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Buffalo Grove Countryside (IL)

Quarter century in business: Dance teacher's dream comes true

CHARLES BERMAN Staff Writer
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Celebrating 25 years in one community is quite an accomplishment for any business.

But the ultimate tribute to dance coach **Marcia Dobslaf** is that some of her former students are now bringing their own children to her Buffalo Grove dance studio.

In reality, the dance studio has never truly been a business for **Dobslaf**. She has likened herself to a second mother to many of her students and takes pride in watching them grow to love dance.

Marcia's Dance Studio has become a staple in the community, teaching dance to countless area children and putting on dazzling shows since she opened her first studio in 1984. After outgrowing her first Buffalo Grove location 15 years ago, **Dobslaf** settled into Woodland Commons, at Half Day and Buffalo Grove roads.

"I would have never in a million years thought I would be celebrating 25 years with such wonderful families and children," she said. "It was always my dream to bring dance to the community."

Dobslaf said the most gratifying part has been putting smiles on the students' faces and seeing them feel good about themselves.

"The students are very important to me," said **Dobslaf**, as her emotions began to take over her voice.

'Memories' show

All of **Dobslaf's** students, some as young as 2 years old and others now in high school, will put on a special show at 6 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Stevenson High School Performing Arts Center, 1 Stevenson Drive, Lincolnshire. The "Memories" show will highlight the last 24 shows with a montage of every performance.

"It's going to be fun seeing (the video of) our 15-year-olds who were 3 years old (in the montage)," she said.

Competitive success

While some attend dance classes at the studio for recreation, **Marcia's** Dance Studio has also been called the go-to studio for area children trying to make the very competitive high school dance teams.

"We've been quite successful, but it's because they've put their hearts and souls into it," said **Dobslaf**, noting that the poms clinics began 12 years ago. "They work so hard and I'm so proud of them.

"It pulls at my heart strings to see them up on stage doing so well," **Dobslaf** continued, choking up again. "They've given me so much love."

Buffalo Grove resident Jodi Abelson has brought her daughter to **Dobslaf's** studio for the last eight years.

"She's the only dance studio to be at," Abelson said. "My daughter made Stevenson High School dance because of **Marcia**. Everyone at her studio makes poms at Stevenson."

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Dobslaf has no plans to give up coaching anytime soon.

"I will keep going till my body slows down," she said. "I feel so fortunate to be able to do something I have so much passion for.

"I dreamed of this as a girl."

To check the availability of tickets for the Saturday (June 13) and Sunday (June 14) performances, call the studio at (847) 821-TOES (8637).

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