

OU Salsa Team Auditions 2009/2010

Saturday 31st October, 11:30am
Wesley Memorial Hall, New Inn Hall St, Oxford

Hello, and welcome to the OU Salsa Team 2009/10 auditions! Thank you for coming, hope you enjoy the afternoon, and most importantly, **GOOD LUCK!** Please read the following information carefully before you sign up for a number, it will tell you a bit more about the team and about the auditions.

The OU Salsa team is a successful and well-established performing dance group – we perform salsa routines across Oxford at charity events, college balls, nightclubs and dance displays. Being on the team involves rehearsing **three times a week**, attending performances and social events, and having a brilliant time! Each Michaelmas Term we set up a new team, with a brand new routine. This year, we are set for a sexy Line Style routine, choreographed and coached by Rosa and Giles Eadle of IGNITE Dance Company, who also choreographed our fabulous routines of the last 2 years.

Information about the auditions

TIME: Allow for being there until **4:30pm**. Please don't wander off in case you miss your turn! We start promptly at 12noon. Registration starts at 11:30am.

WHAT YOU WILL DO: At registration, we will ask for your details, such as name, college, year of graduation, previous dance experience. Once you confirm that you have read this document you will be given a number sticker. Then after a short warm up, you will be called up in groups to audition. We will play some music and you will social dance with different partners. There will be at least two rounds, and you may be asked to leave after one round, or asked to stay longer. The session involves a lot of waiting around! Please wear proper and comfortable clothing and footwear. For ladies with dancing shoes, please make sure that you have heel protectors on your dance shoes. **NO FLIP-FLOPS!** Bring bottled water, and snacks, as we can't provide any on the day.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR: Some experience in salsa would be useful. If you have experience in any other kind of dance, do let us know when you register. We also look for people with lots of enthusiasm, a sense of rhythm and, of course, a passion for salsa. We accept finalists, but you need to be prepared to dance throughout the year regardless of exams (within reason)! We do **NOT** audition couples – you can audition on an **INDIVIDUAL** basis only. Postgraduates and mature students are welcome for audition. Non-students are welcome too, but we have a limited number of places available – let us know when you register. **If you are already a member of another dance team or sports team, please tell us at registration as you may not be eligible to join OUST – you will be**

expected to commit to OUST above any other activities! If this is a concern email salsasoc@herald.ox.ac.uk for advice.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEAM

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

As a member of the team, you will learn a Line Style routine, choreographed by Rosa and Giles. At the annual OUSS Ball, you will just perform this routine. At all other events after this, you may be required to:

- social dance
- perform Rueda
- teach a beginners class (we assign people for performances in a way that ensures only team members with the necessary experience and confidence have to do this)
- taxi dancing – dancing with guests during and after a lesson

N.B. If you are not free, all day, on Saturday 6th March 2010, please tell someone at Registration!! This is the date of the OUST 2009/10 debut show, and ONLY time the entire team will perform together!

REHEARSALS:

Rehearsals during main term:

Wednesdays, 7-9pm, Lincoln College

Thursdays, 8-10pm, LAFitness Gym

Sundays 7-9pm, Lincoln College

Thursdays and Sundays are the choreography sessions with Rosa and Giles and are **ABSOLUTELY COMPULSORY FOR EVERYONE!!** If you cannot attend these sessions, then please tell someone as you register!

Wednesday rehearsals will be conducted by experienced members of the salsa team and will also be **compulsory**, unless otherwise notified.

COSTS:

Being part of OUST is VERY cheap compared to other sport and dance societies. This is because the Society HEAVILY subsidises the costs of coaching, costumes, and training venues, as well as providing free lessons and social practice sessions.

Team fee	Actual Cost
Subs (coaching) £40 X 3 terms	£150 x 3 terms
Costume £55 (may change slightly each year)	~ £75
Free entry to all lessons, socials, events, the Ball...	~ £400

You pay £165 over 3 terms. The society pays ~£925... Bargain!

And let's not forget the **free entry to College balls** and events in Oxford that you will get whenever you are performing!

Subs are due during the first week of rehearsals of every term. The costume fee will be due at the beginning of Hilary. Remember that costumes are custom made to perfectly fit each team member, and you get to keep them at the end of the year!

As well as fees, each team member will also be charged a small deposit at the beginning of the year – more on that below.

COSTUMES

Each year has a different costume. All team members match (as we do synchronised shows).

Girls: you will have a dress, made to measure. Warning – this dress will be *slightly* flashy and quite sexy – we're a performance team remember! Modesty will of course be preserved, and we will ensure it is a design that isn't too skimpy and won't come undone at the wrong moment etc, but do be prepared for cut-out sections, short skirts and possibly backless designs... The committee's decision on costume design is final and not up for debate. Don't worry – you'll look amazing!

Also flesh or tan coloured satin dance shoes (coaches can advise), with a 2" – 3" heel are required – our shoes need to match too! You will need to buy these yourself if you don't already own a pair, but will definitely get a lot of use out of them!

Guys: trousers and shirt with possible accessories such as tie, belt etc. Black dance shoes required (coaches will provide advice on this) – you will need to buy these yourself if you don't already own some.

All: matching jackets, to wear over costume before shows, with your name, 'OUST 2009/10' and university logo.

TEAM CALENDAR

MT - Team auditions. Rehearsals start. All performances handled by previous team(08/09)

HT – Rehearsals continue, in preparation for Salsa Ball on 6th March 2010, old team continues to handle shows until that date

Saturday 6th March /Sat 7th week – OUSS Ball – debut show of choreography!!

HT and TT – team perform choreography, as well as Rueda and social dancing, and teaching lessons, at balls, shows, dance festivals, charity events, competitions, and anything we're hired for!

Members still in Oxford during the following academic year will continue to perform while the next team train, up to the Salsa Ball in HT 2011.

TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Society heavily subsidises the Team, but running the Society takes a lot of effort, and cannot be done without the help of the team. So in return for subsidies, ALL TEAM MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO DO THEIR FAIR SHARE of shifts at Society events. When every member does their share, this adds up to a VERY SMALL NUMBER OF SHIFTS EACH, and is nothing when considering the level of subsidy enjoyed by each team member. Also, the shifts are at lessons and socials, which team members are encouraged to attend anyway.

Each term, each team member can expect to be assigned roughly:

1 X 2 hour shift collecting money at lessons (Mon)
2 X 30 mins shifts collecting money at Anuba (Wed)
1 X 1 hour shift collecting money at Risa (Sun)
plus a share of shifts at the ball, and any workshops we run.

Shifts will be assigned in advance. If there are particular times and days you cannot do, tell the shift organiser in advance and your shifts can be arranged around other commitments. If you find you cannot do a shift you have been assigned, you must give reasonable notice, and attempt to arrange a swap with a fellow team member.

During vacations, if you are in Oxford, shifts are not assigned, but instead we ask for volunteers to help at Anuba/Risa, and the difference is you will get paid £5/hour.

Deposit scheme:

In an effort to prevent

- people forgetting their shifts (which causes the society losses and inconveniences fellow team members who have to stand in)
- people not turning up to or being late to rehearsals (which isn't fair on the people who DO turn up, and also causes us to lose time repeating things)

OUST has a deposit scheme. A small fee (to be decided after auditions), is charged at the beginning of the year. Any failure to turn up to rehearsals without giving the Team Captain sufficient notice, or failure to turn up for shift, and any tardiness, will result in the loss of part of this deposit. The deposit will be returned, assuming good attendance and punctuality, at the end of the year.

Any further questions, please email salsasoc@herald.ox.ac.uk in advance of the auditions, or ask on the day at registration.