

*Baila #16 09 2020:  
Dance Adventure*

# DANCE w. ME DANCE w. ME

*Sword Prince Game  
by Maria Mison*



DANCE w. ME

## Acknowledgement & Credits

Design is based on the No Dice, No Masters system created by Avery Alder and Benjamin Rosenbaum. Special thanks also to Luke Jordan.

For Myself, because I'm tired of dancing by myself during quarantine. But also to all the live performance artists, I miss you so much.

—

Dreamt of Sept ~16 2020, New Moon in Virgo

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Dedicated to Jeffrey White, Bradley Gardner, Jim B., Kazumi Chin, Wednesday Sophia, Rachel Dube, Jay Dragon, Aire Gillespie, Arya Burke Jammi and all my damn awesome patrons who made me writing and making possible. I can't thank you all enough.

*This game is undergoing play testing! Thank you for your support.*

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**Quick Look** : 2-4 players.

Session number flexible. 3-4 hours each.

**CW:** romance, sexuality & sensuality, relationships, healing from trauma, relationship to art and dance, body



# CATS

## CONCEPT

Colorful dancers from various backgrounds and styles collide in a world where their dancing together and apart help resolve their artistic and personal tribulations. Media references for players to refer to can be: Step Up, Dirty Dancing, Shall We Dance, Footloose even shows like So You Think You Can Dance & World of Dance mashed w/ slice of life drama shenanigans.

## AIM

Players assume characters(PC) inspired from different dance genres to play out narrative tension and resolution that they can only find when dancing with each other. Explore the inner lives of voguers, breakdancers, tango, ballet, contemporary, burlesque, salsa, indigenous, hip hop dancers as they figure out their lives. Dance Sim.

## TONE

Dance Sim. Dramatic light hearted tone that prizes on vulnerability, healing and opening up as narrative tension.

## SUBJECT MATTER

This game depicts physical intimacy through partner dance, w/ some playbooks stemming from dance genres that were born from marginalization.

Eg. Vogue is a queer black and brown underground culture and the premise of the playbook is accepting new found family after being left by one. The tone of the game encourages an after-the-war feeling from PCs & not a recycling of systemic suffering for dramatic effect. The players can be haunted but their oppression need not be relived.

If players consent, there may be themes of romance/sexual tension between player-controlled characters, and/or player and non-player-characters.(NPCs)

## SAFETY TOOLS

This game encourages the use of Lines and Veils to facilitate an initial baseline for player safety. Players are absolutely encouraged to add more topics to the list for their own safety. This session will also use the N-Card, X-Card and Script Change as necessary to adjust the game while it's in progress to maintain player safety. Finally, Open Door is always in effect and players may leave at any time for any length of time at any reason.

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# HOW TO PLAY

## (1) IDLE DREAMING

Make a wishlist that genuinely excites yall as a table to see play out. Pick playbooks that call out to you. See their move list — “hard” and “easy” moves to see what these characters are good at doing and what they’re still struggling with but are trying to move towards. Easy moves help you earn tokens and make complications while hard moves are things you spend tokens on and typically advances your character’s arc.

Pick looks and dance moves and teams if applicable, have fun! Grab photos from Pinterest board or jam to the playlists.

Then, introduce characters w/ pronouns and then establish bonds w/ other players. In establishing bonds feel free to flesh out history and details as you reference to the settings sheet w/ possible NPC lists or make your own!

## (2) SETTINGS

Many dance styles are born in the context from which they are made. Vogue has their balls and Tango has their Milongas as Breakdancers have their rowdy on the street cyphers.

To help imbibe and enable players to portray these dance scenes faithfully, *DANCE SETTINGS* are specific setting mini-games that walk you through things like “how to walk a ball” or “how to embrace someone in a proper closed hold”. These also have element lists and NPCs to help you flesh out what else happens in these places.

You are also free to make stuff up based on dance AUs you’ve read and what you’ve seen in television, it’s fine.

However dancers don’t only dance, and they can have meaningful character development in a coffeeshop or the place they work in. *OTHER SETTINGS* is a list to help round out your play in between mini-games. Alternating between dance settings to a few “just” settings is a good way to pace your episodic play however feel free to modify this as you wish.

## (3) BLOCKING & BODY STATES

Since this is a dance game, the text encourages you to think of the positioning or blocking of your characters when you start any scene. Start in media-res or at the height of the emotional action or tension and **ASK: how is my body in relation to others?**

For ideas consider: in contact  
physically boxed in with someone I’m avoiding, arms slung across shoulders awkwardly or against my will, hand clasping other PC’s jacket noticeably or imperceptibly, hand on top of shoulder, hand on upper back, hand pulling a wrist, head pat, hands playing w other PC’s hands, arm wrestling, lying down on the floor shoulder to shoulder, dogpiled on top of one another, very helpful stretching

For ideas consider: the space in between  
In front of each other too close for comfort, side to side and you feel the air in between, right behind them conscious, back to back reliable, stupidly far apart but w/ eye contact that could cut, close but unreachable and cold, hands folded into body giving nothing, someone positioned on a higher level like a seat or platform looking down, backs against wall in a narrow hallway, sitting on the floor familiar, sitting on the gutter

**Other than a physical position, PCs can choose to be a *physically vulnerable in entering the scene in*.** Vulnerable body states cost 1 token to be in but enable all other PCs to enact hard moves without spending any tokens. A PC is soft and struggling and it inspires other PCs to do difficult things.

## VULNERABLE BODY STATES

Calf injury, shoulder injury, drunk like bags on shoulders, very drunk like the world is turning over, hangover like a vice grip, running on empty feeling like a weightless shell, just cried over something swollen eyelids, remembered something you wanted to forget a snake in your stomach, sudden nerves like a mad hornet’s nest living in your guts, ants crawling almost full bodied cramps, crippling dysmenorrhea, saw something you wish you didn’t a black thing stealing your chest, too wired like you can fly too much coffee brain like slop, overwhelmed and heart dropping to your feet, unbelievably horny sweating buckets, create your own

# DANCE SETTINGS

## Oh but Shall We Dance?

### TIPS:

— you can research binge watch styles of dance and locations but the game has enough to inspire your scenes. The parenthesis indicate which playbook is more native to these places but it doesn't mean they're the only ones there! Think of them being the ones more probably to be in an advantageous position, as someone more comfortable, knowledgeable or even a judge.

This is a good place to check back on your design palette to see what situations and settings you'd like your PCs to go through. What kind of shows you would like them to do.

