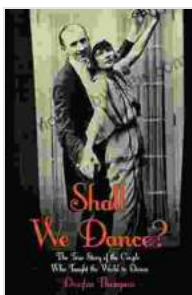


# Shall We Dance? The True Story of the Couple Who Taught the World to Dance



## Shall We Dance? The True Story of the Couple Who Taught The World to Dance by Douglas Thompson

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 5629 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled



Pierre Dulaine and Yvonne Marceau were two of the most celebrated dancers of their generation. Pierre was a world champion ballroom dancer, and Yvonne was a prima ballerina with the New York City Ballet. But in 1994, they gave up their glamorous careers to start a dance program for underprivileged children in New York City.

Dancing Classrooms, as the program was called, was an instant success. Pierre and Yvonne's unique approach to teaching dance, which emphasized fun and self-expression, resonated with children of all ages and backgrounds. Within a few years, Dancing Classrooms had spread to schools across the country, and today it reaches over 2 million children each year.

The story of Pierre and Yvonne Dulaine is an inspiring example of how one couple can make a difference in the world. Their passion for dance and their belief in the power of education have changed the lives of countless children.

## **The Early Years**

Pierre Dulaine was born in Paris, France, in 1944. He began dancing at the age of seven, and by the time he was 16, he was competing in international ballroom competitions. In 1965, he won the World Latin Dance Championship, becoming the youngest person ever to win the title.

Yvonne Marceau was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1946. She began dancing at the age of five, and by the time she was 18, she was a member of the New York City Ballet. In 1968, she became the company's youngest principal dancer.

Pierre and Yvonne met in 1974, when they were both performing in a Broadway show. They fell in love and married a year later. In 1980, they opened their own dance studio in New York City.

## **Dancing Classrooms**

In 1994, Pierre and Yvonne founded Dancing Classrooms. The program's mission was to provide underprivileged children with the opportunity to learn ballroom dance. Pierre and Yvonne believed that dance could teach children important life skills, such as cooperation, teamwork, and self-confidence.

Dancing Classrooms began with just 12 schools in New York City. But within a few years, the program had spread to schools across the country. Today, Dancing Classrooms reaches over 2 million children each year.

The Dancing Classrooms program is unique in its approach to teaching dance. Pierre and Yvonne emphasize fun and self-expression, rather than technical perfection. They believe that dance should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their age, background, or ability.

Dancing Classrooms has been shown to have a number of positive benefits for children. The program has been shown to improve children's academic performance, social skills, and self-esteem.

## **The Legacy of Pierre and Yvonne Dulaine**

Pierre Dulaine died in 2014, at the age of 69. Yvonne Marceau continues to direct Dancing Classrooms. The program is a living legacy to Pierre and Yvonne's passion for dance and their belief in the power of education.

Pierre and Yvonne Dulaine were two of the most influential dancers of their generation. But their greatest legacy is the Dancing Classrooms program, which has changed the lives of countless children.

## Shall We Dance? The Movie

In 2004, the story of Pierre and Yvonne Dulaine was made into a movie called Shall We Dance? The movie starred Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez as Pierre and Yvonne. The movie was a critical and commercial success, and it helped to raise awareness of the Dancing Classrooms program.

Pierre and Yvonne Dulaine were two extraordinary people who dedicated their lives to making the world a better place through dance. Their passion for dance and their belief in the power of education have changed the lives of countless children. Their legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.



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