

Please join us for a different kind of fun!

## *Dads Don't Dance (or do they?)*

How do we move with our children? We play baseball, football, and soccer. We race, and dodge and wrestle, we gesture enthusiastically on sidelines, we trip over strewn toys and we snuggle close to read bedtime stories. We toss babies in the air, twirl toddlers in circles, carry tired kids on shoulders, bear hug teenagers and handshake graduates. We teach the tasks, values, lives we learned from our fathers and mothers (at least we try to). We raise voices, arms, and heart rates in occasional frustration, anger or disappointment. How does all this feel in our bodies? Do we move the same at our places of employment as we do in the company of our children? Do we dare to be a bit more ridiculous or "out of control" with them? Can all this be conceived of a dance, an art that grows out of our everyday actions as human beings constantly in motion? Can we "dance" these real physical experiences and discover something more about ourselves as fathers, as sons of our fathers and share with fellow fathers our experience of the ever-changing role of fatherhood?

*Dads Don't Dance* is a once a week summer workshop to enjoy other fathers company, get a light workout, perhaps take a few risks, and most importantly have fun. Come investigate and celebrate fatherhood through movement exercises, asking questions, reflecting and sharing insights.

This summer's work will reflect requests from participants of last summer's pilot workshop such as more time with dance warm-ups and exercises, addressing specific issues like how competition functions in our parental relationships and opening *Dads Don't Dance* to non fathers as well. Therefore this summer's workshop will be open to all men with the understanding that fathering (and recalling our own fathers) is something we can all experience whether with our own children or those of others that are part of our lives. Participant's ideas will influence subsequent sessions.

When: Wednesday evenings, 7:00 until 8:30 PM, Two four-week sessions.

*Session I* - June 26, July 3, 10 and 17. *Session II* - August 14, 21, 28 and Sept. 4.

Where: Santa Clara University's Music and Dance Building, (corner of Lafayette and Franklin, entrance on Franklin)

What: Each evening's process will include:

- Meet and greet all present, which may include teachers, doctors, engineers, actors, salesmen, authors, musicians, lawyers, new dads and grandads.
- A warm-up will get us ready to move, perhaps acquaint us with some little known muscles. Wear comfortable clothes to move in (sweats, T-shirt).
- Aspects of fatherhood explored through discussion, drawing, and our bodies in motion.
- Spontaneous laughter
- Questioning/Exploring how we communicate through movement, as individuals, as men, as fathers.

- Some time to share each other's experience of the process and a wrap-up.
- Optional post session socializing.

I know vacations happen all summer long. You are welcome to attend any one evening or all eight. While we may build on a prior week's experiences each session will be self-contained for anyone who is new. Please feel free to invite any father friends to join. I will ask everyone to sign a simple SCU waiver of liability. All sessions are free.

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Coordinated by David J. Popalisky, Director of the Dance Program in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Santa Clara University. I am forty-seven, married for eighteen years, the father of two sons, aged seven and fifteen. I have been performing, choreographing and teaching dance to all ages for twenty-five years. I have a BA from Stanford University, an MA in Theatre Arts from San Jose State University, and a MFA in Dance from Mills College. Although I wear tights and leotards at work, I am a normal guy otherwise.

Please respond with your interest, questions and intention to join so I can get a sense of how big or small a group we may be on any particular night. Response can be through Email to [dpopalisky@scu.edu](mailto:dpopalisky@scu.edu) (preferred), or phone - SCU 408-554-4043 or 408-971-0351.