### LOCATIONS/EVENTS

#### >>SWEET VALENTINE BALL (VOGUE)

— the theme is candy and romance, audience members decked out in bubblegum, cotton candy outfits, there is booze available, queerness is celebrated, RUNWAY, FACE, HANDS PERFORMANCE are categories where dancers battle for who has the best walk, most luminous face, and elaborate hands. *Who's the virgin vogue walker? Who's invited as a guest performer? Who forges a special bond over drinks?*

#### MINI GAME — YOU BETTER WALK BITCH

- 2-3 players
- Each describe their candy themed outfits and makeup. Think, re Paul's drag race, America's next top model and pose rolled into one.
- Describe how you glare at your competitors
- The announcer says you're SERVING \_\_\_\_\_. In a loud voice
- PCs who are not playing the mini-game rate you from 1-10 to decide who wins with their powerful walk



#### >>OPENING THE BEST BAR IN TOWN: KONDWI (BURLESQUE, SOCIAL DANCES, TANGO, ..)

— the latest art gallery cum fancy bar in the heart of the city. The owners have an elaborate opening shebang w/ hoop artists, DJs for sensual social dancing and demonstration w/ and/or free classes from the best of the best instructors in town. What's the night like? *Who likes the free class more than they expected, who was dragged to this opening? The DJ is your mutual friend and gives who a generous introduction to who? Does the show/art inspire anyone's projects?*

#### >>THE GET DOWN (BREAK, HIPHOP)

— underground, pipes, audience members jostling to cheer for their favorite ALL STYLES battlers. It's a unique and historic event because we don't only have guest JUDGES outside of street dance, but crazy challenges and invitational competitors! Can we bring the place down?! *Who's the surprise judge? What's your showcases like? Invitational competitors, who are you dedicating your battles for? Who do you go with in the after-party? Who wins? Who comforts the losers?*

#### MINI GAME — DJ PRAY FOR ME

- 2-3 players
- IT'S A HEATED ALL STYLES BATTLE, you're almost head to head on a 2-way/3-way throw down. Write down 3 music styles your PC is familiar with on an index card and don't show the table.
- 1. Disco (waack) 2. Vogue 3. Breaking Beats 4. Latin house 5. I don't know what it is but it has the tango strings 6. Pop Music 7. Island Dancehall Reggaeton 8. Beyonce 9. Broadway Jazz 10. Tribal House 11 Popping 12 Old school Hiphop
- Have a non battler player act as DJ and pick a song to drop for the round.
- Reveal to the table whether you know the music genre or not, describe your dancing.
- Have all non battler players simultaneously point at who wins the round. Repeat in case of a tie.
- Describe who gets to win and then describe the after party



# DANCE SETTINGS

## Oh but Shall We Dance?

### >>THE LAB NUCLEUS (CONTEMPORARY, EX-BALLET, TRADITIONAL)

— an intercultural collaborative exchange, the movement artists are tasked by a curator to device a piece/project about relationships. They might live in a scenic location for a span of a month. *Who's the curator's favorite? Who's more interested w/ exploring the local sites? Who argues w/ ea other the most? Who unexpectedly works well? What's the final show like? What is leaving each other like?*

#### MINI GAME — TENSE REHEARSALS

- 2-3 players
- One PC or a grp describe their performance e on relationships. (eg: they are dancing fighting over a jacket, a haunting piece of repeatedly using a measuring tape to measure your partner and your expectations, a multi-media collab about a history of you and a place of forgetting, treatise to camgirls and long distance relationships. Literally anything, think post modern theater but also just think of it as an extension of your character's beliefs, make your own)
- A moment disturbs all the other PCs watching
- Who is unexpectedly affected? Why?
- Who begs you to change your piece, why? (optional)
- How does this change the meaning of the piece for the performers? How do they talk about it? Do they change it?

### >>ARTS WEEK in PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL (CONTEMPORARY, EX-BALLET, TRADITIONAL)

— so many shows to prepare for! So many guest performers instructors and events happening in a span of a few days. How much could change in a few days? *Who's pitching a unorthodox show? Which scene darling is offering a rare class? Who's stuck w/ each other in the cafeteria? Who pisses off the teachers?*



## - OTHERS

- “Our Performing Arts College is staging a dance theater piece Romeo and Juliet”
- “We all joined So You Think You Can Dance”
- “We’re a bunch of exes who end up in all these lame ass gigs that keep on thematically talking about .. partners (debut, weddings, anniversaries) we’re .. professionals
- “Backstage dancers to Hatsune Miku, Lady Gaga, or table’s current point of interest” (it can be BTS, you know it’s fine) or other touring group
- we’re all under the same dance studio and we need to unionize against the landlord or somethin

# OTHER SETTINGS

Have every character answer and flesh out any one of the following questions and provide interesting detail to set up setting elements for your cast or simply a way to see their world:

- Where does this character train their body?
- What beautiful place do they go to to calm their mind?
- What’s an unexpected place that they like lingering in or hold especially dear?
- What other medium of art are they interested in? How often do they go there?
- What’s a place you’re not supposed to dance at that you do dance in?
- What a place that you’ve shot a concept/music video in before? Or would like to shoot in before?
- What’s your dream break-out-into-dance location?





### Tips

- make your character fallible and relatable
- Dance as outrageously on rooftops, streetcars, with your wildest imagination
- Fall in love w music, w anything, w anyone

### Play to find out

- What family means to you
- What the spotlight means to you
- If you understand your EFFECT on other people

# PHANTASMA

## VOGUE+WAACK

UNDERGROUND queer black and brown REALNESS, you're poor but you can achieve the EFFECTS. You're loud, theatrical and ever longing for a sense of family. "It's Raining Men" inner diva longin for a back-up who would never betray them

### Choose a Name

Willie Ninja, Wizzard, Tyrone Proctor, Mizrahi, Xyza, Em, Keycee, Christian, a name that sparks

### Choose a BATTLER NAME

007, Calia, Kee-at, Soul J, Goddex, LipJ, Effervescence, Patron, Ms. Undeniable, Dr. Pepper, a name that says look at me

### Choose a FAMILY NAME

International House of Waack, The House of Mizrahi, The House of Wintour, Alt: I have no vogue/waack fam, I've walked alone, A Name that of people who claim power would name themselves

### Choose a look

Sequin jackets, thrift gucci bag, tastefully cut out backless polo, rough jeans, strikingly dyed hair, sharp eyes, prominent facial features that you would think about days later, primary color makeup (bubble gum eyes, peach lips), platformers, overly dressed for every occasion, slouched when you ain't looking, your own vision of street couture

### What's your signature dance move?

Hands on hips power woman, Spiderman death drop, Inconspicuously shows off abs, leans forward pointedly and licks lips, ELABORATE COSTUME REVEAL (skirt out of nowhere, nipple tape, wait they had fishnets under that), crowns myself, splits into the announcer, high kick unto stage performance, your own version of loud power

**What about you dances, and can only be seen when you're in the spotlight?**



**Your first love was dance, who was your second?**

A queer MUA who gave me my first heels, lesbian stylist, my ace best friend, a repressed small videographer, sadly my first bully, your own

**How do you get people to dance?**

INCESSANT YELLING and emojis, big sex appeal, you feel their feelings for them, offering to do their makeup and costume, pouting and lolling your head to the side, softness, expressive hands, your own version of pulling them into a spotlight

**Ask one left and one right**

We were family once, what happened?

