

# Chassé

The Newsletter of Friends of Ala Wai Ballroom Dance Academy

Spring 2009 Volume Two, Number 1

## ‘License to Dance’ to mark 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary

As we approach our fifth anniversary, the Board of Directors of Friends of Ala Wai Ballroom Dance Academy is busy making plans for what is expected to be one of its most ambitious dance events ever. Saturday, May 23, is the day that has been set aside to mark five years of steady growth and accomplishments.

“From our humble beginnings, we’ve grown to nearly 500 members strong,” said Warren Mitsunaga, President of Friends of Ala Wai.

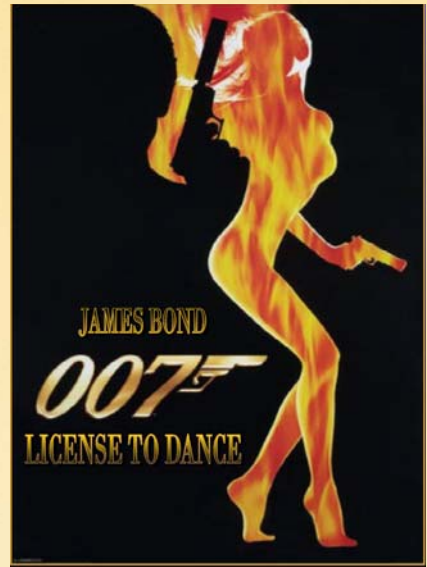
“But more than that, we are very proud of the contributions we’ve been able to make to the local ballroom dance community through our well-received ballroom dance classes and through our support of the city’s Ala Wai Palladium facility, which all ballroom dancers enjoy and utilize.”

As for the anniversary ball, Mitsunaga promises the kind of event that many Palladium regulars have come to expect from a Friends of Ala Wai function.

“Without giving too much away, I believe this will be one of our best dances yet, with great music from our Dance Director Michael Yap, dinner bento and cake, and an exciting program with a few surprises of its own,” Mitsunaga said.

Tickets are \$10 presale (with bento) or \$15 at the door (no bento) and are available from board members. Presale tickets will be available until May 17.

Founded in 2004, Friends of Ala Wai began offering classes to a small group of enthusiastic students at Kawanakoa Middle School’s cafeteria in Pauoa. As the newest ballroom dance club, Friends had to wait its turn for classroom space at the Palladium. It waited for more than a



License to Dance, Friends of Ala Wai’s 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary ball, is set for Saturday, May 23, 2009, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Ala Wai Palladium. Tickets are \$10 presale and \$15 at the door.

year, before occasional openings were made available. And longer still, before it was able to secure times for regular classes.

But its perseverance paid off, as its classes soon attracted, principally by word of mouth, more than 250 regular students over the course of the next few years—a testament to the quality of instruction from its dance instructors.

At the same time, the organization also began making regular contributions to the Palladium. It worked with the staff of the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation to determine what was needed for the upkeep and maintenance of the facility.

That commitment to the Palladium—built into its bylaws as a nonprofit organization and one of its primary stated purposes—will continue.

### Friends’ Board of Directors

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