ballet arms up).

Then there will be mini fiesta sessions covering

1. Cardio
2. Strength
3. Flexibility
4. Balance

All these are key for dancers and trust me when I say the exercises work!

There will be music, fun and games as well as a chance to ask Sophie about her fitness journey, what she has learnt and how to achieve key goals to the next level.

For £30 a whole afternoon of Fiesta and Fitness from our very own Fitness Superstar!

The Fitness Fiesta is an opportunity for you to learn how to do a proper squat (and I look at myself at this one because before doing fitness classes with Sophie I was squat cheating and so cheating my self!), how to get a clean and press, what actually is a mountain climber and no it isn't a goat, lower options for burpees (thank goodness) so that you know where your starting level is and how to level up.

Tasters from the fitness classes we offer will all feature including

- Bootcamp,
- Stretch Flow,
- Zumba
- Barre Fitness

ALSO you will be able to get

- 10% off future Fitness Fiestas
- A goodie bag
- Refreshments provided during the fiesta

Sophie sign us up and you can join in by emailing her on sophie@firstdance.co.uk



HARK THE FIRST VOICES SING



Well done to the First Voices Choir who performed for the first time with Grace Fletcher as the First Dance Studios new Choir Mistress. The choir worked hard on harmonies, solos, duets and much more to bring a selection to Christmas Cheer to everyone at St. Johns Church in West Byfleet. The fair was a success all round with delicious cakes (my fave was the Coffee Walnut - delish) and we even had a local councillor post about how amazing our singing was. His favourite was "Shadowlands" but we sang Festive favourites including;

"Silent Night," "The Christmas Song," and pieces such as "Waterloo," with everyone bobbing along to that one, "Lean on me" and more. Thank you to everyone who came to listen to us.

We always welcome new voices to the choir (don't worry about being able to read music, we just listen and learn) so join us every Wednesday evening at 7pm for an hour.



FILM NEGATIVE

FILM NEGATIVE

FILM NEGATIVE



Diana

DANCE

Chrystele by name and a genuine diamond dancer by nature. A spot on ballet teacher with parfait poise. Teaching with us since 2019, Chrystele is always encouraging and ensures we glissade assemblé correctly. Chrystele really brings a certain passion au metier and wonderful to watch. Always on pointe. And that is because she is our pointe person when it comes to pointe shows and learning how to dance in them!

Join Chrystele in her ballet classes every Wednesday morning.

Inter Ballet (barre) with Chrystele 10.30am

Pointework with Chrystele 11.30am

[See all classes here](#)

Ever since Diana joined the teaching team in lockdown 2020 her classes have really attracted some amazing new dancers. Diana who happens to be a x7 world tap dance champion (I know right!). Her choreography is hot, sassy and will make you a dance queen!

Diana has choreographed pieces for both the FDS show and the Innovate show.

Diana takes both contemporary and street/commercial jazz dance classes every Monday from 7pm.

[To find out more see here.](#)

STARS



Chrystele



FRIENDS FUN

The Winter Friends gathering took place at the Heather Farm Studios at the end of November and what a fun evening we had. It was a lovely chance for the Friends of the Studio to get together and grab a drink or two as we chat about the studio and events coming up.

This year we had a Christmas Quiz where everyone had to answer questions on our recent show we did at the Rhoda McGaw. Well do you know;

1. How many claps there were in the Shakin' number?
2. Who did the best run around backstage?
3. How many people were in the Tap Company number?
4. What the flower was called we all wore for the Ballet Number?

We had a winning group & a runner up group - more fun planned for next year!

Thanks for joining us! [For further details about the Friends please see here.](#)