You couldn't take your eyes off me in the last show, why?

How did I scarily confess to want to be part of your family recently?

**TOKEN++**

Whenever someone is inspired to be braver w/ your NATURAL CHARISMA, you gain a token

**"Hard" Moves (spend a token)**

- Realize you're safe and accepted in a new community
- Show someone your quiet, vulnerable self
- Make someone new/different feel deeply accepted
- Make someone feel beautiful
- Realize you're too inspired, so in love
- Ask "What would make you feel like I'm Real family to you?"

**Everyday Moves**

- Add fun! Convince people to a ball, disco, bar
- Make someone new/different feel safe and relaxed
- Recoil from any discussion about family
- Ask "Who's stopping your glow/beauty?"

**"Easy" Moves (take a token)**

- Push someone away who reminded you too much of old family or flames
- Share too much information, be overly emotional
- Fail to sympathize for needs beyond yourself
- Ask "how am I "too much" for you?"
- Ask "when was I not "real" to you?"





#### **Tips**

make your character fallible and relatable  
Dance as skillfully, athletically, and piercingly as you can  
imagine possible  
Fall in love w music, w anything, w anyone

#### **Play to find out**

- What you're trying to prove
- Who you must learn softness for
- If you ever let your hard exterior down

# REFLEX BREAKDANCE

Woulda coulda been an athlete. Strong responsible, warrior ethic coach vibes. too prideful or too straight to admit that they're not so great with feelings. Think "Get on the Good Foot", longin for a place for softness

#### **Choose a Name**

Phil, Prince, Ayuni, Jeffro, Robb, Jaden, A straightforward name

#### **Choose a BATTLER NAME**

Reflex, Mo Twister, Mozik, Girl Kicks, Laya, Hong 10 , Menno, issei, Lussy Sky, Zoopreme, Skim, Robin, Skim, Lilou, Kinder, El Nino, a name that rocksteadies

#### **Choose a CREW NAME**

Manila Soul Crew, Rock Force Frew, NAVI, The Ruggeds, Body Carnival, Sweet Technique, OBC, El Mouwahidin, United Rivals, a name that introduces itself

#### **Choose a look**

University jacket, coach jacket, snap back that hides thinning hair, obviously and necessarily unfairly jacked, training shoes, baggy sweat pants, towel to wipe the floor with, efficient lookin watch, overly large graffiti shirts, unexpectedly amiable face, nice smile, announcer voice, so many damn medals, your own version of industrious nice

#### **What's your signature dance move?**

windmill legs kicking up air, air flares, 360s, roundhouse kicks ala martial arts films, multiple head spins like an upside down god, baby freezes, iconic top rock sickening groove, footwork like threading needles, your own version of seasoned battler

#### **What about you dances, and can only be seen in a throw-down?**

#### **Your first love was dance, who was your second?**

Gymnast friend actually, old coach, my best friend, a girl I met by accident, hilariously this medic, an old sports teammate, my assistant coach/choreographer, your own





### **How do you get people to dance?**

Mild bullying, harsh glare of your coach wanting you to get in it already, rough pull on the hands, awkward shoulder pat w a “hey man”, hoarse yelling, focused eyes, your own version of ringside bud

### **Ask one left and one right**

I coached you before, what happened?

You’ve hurt my pride, how?

How did you disarm me, how’d you catch me w/ my guard down?

### **TOKEN++**

Whenever someone is inspired to be more diligent w/ your SKILLS n COACH REPUTATION, you gain a token

### **“Hard” Moves (spend a token)**

- Realize you’re respected, valued, loved by a community
- Show someone your insecurities, or softer desires
- Make someone defeated feel like they can pick up the pieces
- Make someone feel powerful
- Realize you’re too inspired, so in love
- Ask “What would make you feel like I’m Real family to you?”

### **Everyday Moves**

- Challenge someone to battle or compete
- Give someone a practical training tip
- Recoil about being called soft
- Ask “What’s messin’ with your training?”

### **“Easy” Moves (take a token)**

- Push someone away who reminds you of failure or injuries
- Make someone feel worse for losing
- Push people to exhaustion, especially yourself
- Ask “how am I “too hard” on you?”
- Ask “when did I let my pride get between us?”





#### Tips

make your character fallible and relatable  
Dance as solemnly and as beautifully as you can imagine in  
midnight  
Fall in love w music, w anything, w anyone

#### Play to find out

What having a partner means to you  
What dancing alone is  
If you understand your energy's effect on other people

# CARMEN

## ARGENTINE TANGO

Seems older than they look, studies dance reverentially in a near philosophical way, has an odd past w/ an old longterm partner, magnetic gaze and presence, often misinterpreted sensuality, craves lightheartedness that never came easy to them

#### Choose a Name

Carmen, Basil, Borja, Slavik, Karina, Carlos Gavito, Ricardo Vidort, Pedro Rusconi, Adriana, Julio, a name that embraces

#### Choose a Partner

A sibling been dancing since childhood mildly suffocating, a forsworn platonic best friend, a protoge to a living legend, a lover but awkwardly, recommended: you always dance w whoever in the milonga

#### Choose a look

A line skirts with high slits, velveteen, dapper suits, mauve red, floral patterns, midnight makeup, collared shirts even when it's not needed, tailored wear that compliments your lines, hair styled for an affair, three inch heels, shiny leather shoes, respectable pocket squares, a beauty mark, flowers in hair that feels like it belongs there, your own vision of revered class

#### What's your signature dance move?

Legs hooking underneath my partner's legs, classic dip with the grace of my back, a hand trailing my partners chin, feet that passes my partner's like an accident, circles on the floor that whips the trail of my outfit, your own version of classic partnering

#### What about you dances, only in the arms of another?

#### Your first love was dance, who was your second?

A crush on the first partner in a club long ago, an old faded artist, a bright and chatty acquaintance, a bar owner, a book of poetry, a friend who felt like an accident from a far off country, your own



**How do you get people to dance?**

Red wine, mood lighting low lights and well polished floors, a formal invitation, a convincing passionate argument, a low and measured voice, an amber like presence both comforting and burning at the same time, two calming hands on both shoulders, eyes that ask

**Ask one left and one right**

I was once important to you, why not anymore?

Dancing w me reminded your heart of something dangerous, what?

How did we share a deep passion, nameless, and hidden?

