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arts &  
culture

# You Should be Dancing

Find out why so many  
locals are finding the  
beat with salsa dancing.

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PHOTOS AARON PHILLIPS

**T**HERE'S SOMETHING about the intoxicating rhythms of Latin music that makes you want to move.

Over in Pearl, people strap on their dancing shoes at the Dance Connection Ballroom Dance Center on Bierdeman Road. "My dancing days began back in the Disco era," laughs dance director Mike Day.



"I thought if I could dance, girls would like me!" Trained in Fred Astaire schools, Mike wanted to bring that same quality of teaching to Mississippi but at more affordable prices.

Lisa Day, a veterinarian, waltzed into Mike's life when she signed up for dance lessons. Now the duo teaches classes in all styles of ballroom dancing, including the popular salsa. Each month, the studio focuses on a different dance. September will be salsa month with a weekly \$10 dance class and party." The first two weeks of the month are always for beginners, then the next two are for people who know the basics. We want our students to leave knowing how to do the dances so they can go do them on their own."

**PHOTO AT LEFT:** Mike Day, dance director and Shirley Miller, owner of Dance Connection.

**ABOVE:** A class practices the salsa at Dance Connection **BELOW:** Director Mike Day and his wife Lisa, manager and instructor at Dance Connection, demonstrate a salsa dance pattern.