IRIS



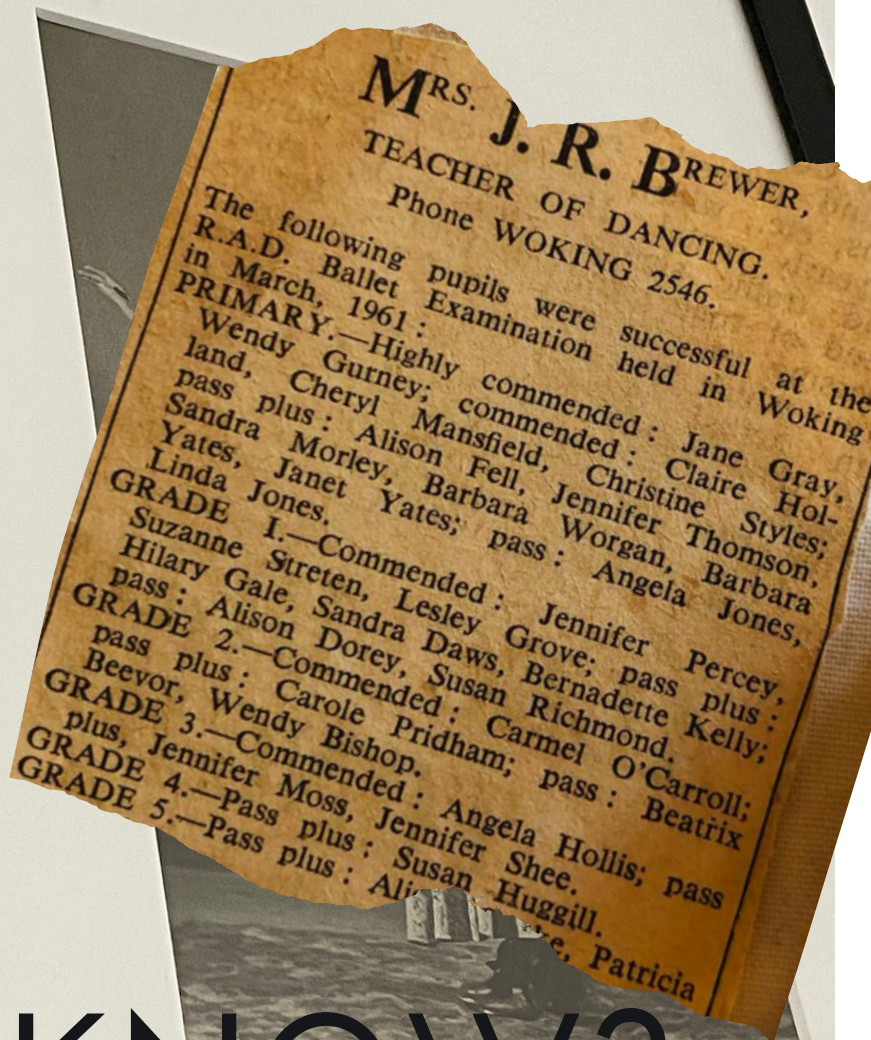
OUR SUPER STAR DANCER RETIRES

And so we say a sad and fond farewell to Iris, who has been dancing with us even before we were First Dance Studios. Over 40 years now! Iris, we have loved dancing, laughing and moving about with you. Always show ready, always fabulous and always amazing.

We had a fabulous celebration a few weeks ago, dancing to High Fidelity and you even had some Strictly Stars wish you farewell.

Iris, we wish you the very best and we will find a way to bring you back into all future shows - you can count on that!

From all of us at the First Dance Studios Family, we love you!



DID YOU KNOW?

For many of you that have been with the studio a long while or from Woking, may have heard Emma refer to Nanny Brewer. "Who is that?" you might ask. Well Mrs Jeanne Brewer was a local dance teacher here in Woking who taught ballet and tap. And yes she is Emma and Katie's grand mum! Dance is very much in those genes!

A little known fact was that Jeanne choreographed the community dancers for the 1952 Coronation of the Queen and full circle Emma is involved in the Coronation celebrations in 2023! Jeanne was a wonderful teacher and to this day people stop Emma and tell her that she reminds them of their dance teacher and they all stand a little taller. Well yes indeed! Jeanne remained deeply proud of her all her young dancers and their dance exam results would be published in the Woking press!

Two of our teachers, Karen and Emma, met at the dance floor and that was 40+ years ago! Jeanne keeps a watchful eye over us in dance class and I have to say I always pull up just that little bit more when I catch her eye. She would be so proud that the wonderful expression of dance is still going strong thanks to Emma and Katie. A very fine family tradition. Here's to another generation of dancers!

BEST IN DANCE CLASS SHOW

We love to dress up for fun or for fundraising
but which class are the best dressed?



[CLICK HERE TO SEE CHRISTMAS CLASSES](#)
[COSTUMES & CHOREOGRAPHY](#)



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COUPLES WITH CONFIDENCE

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our recent Wedding couples! First Dances and the team have been at various wedding fairs and tested cakes and visited venues in Surrey to keep up to date with all the wedding news. We have had so much fun teaching our couples and we even had our first COUPLES CONFIDENCE class workshop which was a roaring success.

Couples confidence is a great workshop where couples learn a few basic dance steps and turns that will look on any dance floor. So for example for balls, formal dances, cruises and yes of course weddings. We loved teaching it because we got to see many couples that had never even danced together before grow more and more confident and enjoy the music and make it a bit of a date!

The next COUPLES CONFIDENCE will be Sunday 12th February 2023 from 2-3.30pm. Email us on weddings@firstdance.co.uk

What makes a great wedding song?