**TOKEN++**

Whenever someone is inspired to be deeper in life or art, by your PRESENCE, you gain a token

**“Hard” Moves (spend a token)**

- Share a feeling or energy in an intimate dance
- Share to someone what they mean to you, verbally
- Make someone feel revered
- Realize you’re too inspired, so in love
- Ask “What would make you feel like you’re safe in my arms?”

**Everyday Moves**

- Sigh and lead someone into a silent embrace
- Wax poetic or philosophical (dance as life, music as life..)
- Fail to speak up
- Ask “How can you go deeper?”
- Ask “What does all this really mean to you?”

**“Easy” Moves (take a token)**

- Dismiss someone as shallow or disrespectful
- Fail to understand something fast and frantic
- Feel very antiquated or out of place
- Ask “how am I “too intense” for you?”
- Ask “how did I put too much meaning, misinterpret your intentions?”



# JARED

## CONTEMPORARY + ACADEME

Studied abroad for dance anthropology discourse, real smart and a real activist for marginalized movement languages since they're quite marginalized themselves, used to be fat, mismatched skin tone, different, craves acceptance they don't need to argue for

### Choose a Name

Jared, The professor, Mr. Ms. Mx., Isadora, Martha Graham, Charles Weidman, Eric Hawkins, Emma, Mercer, a name that interrupts

### Choose a Company (you may have more than 1)

DA:NS Collective, Dance Nucleus, The Orange Project, Complexions, Airdance, a name that is intelligently ambitious

### Choose a look

Urban ashram, mysterious line tattoo, self dyed hair, multiple curious rings, overflowing skirts, androgynous monk-like tops, neutral nude tones, close cropped hair, striking silhouettes, long socks, monotone clothing, cardigans, vintage glasses, lopsided shy grin, easy alien like grace, your own vision of artistic academic

### What's your signature dance move?

Across the flow curling ragged like a broken doll, contractions that fold in and express true pain, bewildering upside down eyes, unorthodox pirouettes, a body that patterns circles and circles on top of itself, contact improvisation, your own version of beautiful creature

### What's your favorite dance themes?

gender and sexuality, repurposing and repossessing traditional forms, high culture vs low culture, voyeurism, poverty, body dysmorphia, narratives of your hometown, personal theater, your own

### What about you dances, only in a well versed piece?

### Your first love was dance, who was your second?

A close arts collaborator in your last arts residency, the visiting professor, unexpected panelist, cozy stranger from karaoke, your own

### Tips

- make your character fallible and relatable
- Dance as an argument, as a testament, as a revolution of your identity and thesis
- Fall in love w music, w anything, w anyone

### Play to find out

- What you desperately argue or represent
- If you find the questions or the dissonance beautiful
- If you come home to your body, w your oh so strong mind



### **How do you get people to dance?**

You argue that everything is dance, especially mundane movement, you offer prompts like 'pretending to pack your memories' to direct them to something unorthodox and mindful, you layer complexity w stage elements and other media like video projection, efficient, novel, smart, direct

### **Ask one left and one right**

We were creative soulmates once, what happened?

My last show changed you, why?

Why did I beg you to perform with me? Why did you agree?

### **TOKEN++**

Whenever someone is inspired to be SPEAK through their dance w/ your lucidity n clarity, you gain a token

### **"Hard" Moves (spend a token)**

- Realize you're academic position/work has impact
- Show someone how you too feel so weak and lost
- Present an argument to beat down someone's insecurities
- Legitimize someone w/ your position
- Realize you're too inspired, so in love
- Ask "What would convince you that I really care?"

### **Everyday Moves**

- Talk theory! Explain things with enthusiasm
- Help clarify how someone feels through logic
- Feel insulted by being so cerebral
- Ask "What does your work represent?"
- Ask "What does your work mean?"

### **"Easy" Moves (take a token)**

- Overthink feelings you can't logic out of
- Exclude someone w/ your language or privilege
- Question the academia
- Ask "how am I "too much talk" for you?"
- Ask "how did I silence your art" ?





# RIA/MIKHAIL

## EX-BALLERINA

Waif like tan body, would've been the best in pointe if they didn't stop dancing, incredibly shuttered and quiet, graceful, so many people would like to care for them, craves a dance or existence that is freeing and non punishing

### Choose a Name

Ria, Mikhaella, Socorro, Cherry, Mikhail, Michael, a traditional name, a name that follows

### Choose a look

Hand me down cardigan, vintage, jazz pants, sentimental flowing things, oceans as hair, clasped hands, arm and leg warmers, thrifted ballet themed graphic shirts that's seen better days, old tulle costumes, rusty tiara, graceful pearl earring set, nude nail polish w French tips, nude lips, a studied pout, weak stand, your own vision of a weathered bloom

### What's your signature dance move?

Shaky multiple pirouettes, a grand jete, arabesque, to hold someone like a swan, developpe, I am most charming at the basic positions, the way I hold my head up, chasses or chasing across the floor, ballet-like arm placements in picture inching close to yoga practice

### What about you dances, only in a forgotten movement?

### Your first love was dance, who was your second?

A street dancer so different from me, a musician wilder than me, someone charming, something colorful, your own

### Tips

- make your character fallible and relatable
- Dance as a memory, as a religion, as a way back to oneself
- Fall in love w music, w anything, w anyone

### Play to find out

- Who you let take away your dance from you
- How you forgive yourself and your own regrets
- If you return to dance in some way or leave it cleanly and completely



### **How do you get people to dance?**

Eyes that could pout, a face you'd want to do anything for, with your memories, for the good old days, to mark an occasion, by asking gentle favors, genuinely like good things that hurt, your own

### **Ask one left and one right**

We were free once, what happened?

You couldn't take your eyes off me in the last show, why?

How did I beg you to help me? What did I ask?

### **TOKEN++**

Whenever someone is inspired to be more VULNERABLE, with your HONESTY, take a token

### **"Hard" Moves (spend a token)**

- Realize you're okay w your choices
- Show someone how broken you are
- Make someone feel okay w/ their brokenness, their needs
- Make someone feel like their selfishness is worth having
- Realize you're too inspired, so in love
- Ask "If you would be selfish for once, what would you do?"

### **Everyday Moves**

- Remember joy in simple movement
- Make someone feel like it's worth trying again
- Recoil from any discussion of dance as career
- Ask "Why not, maybe?"

### **"Easy" Moves (take a token)**

- Push someone away who sees your joy, your grace
- Leave a jealous remark, a bittersweet compliment
- Notice how time has passed you
- Ask "do you pity me"?
- Ask "do you think it's too late?"





