

# rachael leaves hong kong 'speechless'





As the spirit of Christmas was beginning to fill the air in Hong Kong, students and overseas visitors of The Hong Kong Line Dancing Association were merrily chasteing, swaying, turning and stomping accompanied by World Champion Rachael McEnaney. Ceci Wong has sent us this report by Emily Kwauk.

From the 7th to the 10th December 2011, at the invitation of Lina Choi, the Association's Chairperson, three times World Champion Rachael McEnaney conducted a series of eight workshop sessions. Attendance at most of the sessions consisted of students of diverse levels. Dances taught by Rachael were, Easy Intermediate; Life Could Be A Dream, Journey To The Stars, Intermediate; Hi-A-Ma Cha, Drinkin' Wine, Proud Mary Burnin', I'm No Good, Footsteps, Caribbean Pearl, Intermediate/Advanced; Had A Bad Day, Freak A Little More, Advanced; Meet Me At The Altar, Jazzy Girl.

Two technique sessions were offered to dancers of all levels. Rachael went through drills on how to improve posture, turns, footwork and styling used in various dances. To add a bit of novelty and fun, Zumba was introduced in one of the sessions. With people sweating

and panting, Zumba was certainly a good 'tool' for assessing everyone's fitness level.

The combination of Rachael's passion for dancing and teaching, her great sense of humor, precise footwork demonstrations and clear verbal instructions made the most difficult steps easy to follow and remember. It was certainly a joy to observe everyone's positive reaction to Rachael's teaching. As for technique classes, every participant took to the floor with great enthusiasm.

The highlight of Rachael's visit was the 13th Annual Christmas Party held in her honor at The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Response to the event was overwhelming, 185 people attended between 4pm until midnight. The majority of attendees were students from The Hong Kong Line Dancing







Lina led most of the dances at the party and Rachael, Niels and Malene each led the floor in their own style. As usual, the evening's program consisted of food galore, raffle draw, presentation of birthday gifts to birthday girls of the Association, a souvenir presentation to the guest of honor and lots of photo taking. The special highlight of the evening was the pre-dinner entertainment, a solo performance by Rachael, everyone was treated to a dazzling display. And those who managed to continue dancing and socialising until late into the evening were treated to an encore, Rachael's rendition of 'Speechless' and 'Cyclone'. It was so wonderful that it left everyone literally speechless!

Club but we also had visitors from other Line dancing studios in Hong Kong, United States, Taiwan, Indonesia, Denmark and Australia. Internationally acclaimed instructor and choreographer Niels Poulsen was also there with his student Malene Jakobsen, an award-winning choreographer from Denmark.

In summary, Rachael's visit to the Association was both inspiring and empowering to Line dancers at all levels.

