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# NEW Year NEW Friends



The Year of The Ox was welcomed in style last January by the Hong Kong Line dance association with two terrific weekends and a visit from talented choreographer Cato Larsen. Dancer *Emily Kwauk* was there and sent us this report.

We started the Year 2009 off with a series of workshops by Cato Larsen, an acclaimed instructor from the 'Land of the Vikings', Oslo, Norway who was invited by the association. It was Cato's first trip to Hong Kong (and Asia!) and the event proved to be a truly memorable experience for both parties.

The venue for Cato's workshops was the walk-in studio in Wan Chai. Classes ran for three consecutive days, from January seventh and there were eight sessions altogether, one at the Beginner/Easy Intermediate level, four at Intermediate, one at Intermediate-Advanced and two at the Advanced level. With Cato's 'Viking' charm and no nonsense teaching style, he certainly got the best out of his students at all levels and in record time.

The climax of Cato's visit was the New Year Party held in his honour at The Hong Kong Football Club. There was a scrumptious buffet dinner, fantastic raffle prizes donated by generous dancers, and dancing from four pm to midnight. Cato taught everyone a party dance called 'Festival Fun' and led the dance floor in some of his own works, 'Am I', 'Burning',

and 'She Danced'. The party ended at midnight and many lucky guests left with happy 'photo moments' with one of the most charming Line dancing instructor/choreographer they had ever met.

With the first event of the year out of the way, another one followed a month later. The Hong Kong Line Dancing Association kicked off the Year of the Ox (Lunar New Year) on Saturday 14th February with eighty participants dancing and enjoying the social in the walk-in studio in Wan Chai. The celebration started at ten am, with dancing led by none other than our Chairwoman and Head Instructor Lina Choi. To celebrate the official opening of classes in the Year of the Ox, the ceremony of cutting the roast suckling pig took place at the auspicious time 10.30am. Many were busy posing for photographs while others were setting up the buffet table with lots of delicious home cooked food.

'Eat, Dance and Be Merry' was definitely the theme of this Chinese New Year Celebration, and all those who attended were wished a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous Year of the Ox.

## SOME OF THE DANCES TAUGHT BY CATO WERE:

- This And That
- Run Sue Run
- Dream On
- Jailhouse Creole  
(Beginner/Easy Intermediate)
- Bella Bella Signorina
- Dancing Feet
- In Control
- Bad Boy Swing
- Rollin' With The Flow
- JR Drop
- Downpour
- And I Liked It
- Make My Day
- Sting Me
- Hold On Be Strong
- Sugar Lips (Intermediate)