### Tips

- make your character fallible and relatable
- Dance as a scorpionic statement, undeniable, proud
- Fall in love w music, w anything, w anyone

### Play to find out

- How society still misunderstands you
- You're okay with it most of the time, so what about this particular incident or story line bothers you now
- If you understand the people who need you the most

# JOYEN

## POLE DANCE/ BURLESQUE

Dominatrix, sex positive and pleasure activist, owns a lot of wigs, unfortunately not taken so seriously boo hoo, ripped AF and underground AF, longs to be understood clear their name from an old scandal to be respected and understood

### Choose a Name

Joyen, Camillie, April, Indigo Blue, Ohpelia, Blue Angel, Vivienne, Barbara, Dons Spiro a name that inspires

### Choose a SERVICE/ SPECIALTY

BDSM Ropes, Candles, Hoops, Spinny Pole, Static pole, Towel Props, Chair dances, Air Hammocks, Veils, Fans, Couch, Lap, Floor works, athletic carnival feats, your own

### Choose a look

Black lipstick, piercings, petite, is that an 8 pack?, thigh garters, punk grunge tiara, neon eye detailing, eyelashes that tickle, a sparkling laugh, chuck taylors, a peppy smile, side swept bangs and immaculate hair, woven pole shorts, eccentric off shoulder t-shirts, your own vision of sweet dream and beautiful nightmare

### What's your signature dance move/look?

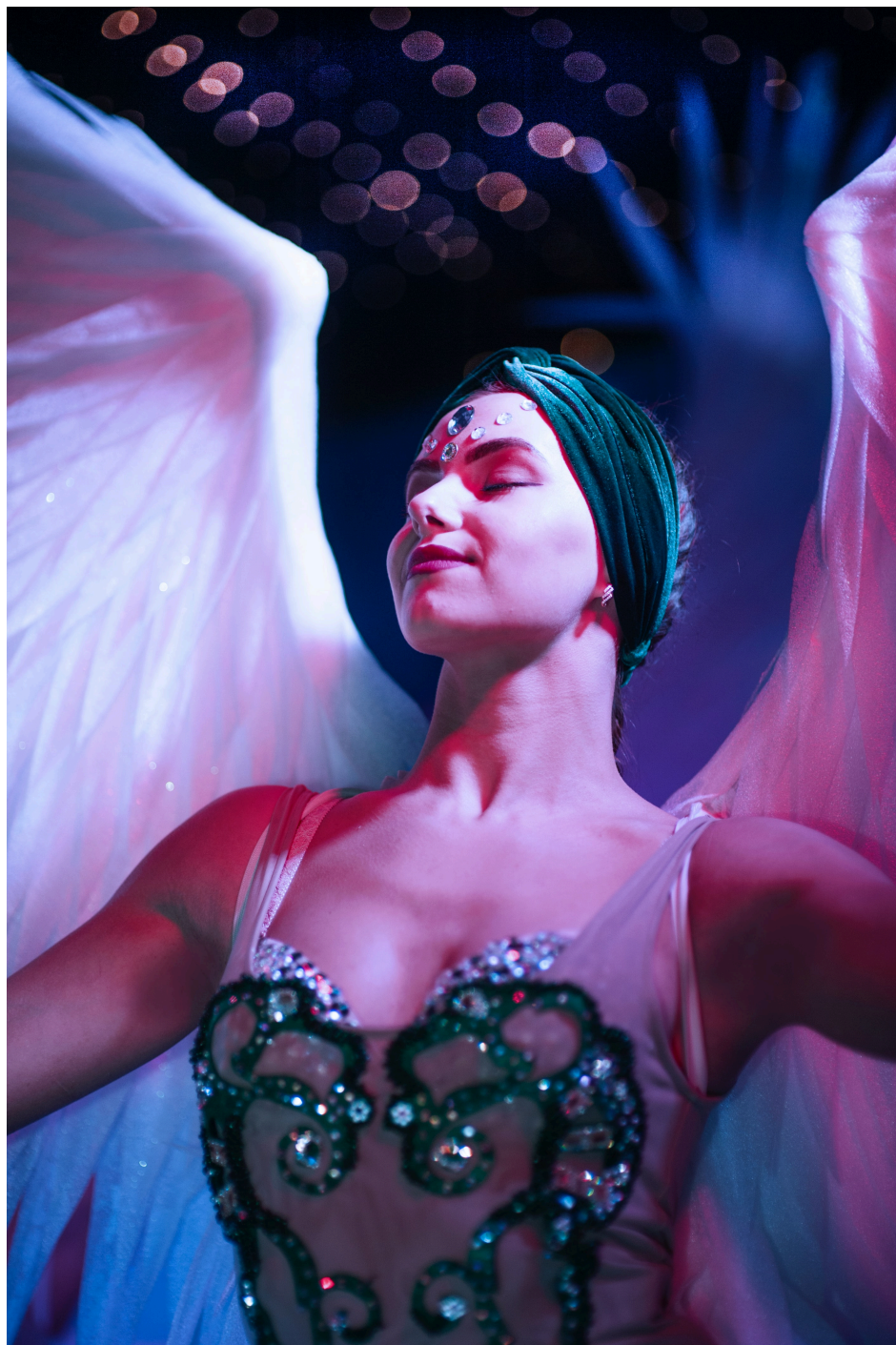
Death drop on a pole, it involves a whip, it involves a cake, it involves being drenched by water, classic jazz hands and cheeky facial expressions, embodies a versa, teases people w their thighs or butt, clapping their heels together commanding attention, your own version of look at me

### What about you dances, only when you have pleasure in your body?

### Your first love was dance, who was your second?

Bar owner, bar tender, bouncer, a regular office person, queer awakening teenage first love, summer fling, that FUBU, sugar daddy/ mommy that got away, your own





### **How do you get people to dance?**

Righteous undeniable sex appeal, a wink, an all access pass to an incredible costume rack, you promise the stage and the lights will always offer a good time, a finger on your desire beckoning those deepest calls forward, a kept secret

### **Ask one left and one right**

We were my confidant once, what happened?

Why don't you trust me?

How did you fail to stand up for me when I needed you most?

### **TOKEN++**

Whenever someone is inspired to GROWL their own DESIRES w/ your own performance and domination, you gain a token

### **"Hard" Moves (spend a token)**

- Be at peace you're not for everyone
- Show someone your betrayed, hurt self
- Enable someone's darkest desires
- Enable someone's sexual liberation
- Realize you're too inspired, so in love
- Ask "What would make me feel free and absolutely shameless?"

### **Everyday Moves**

- Add pleasure! Make something feel like a show, or a flirt
- Make someone feel desirable
- Be offended by any discussion on shame
- Ask "What would make you feel wanted right now?"

### **"Easy" Moves (take a token)**

- Push someone away who likes/wants you for more than your body
- Make someone uncomfortable
- Feel ashamed about your lifestyle
- Ask "how am I "too tempting" for you?"
- Ask "how did I Let you on"?

