



With a passion for tropical dance

Tropical dance is a place to learn new dance moves. We were lucky enough to be able to sit down with the instructors of the classes and ask them a few questions. The interview was at Wayne's coffee and was in Swedish. Hector, one of the instructors, also spoke Spanish. This was special because not only was it translated from Swedish to English, but it was also translated from Spanish to Swedish, and then to English.

BY: PATRICK DURUSSEL. SUNDAY JOSEF ONYEDIKA & JULIE ARGAÑOSA ROCO

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELVES?

Lina: My name is Lina Törnqvist. Me and Hector Oviedo Abreu started Tropical Sundsvall together. I am from Härnösand and I moved to Sundsvall to study at the university. I finished last year and now work in Sundsvall. I love to dance. I love to dance to music from Latin America. It's really cool to meet new people students, regular folk, etc.

I have known Hector for five years. We started dancing together because we both love to dance.

Hector: I come from Cuba. I have lived here in Sundsvall for 6 years. I am a professional dancer. In Cuba I was in a big dance group and have won a Grammy. I also have a dance group here in Sundsvall, Cafe Colonial. I think it is great that we have so many different people that come to the dance lessons. The most people that come are from the university.

WHEN AND HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN DANCE?

Lina: I started dancing seven years ago. I started in a dance course in Härnösand. It was a salsa course with my mom. I had never danced before that, nothing. After that I went to more dance classes and attend a lot of salsa festivals in Sweden and in other countries.

Then Hector came to Sweden and he was my instructor for a course that I took. Two years ago we started Tropical Sundsvall.

Hector: I started dancing in Cuba since I was young. I went to a dance academy in Cuba. Then I danced in multiple different groups in Cuba. I also taught multiple course while I was living in Cuba. I have worked with dance my whole life. When I moved to Sweden I wanted

to keep dancing and keep teaching dance. I started working with another instructor. This is when me and Lina met. From there, we started Tropical Dancers.

WHO INSPIRES YOU TO DANCE?

Hector: My mom, my father, my whole family. Everyone dances in Cuba. We learn when we are small.

Lina: When I started I dancing I didn't know much. I liked the music that was glad with lots of energy. There is one dance pair that has inspired me and they are from the US.

HAVE YOU BEEN TO CUBA?

Lina: I went for my first time one month ago, for two months. It was amazing. Cuba is a special land, all the people are very nice and very fun. There is music everywhere and people dancing everywhere. It's a tropical land and lots of sun. I took a course while I was there.

WHAT DANCE MOVES DO YOU TEACH?

Lina: We have different dances for different days. We have salsa which is a couples dance from Cuba. It has lots of energy and a bit faster. Then we have Bachata, which is a couples dance as well. This dance is from the Dominican Republic. This is a more sensual and slow dance, "mysig" in Swedish. We also have reggeaton from Puerto Rico. This is a dance on your own, not with a partner. It is latino hip hop. It has lots of attitude. Lots of ass shaking and arm movements. We also have a training pass. It is a Cuba mix. It is to help people with their coordination, endurance, and anything else one might want to work on.

Training pass is for both training and to learn dancing. So there is something for everybody.

DO YOU NEED A PARTNER TO COME TO DANCE CLASSES?

Lina: Nope, you don't need a partner. You can come alone. In our classes we rotate so that everyone dances with everyone. So you would change all the time. Most people come alone and get to know everyone there. It is like a large family. So you don't need a partner.

WHAT ABOUT AN AGE LIMIT (TO YOUNG OR TO OLD?)

Lina: We are open for all people. We have people from 14/15 years old all the way to 70 years old. There is a good mix of ages. Some people come with there kids and they watch and dance on the side. Everybody has a good time, nobody thinks about age. We also have a latino club.

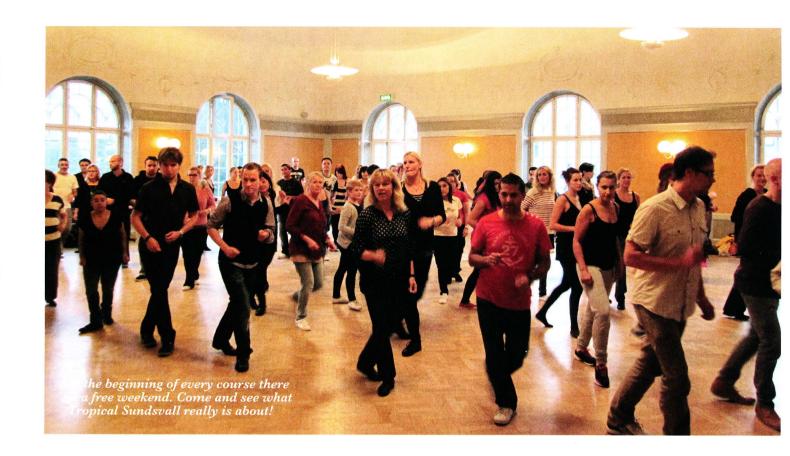
"It is like a large family."

WHAT IS THE LATINO CLUB?

Lina: The name is club Bachata. We have it one Saturday of every month. It is for anyone who wants to go out and party. It is at the Casino. Everyone is welcome to come and dance and enjoy a Caribbean evening. Everyone can come dance, have a drink, and meet new people. The next Bachata will be October 6th.

WHEN DOES THE CLASS START AND HOW LONG IS IT FOR?

Lina: The first class begins the 10th of September



and the first weekend is free to try. So all can come and fika and dance. The class last two months and then we start a new session which you can continue if you wish. I recommend that you come and dance especially if you are in Sundsvall alone studying. It is a great way to meet new people and make new friends. We have a lot of students that come amd we have our lessons at Kårhuset.

When you first start you can come for the first session of classes and learn the basics. After that if you choose to keep coming you will learn more advance dance techniques.

WHEN DO YOU GET TO JOIN THE LATINO CLUB?

Lina: You don't have to be able to dance to join the latino club. You can just come and have a good time. If you have taken a class you wont have any problems dancing there.

Even if you can't dance we say that you should try it anyway. It is a great chance to meet new people. Lots of people have made friends for life there. It is a really fun time.

We would like to give a big thanks to Tropical Sundsvall for sitting down with us and talking with us about their dance classes. They are great people and teach some great dance.



Tropical Sundsvall

All of the pricing is on the website. We have a special price for students. We would also like everyone to come to the free weekend so you can see what it is all about. We have a free weekend at the beginning of every course. The next Bachata will be October 6th.

Go to www.tropicalsundsvall.se for more information