

Line Dancer

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WHEN ROCK BECOMES COUNTRY

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PULL-OUT INSIDE • 14 GREAT DANCE SCRIPTS
INCLUDING: HELLO DOLLY • THAT MAN • THE BLACK PEARL • FALL APART



The Italian 'Old Wild West'

Mirko Bottel and Sara Barbieri are qualified dance instructors with an Italian Country Dance Club called, 'Old Wild West'. Dawn Middleton asked them why they were so proud to be part of Line dance in Italy. ➔

The Italian 'Old Wild West'



☛ The 'Old Wild West' dance club is an artistic, cultural association which has been active since 2005. In 2007 the association was registered to the National Register of the Sport Associations' recognised by the CONI-Comitato Olimpico Nazionale Italiano and is affiliated to the F.I.D.S. (the Italian Dance Sportive Federation) with Chairman, Antonio Amato and Vice-Chairwoman and Artistic Director, Maria Pia Gualdi (known as Mapi).

Antonio always had an interest for dance and started a lot of classes for different forms of dance but he left when he discovered Country Western as he found it to be very different and great fun. Mapi has spent most of her life in the dance and show world. She has a very important CV. She is the Italian Champion (MASTER 2010 F.I.D.S. M.I.D.A.S.) for the Country Western dance. She has taught different dance genres and has choreographed many shows. For about 20 years she managed one of the most important dance schools in Turin. For Mapi, the country Line dance represented a new and fascinating experience. When they established the 'Old Wild West' their aim was to popularise the Country Western music and the dance in all its forms.

We have 25 qualified instructors who cover five Italian regions situated in the north: Antonio and Mapi from Piedmont; Mirko Bottel and Sara Barbieri from Aosta Valley; Roberta Rotondi from Lombardy; Daniela Pozzato from Liguria and Luciana Gazzini and Martina Calvetti from Trentino-Alto Adige.

Recently the 'Old Wild West' began Country Western classes for ages four to over seventy, in Piedmont, Aosta Valley, Liguria, Trentino-Alto Adige and in Nichelino (Turin's province). Antonio and Mapi also organise many country events for charity, pro-Haiti, care homes, San Marzanotto's kennel, Abruzzo's earthquake, Hospital 'C. Massaia', old people's homes and for the Italian and French Telethon. We also attend F.I.D.S. competitions and do country demonstrations in Verona at the Horse Fair (Fiera Cavalli) and the travelling Carnival in Piedmont.

The 'Old Wild West' is also a regular venue for many country artists such as the legendary George McAnthey an internationally acclaimed country singer and songwriter from Italy. George writes and sings in English. Other artists include Overland Stage & Co, Colorado

Sunrise, Lucky Star Country Band, Mis Mountains Boys, Colorado Ranch and Tex Roses.

Mirko and I have been with 'Old Wild West' since 2009. We hold courses, classes, demonstrations and country events in our region, Aosta Valley. This is an autonomous small region situated in the north west of Italy. We have both had a couple of good ideas that have come to fruition recently and that we are very proud of. As our region is bilingual, Italian and French, we decided it would be a good thing to twin with another country group in France which is only the other side of the Alps. So we suggested this to Antonio and Mapi and in October 2009 Mirko and I got in touch with 'Aime Country' who are situated in the Savoie Region. We also suggested organising the '1st Old Wild West National Meeting', named 'Country Western Day' in Aosta Valley over the weekend of the 3rd and 4th July 2010 to celebrate Independence Day. We love everything country, the style, music and of course the Country Western dance. So after studying the correct terminology we completed our first choreography, called 'Dust Off My Boots' the same name as the track on



George McAnthony's latest album. George is a very good friend of ours and we presented the dance for the first time to him at the 'Country Western Day'. Fellow instructor, Luciana Gazzini also wrote two dances, 'Nashville Calling' and 'Country Gypsy', both from two tracks on George's latest album 'Dust Off My Boots'.

Today Antonio and Mapi can count more than 30 classes and feel that their biggest achievement has been to see the 'Old Wild West' grow to a group of about 400 people that meet to share the passion of the Country life, style, music and dance. The main objective for the future is to continue to encourage people to participate in 'Old Wild West' classes, evenings and events in general. This is very satisfying for Antonio and Mapi as they have achieved something very special.

Everybody who associates with the 'Old Wild West' dance club are treated as an individual regardless of their physical capacity. Moments of strength and comradere among us goes beyond the dancing moments. This is the strength of the 'Old Wild West' dance club.



www.oldwildwest.net

www.mcanthony.it/index.htm

www.overlandstagecompany.com/www_nuovo/index.htm

www.myspace.com/coloradosunrisebandasti

www.aimecountry.com/welcome/index.php