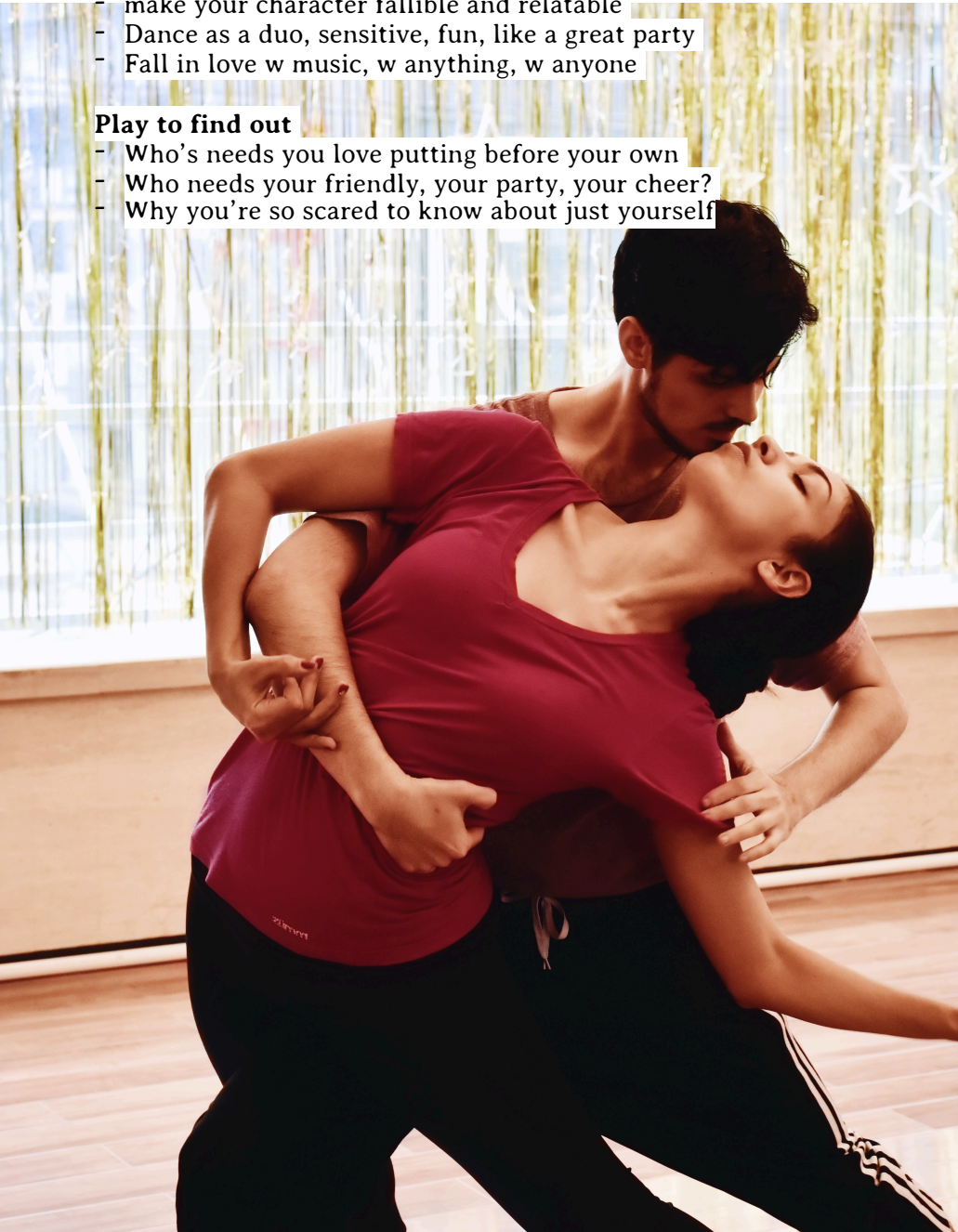


### Tips

- make your character fallible and relatable
- Dance as a duo, sensitive, fun, like a great party
- Fall in love w music, w anything, w anyone

### Play to find out

- Who's needs you love putting before your own
- Who needs your friendly, your party, your cheer?
- Why you're so scared to know about just yourself



# MOGGI

## SALSA BACHATA KIZOMBA

Knows how to make other people feel good, hired to teach people cause they know how to make people feel good and have a good time, plagued by always too jealous partners, too much of a people pleaser, wants to know their own dance, or what they want when they aren't here to please

### Choose a Name

Moggi, Ana, Luis, Paolo, Jona, Anon, Terry, Oliver, Eddie, Magna, Juan Matos, Johnny, Griselle, a name that feels fun and familiar

### Style Specialty/ Energy

(On1)jazz, moves big easily the center of attention, (On2) musical subtle a little too cool, (Cuban) party animal, runs circles around people, (Traditional) Gentleman, charmer, (Sensual) performative sexuality, teenager vibe, (Slow) genuinely likes hugs

### Choose a look

Fitted V neck, Plain Sneakers, Trendy Clothes, Cut-outs, Jumpsuits, Bright eyes, fedora hat, prominent looking glasses, sleek men's shoes, cutting heels, flaring skirt, flowing hair, wide set shoulders, tailored pants, tassel dress, tassel pants, surprising backless or show of skin, your own vision of sweet and spice

### What's your signature dance move?

Getting real close and winking, kneeling down to applaud your partner, kissing your partner's hand, a closed hold that you could melt in, cheeky antics like sitting on chairs or swinging around columns, really loud clapping, singing along the song in an event tone, squeezing hands as thanks, your own version of have fun with me

### What about you dances, only partying w a near-stranger?

### Your first love was dance, who was your second?

One night stand, the one that got away, embarrassingly a dance crush, this Brazillian language instructor, this cute lady who bought me a beer on my bday a few years back, your own



### **How do you get people to dance?**

Get them a little drunk, amiable and charismatic personality, will talk you through it until you're okay, would compliment your outfit or good looks, invite your friends, introduce you to their friends, harmless flirting, "it's just a dance"

### **Ask one left and one right**

I really liked you before, what happened?

You badly want to dance w/ me, why?/ why haven't we?

Why do I so badly want to please you?

### **TOKEN++**

Whenever someone is inspired to PUT OTHERS FIRST w/ your GENEROSITY, you gain a token

### **"Hard" Moves (spend a token)**

- Realize something about your own needs
- Show someone your tired, grouchy, ugly feelings
- Dance alone, but w/ real gusto
- Intuit how someone feels or what they need via body language
- Realize you're too inspired, so in love
- Ask "How do I make space between us?"

### **Everyday Moves**

- Ease people into a conversation, make friends
- Help people relax with you or each other
- Appreciate and praise someone's real dance
- Deflect any questions about your life specifically
- Ask "So do you want me to join you?" (code for "help" you)

### **"Easy" Moves (take a token)**

- Push someone away who wants to help you w/ your own troubles and needs
- Deflect praise or attention
- Give too much of yourself, to your detriment
- Party too hard or feel so tired
- Ask "why can't I get enough of you?"
- Ask "how is helping you with your problem my roundabout way of fixing mine?"





