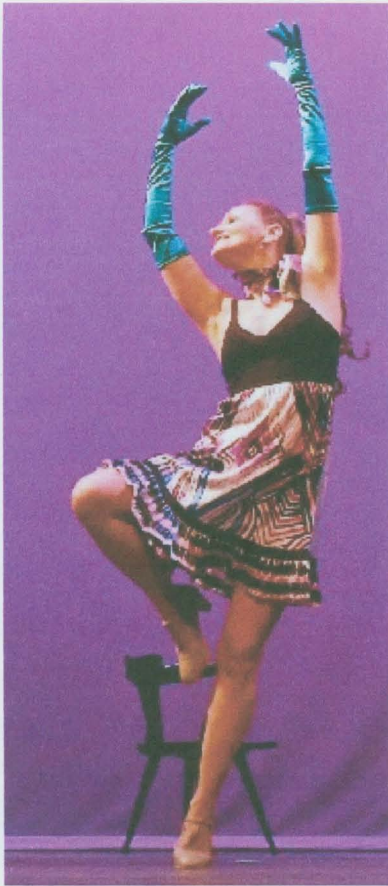




Teresa Johnson was born in Columbus Ohio in 1947. At a very early age, she knew that dancing was to be her passion, but she did not have the opportunity to begin lessons until age 15. She started with jazz dance, but soon added ballet, tap, and acrobatics. After moving to California in 1968, Teresa pursued dance at Orange Coast College, where she trained in Modern Dance. From 1972-74 she lived on a U.S. Air Force base in Italy, where she taught ballet, jazz dance, and acrobatics to children and adults.

After returning from Italy, Teresa attended UC Santa Barbara where she earned a B.A. degree in Dance in 1979. During her years at UCSB, Teresa was a member of Repertory-West Dance Company (which later evolved into Santa Barbara Dance Theatre). In 1986, she earned an M.A. in Dance at UCLA. While in the Los Angeles area for ten years, Teresa taught ballet, jazz dance, and tap at many locations, including Falcon Studios in Hollywood, and in the Adult Ed program at West L.A. College. Teresa returned to Santa Barbara in 1989 and became active teaching dance classes for children in numerous local after-school programs, as well as teaching adult classes for the Santa Barbara Dept. of Parks & Recreation, and the UCSB Leisure Program.

In 1999 she and swing dance partner, Chris Stewart, founded Swing Fever Productions. They performed and taught Savoy Style Lindy Hop, East Coast Swing, and Charleston for five years, and directed a performance team of ten

dancers for two years. Teresa and Chris even experienced dancing on top of Little Richard's piano during his performance at the Ventura County Fair in 2002!

Teresa has been involved in the local Santa Barbara Dance Alliance since its inception in 1979. Her involvement has included the roles of performer, choreographer, production director, and administrative assistant. She currently works at Santa Barbara Dance Center on Ortega St., and is the studio owner's Personal Assistant. Teresa's website www.youthful-seniors-advice.com reflects her experiences as a dancer who continues to be very active in dance, even though she is now sixty-two years old. Her newest calling is to use the website to encourage people to drop the "over the hill" mindset that many buy into after age forty. She invites people to replace that popular negative phrase with "live at the top of the hill" which is much more positive!

Teresa invited 10 other choreographers over age 40 to join her in presenting a show at Center Stage Theater on October 4, 2009, "DANCE AT THE TOP OF THE HILL", (contemporary, jazz, swing, ballroom, Latin, dance theater, and belly dance)... an inspiration to the community to continue or return to doing whatever one is or has been passionate about in life!

over →



Performance at The Lobos 2008