1. Personal Meaning

The best songs for a first dance are those that mean something to you as a couple. Romantic, rock or fun genres all count because if you love it, you will rock the dance floor on your wedding day.

2. Be prepared to hear it 100+ times

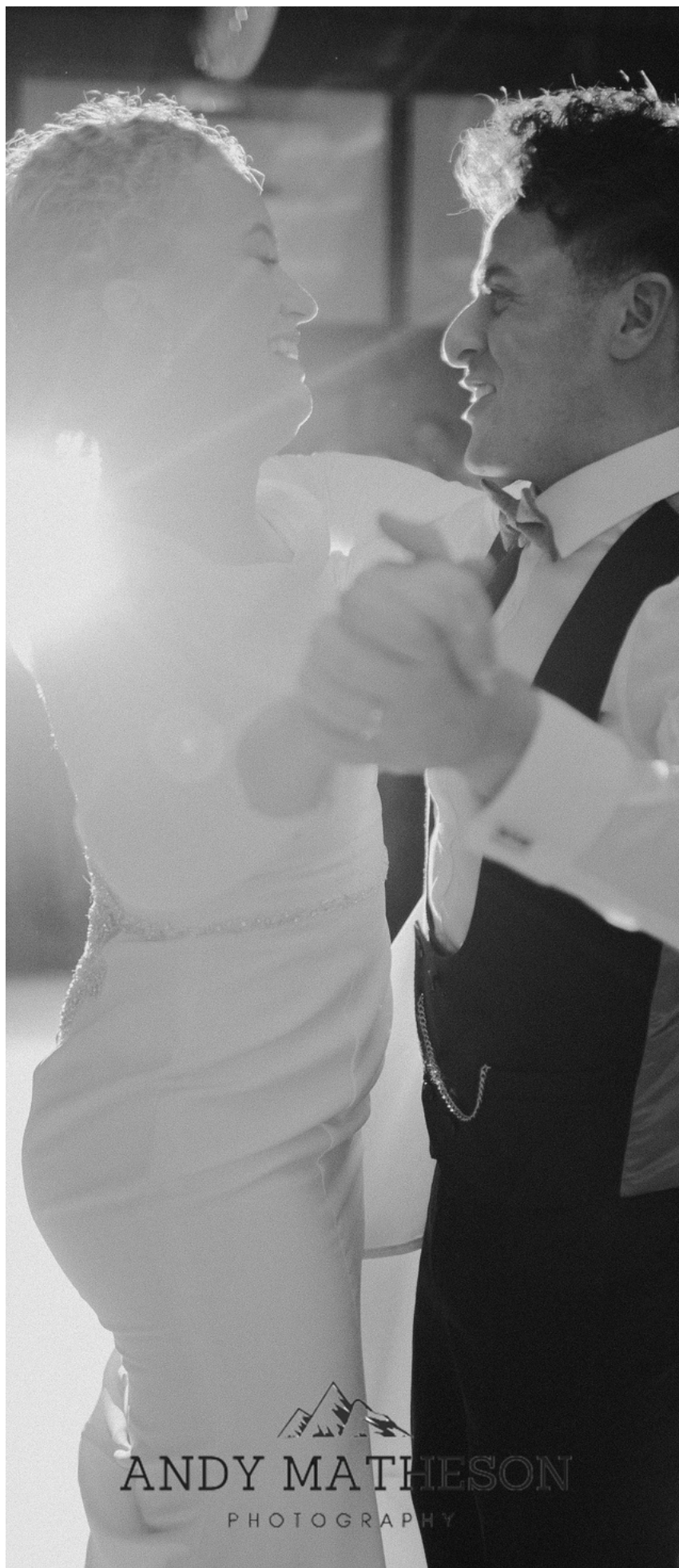
To get you both dance floor ready we will be listening to it 100+ times to feel it and be able to teach you a fabulous routine to it. Be prepared to listen to it while washing the dishes, washing the car or cleaning the house.

3. Practice

We take the learning of joy of the dance very seriously because your first dance is fun, personal and enjoyable to dance to. And if you are having fun, then so will your guests!

And we have some special sparkly dance moves for these couples. To see our latest couples go to our [insta link here.](#)

Let's dance together!





NEW DANCE DATES



FIRST DAY BACK AT THE STUDIO
WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2023



RECORDINGS AVAILABLE FOR CERTAIN CLASSES

PLEASE CONTACT [INFO@FIRSTDANCE.CO.UK](mailto:info@firstdance.co.uk)

NEW TIMETABLE IN JANUARY
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE TIMETABLE
& EVENTS, SHOWS PERFORMANCES
AND MUCH MORE

KEEP DANCING & SEE YOU IN 2023

XX

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