### Tips

make your character fallible and relatable  
Dance as a ritual, prayer, a tradition  
Fall in love w music, w anything, w anyone

### Play to find out

What threatens your cherished tradition  
Who appreciates and badly needs to find you  
If you're at peace w/ your place's history

# KHATE

## INDIGENOUS+TRADITIONAL

Preserves cultural values and norms, academic and well-travelled and versed in political discourse. Small and prayerful. Can't stand too loud things and too fast conversation. Scared to be left behind, and forgotten. Longs to be deeply revered and appreciated.

### Choose a Name

Khate, Katarina, Tintin, Carl Kevin, Kai, Pauline, Joshua Marie, Angelica, Sushi, Totem, Kim, Avery, Abelle, a name that sounds like an old home

### Recount an ancestral culture

Respectfully, borrowed or real, something you like remembering, share a special place— a mountainside, a river, a festival

### Choose a traditional instrument

(that you love dancing to) Metal hammered gongs, hand pans, bamboo xylophones, nose flutes, droning string instruments w flowing feather or decorative animal skull, your own

### Choose a look

bandana, flower in hair, shells as anklets, tree seeds as a bracelet, colorful woven earrings, large stacked bangles, traditional tattoos, longer hair, native facial features, bandages on fingers, subtle and updated tribal patterns, jeans you patched or made yourself, your own

### What's your signature dance move?

Hands that flow like the ocean, cradling the world with a fabric like an infant, hands that mimic swaying rice stalks, miming a great bird, acrobatic — on top of stacking benches or clapping bamboo poles, warrior/hunting strike, chanting and beckoning winds home

### What about you dances, when you are connected to the ancestors or the elements?

### Your first love was dance, who was your second?

A djembe drummer, an anarchist, a streetside guru, a local language major, a bassist who's trying their best, a biker, your own





### **How do you get people to dance?**

You help them come home to their history or old family, invite them on a trip, go on a research, go on a tour, invite them to dance in nature — somewhere scenic, greeting the sun, the wind, the ocean, you co-opt a ritual together to celebrate a special occasion w them

### **Ask one left and one right**

You revered me once, what happened?

You remembered something in my last show, what?

How did I ask you to help preserve something important to me?

### **TOKEN++**

Whenever someone is inspired to be braver w/ your EFFECTS n REALNESS, you gain a token

### **“Hard” Moves (spend a token)**

- Realize you’re safe and accepted in a new community
- Show someone your quiet, vulnerable self
- Make someone new/different feel deeply accepted
- Make someone feel beautiful
- Realize you’re too inspired, so in love
- Ask “What would make you feel like I’m Real family to you?”

### **Everyday Moves**

- Add fun! Convince people to a ball, disco, bar
- Make someone new/different feel safe and relaxed
- Recoil from any discussion about family
- Ask “Who’s stopping your glow/beauty?”

### **“Easy” Moves (take a token)**

- Push someone away who reminded you too much of old family or flames
- Share too much information, be overly emotional
- Fail to sympathize for needs beyond yourself
- Ask “how am I “too much” for you?”
- Ask “when was I not “real” to you?”





#### Tips

- make your character fallible and relatable
- Dance like you've always won and that you intend to
- Fall in love w music, w anything, w anyone

#### Play to find out

- Why this time you need others
- If you're willing to bury the hatchet for Dance
- If you can temper your powerful pride

# JAMES

## HIPHOP + POPPING

Good at diss tracks and shittalk. Genuinely deeply in love w the SOUND. Defensive n passionate about the culture. So harsh once, they burned some old bridges. Is trying to learn to build community. Longing to forgive themself.

#### Choose a Name

James, Ian Villianueva, Patpat, Meggie, Christina, Madelle, AC, Sebastian, Arda, Ashe, Trishca, Baws Tiger, Felix, Vinx, Henry, Jaimie Go, a name that means business

#### Choose a BATTLER NAME/ALTER

The professor, heavy boogie, BADD one, Soulstice, Adrum, Clone, Girl Titan A Battle Name that defends the crown

#### Choose a CREW NAME, you've left them in bad blood

Funk n Styles, Old School Jack, Batas, MolitoFunk, Ghetto Style Killaz, a name that grooves as well as demands.

#### Choose a look

Designer funk, large & wide, immigrant, mono bloc colors, large vintage jackets, bucket hats, not ironic streetwear, boots, always in a specific hat, prominent jawline, baggy shirt, baggier pants, an obsessive sneaker collection, worn out vans, your own graffiti child

#### What's your signature dance move?

Oh you beat them by doing basic stuff with just so much Stank, old school classic get-down hip-hop, animation and robotic poses, eccentric puppet like characters, avante garde floor work, weird flexible joints, monster-like, spiderman poses, your own version of BOSS

#### What about you dances, freely only when you fight alone?

#### Your first love was dance, who was your second?

Dog, mentor, This obscure soul singer, Specific Shoe Collector, This classmate who was just good w/ people, video game friend, your own





### **How do you get people to dance?**

By focusing on your own, you are not good at teaching like the others. Only your reputation, your videos, your wins, and your rare video descriptions move others

### **Ask one left and one right**

You're the reason I fly solo, what happened between us?\*

Why do I need you?

How did you school me/ put me in my place?

### **TOKEN++**

Whenever someone is inspired by your INDIVIDUALITY and ETHIC, you gain a token

### **"Hard" Moves (spend a token)**

- Realize you need someone else
- Show someone your regrets, your hurt pain
- Make someone new, feel strong
- Say sorry (2 tokens)
- Realize you're too inspired, so in love
- Ask "What needs to happen for the betterment of the community?"

