



Nagoya Crazy Feet's annual workshop/party brings together dancers from all over Japan, Korea and Hong Kong and guest instructors this year were Pim Van Grootel and Daniel Trepas from Holland. They had a very hard act to follow, since last year's guest instructors were two of the biggest celebrities on the Line dance circuit, Scott Blevins and Jo Thompson Szymanski. Would these two young instructors be able to hold their own?

Daniel, Pim and his lovely girlfriend and dance partner Nina arrived on Thursday before the event. The other dancers attending from overseas arrived on Friday morning, and we arranged a one-day bus tour so that everyone could get in a little sightseeing. We went to Gifu Castle and Mino City for a sampling of traditional Japan. It was truly an international experience since there was Japanese, English, Korean and Dutch being spoken on the bus, and it was nice for everyone to get to know each other a little before the event.

The workshops started on Saturday morning. Pim taught us a beautiful dance that he and Nina choreographed together called "Hush". It was part nightclub two-step, part cha cha, and challenged the dancers and got their brain cells revved up. In the afternoon, Daniel taught

us Jo Thompson Szymanski's hot new dance "Shoes Of Another Man" and his own "Rise", a gorgeous and uplifting Nightclub Two Step. To help cool down our tired brains, we learned an easy but fun dance called "Tequila", which was perfect to dance at the party in the evening, and then we rounded out the afternoon with a fun dance "Do The Hoedown". The dances were all duly recapped, and then it was time for the evening party.

The party consisted mostly of open dancing. After all, that was what everyone was there for - the dancing!! The party playlist was prepublished so dancers had a chance to brush up in advance on the ones they'd forgotten, plus there was usually a recommended easier floor split dance going on so that people could just jump in if they didn't know the main dance. This helped keep the dance floor full all evening.

There was a buffet dinner served partway through the evening, and of course some demos which were worth the price of admission just on their own. Some of the Korean members took to the floor, then Pim and Nina followed with an amazing two-step couple's routine, our own Toshiko Kawamoto did her Superstar waltz routine, and Pim and Daniel wowed

us with their highly amusing demo. It was a tiring but fulfilling day!

Sunday, everyone relaxed a little since the level of the dance workshops was easier. Pim taught us "Mi Rowsu", a feel good dance to a lovely song in Dutch and Rachael McEnaney's "Leave The Boat". Dani taught us "Funky Project", along with some approachable funky technique and "It's Your World".

As the dancers started to tire in the afternoon, we had Pim and Daniel each do another demo for us. We worked them hard, but hey, they're young! Both demos were met with massive applause, as they each showed off their own respective dance styles.

And so the question remains - did they live up to our high expectations? The answer was a resounding yes. They charmed us with their youth and enthusiasm, dazzled us with their dance talent, and reassured us with their patience while instructing. There was nothing but praise for them in the post-event reviews.

I'm sure you'll be hearing more about these two as a truly International career beckons. Japan, most certainly, has fallen in love!

JAPAN IN LOVE!

The last weekend in November 2009, Nagoya Crazy Feet held their 16th annual dance event in Tajimi, Japan.. *Martha Ogasawara*, the club's founder and organizer, takes us through the weekend highlights.

