



Dancing Classrooms Phoenix  
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### **Dancing in Jaffa Brings Peace to the Middle East One Step at a Time**

**Phoenix, Arizona** – Internationally acclaimed documentary, *Dancing in Jaffa* comes to Scottsdale with a lesson on how bringing people together through dance can overcome political and cultural differences. Renowned ballroom dancer Pierre Dulain stars in this charming documentary that offers a unique perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. What results is a sweet and incredibly moving tale filled with moments of truth, poignancy and hope. The film's screening is at Harkins Shea 14, 7354 E Shea Blvd in Scottsdale on Friday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person in advance, \$25 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.dancingclassroomsphoenix.org/>.

The film chronicles Dulaine's life-long dream when he takes his program, **Dancing Classrooms**, back to the city of his birth, Jaffa, Israel. For generations, Jaffa has been a city divided by two communities that continue to grow increasingly apart. Over a ten-week period, Pierre teaches Jewish and Palestinian Israeli children to dance and compete together. The film explores the complex stories of three children, all of whom are forced to confront issues of identity, segregation, and racial prejudice as they dance with their enemy. We watch Pierre transform their lives, confirming his belief that dance can overcome hatred and provide the first steps towards real change.

Presented by [Dancing Classrooms Phoenix](http://www.dancingclassroomsphoenix.org/), local students currently participating in the program will perform and an auction will follow the screening of the film. Funds raised will support school programs to teach ballroom dance to fifth grade students of participating Phoenix schools.

Launched in 1994 as a not-for-profit project of the American Ballroom Theater Company, Dancing Classrooms has been hailed as an effective program for teaching social dance but with many other benefits. The program creates an atmosphere that allows students who are typically introverted and reserved to step out and shine. It builds self-esteem and interactive social skills as it improves children's confidence and ability to relate to others. Dancing

Classrooms was featured in the 2005 award-winning documentary *Mad Hot Ballroom* and the 2006 Motion Picture, *Take the Lead*, with Antonio Banderas.

During the 2012-2013 school year Dancing Classrooms served 42,000 children in over 500 schools in 30 sites. Local Phoenix schools are already benefitting from this program. Dancing Classrooms Phoenix is about more than dance; it is about transforming lives one step at a time.

If you are interested in bringing Dancing Classrooms to your school, and want more information, please contact Teresa Paul Daie, Site Director at [tpauldaie@gmail.com](mailto:tpauldaie@gmail.com) or visit our site at [www.dancingclassroomsphoenix.org](http://www.dancingclassroomsphoenix.org).

***About Dancing Classrooms Phoenix:***

Dancing Classrooms is a social development program for 5th grade children that utilize ballroom dancing as a vehicle to change the lives of not only the children who participate in the program but also the lives of the teachers and parents who support them. Dancing Classrooms was developed by Pierre Dulaine, Director of Dancing Classrooms (a project of the American Ballroom Theater or ABrT) in New York City in 1994. Based on a holistic approach to build confidence and team work, stretch creative skills and support academic excellence, Dancing Classrooms uses the rich and varied vocabularies of social dance to increase cooperation, to improve concentration, and to explore areas of commonality, understanding and cultural awareness. DC Phoenix is part of a worldwide program serving 45,700 kids. Dancing Classrooms Phoenix is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit Arizona corporation.