### **Everyday Moves**

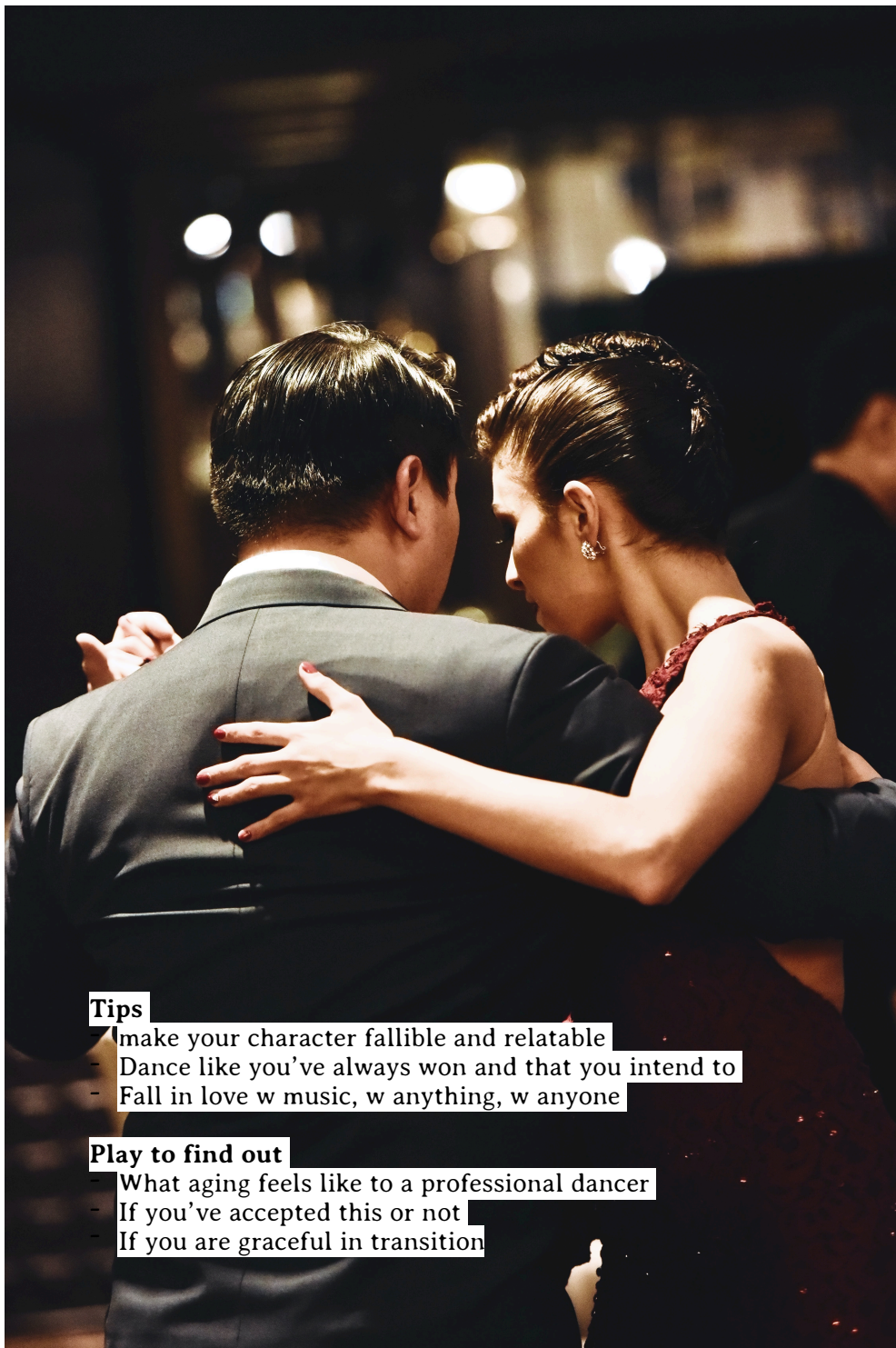
- Win a Battle, cause noise for a battle,
- Bring Pride to a style or a location
- Trash talk, start a fight
- passionately argue about dance
- Recoil from community
- Ask "Why don't you show them what you got?"

### **"Easy" Moves (take a token)**

- Hurt someone with your words
- Make someone feel insecure, without meaning to or on purpose
- Come off as intimidating
- Ask "how do I fail to show up for you?"
- Ask "why do I wish you were my community?"

\*logically pairs w the "Reflex", but other PCs could have a street style past to form this bond





### Tips

- make your character fallible and relatable
- Dance like you've always won and that you intend to
- Fall in love w music, w anything, w anyone

### Play to find out

- What aging feels like to a professional dancer
- If you've accepted this or not
- If you are graceful in transition

# SLAVIK

## 10 DANCE BALLROOM

Older than everybody, is decorated old school 10 dance champ even with the old politics, severe and organized. Trying to retire as stubborn they are in trying not to, is good at other job, trying to get better at being a mentor to other artists (whatever genre)

### Choose a Name

Slavik, Karina, Yulia, Ricardo, Nikolay, Eugeniya, Alexandru, Steffen, Natalia, Iveta, Alain, Anik, Kim, Gary, David, a name that arrives

### Choose a signature competition look

Dripping in rhinestones, better than Disney ball gown, backless sheer electric, dress that moves like fire, sever silhoutte, your own legendary vision. That's framed in the studio now what do you wear when it's training, describe your favorite shoes too

### What's your signature dance category?

GENERAL: Latin — I am loud proud and flamboyant hands up tongue out || Standard — I am tall, strong the definition of elegance, head tall eyes steely

LATIN: chacha (cheeky playful), samba (hips that bring in it's own drumline), rumba (drama that has it's own spotlight), Paso doble (drama but make it a bloody fistfight), Jive (you shouldn't look like you're having that much fun)

STANDARD: Waltz (classic, elegant), Tango (you would piss off Carmen Playbook with abrupt stances), Viennese (endless twirling), Slow Foxtrot (like slow walks by the beach) Quickstep (a marathon but in formal dress

### What about you dances, in years of connection and discipline?

### Your first love was dance, who was your second?

Detail oriented hobby like knitting or cooking, the we do not speak of ex-partner, an old rival who took me years to defeat, weight trainer who sculpted me out of puberty, my dress designer and confidant, that one friend who grounded me when my career was supposed to end earlier create your own





### **How do you get people to dance?**

An experienced touch, an in depth explanation, by staying and letting them just stew in the drill or the music, strict daddy/mommy aura

**Describe your longterm partner and feel free to make them a relevant NPC. Are they like you? Or completely different?**

### **Ask one left and one right**

I see too much of myself in you, why?

What can I learn from only you?

You get through my old dog stubbornness how the hell?

### **TOKEN++**

Whenever someone is inspired by your PATIENCE, DISCIPLINE, HISTORY, you gain a token

### **“Hard” Moves (spend a token)**

- Admit openly you’re too old for this
- Offer someone a painful but wise story
- Make someone have more pride in themselves
- Comfort someone in deep defeat
- Realize you’re too inspired, so in love
- Ask “What needs to happen for me to age more gracefully?”

### **Everyday Moves**

- Bring authority that only comes with being seasoned
- Make the everyday appear elegant
- “I Still Got It” demo teach-in class
- Reminisce a time when you were at your best
- Ask “Why don’t you show them the results of my coaching?”

### **“Easy” Moves (take a token)**

- Misjudge someone due to generation gap
- Make someone feel young, greenhorned, without meaning to
- Come off as gatekeeping or snobbish
- Ask “my critique was valid off time, why?”
- Ask “why does my body fail me right now?”

\*logically foils with Carmen and Tango who don’t partner dance competitively. Foils well w reflex or insecure characters