



PACIFIC BALLROOM DANCE

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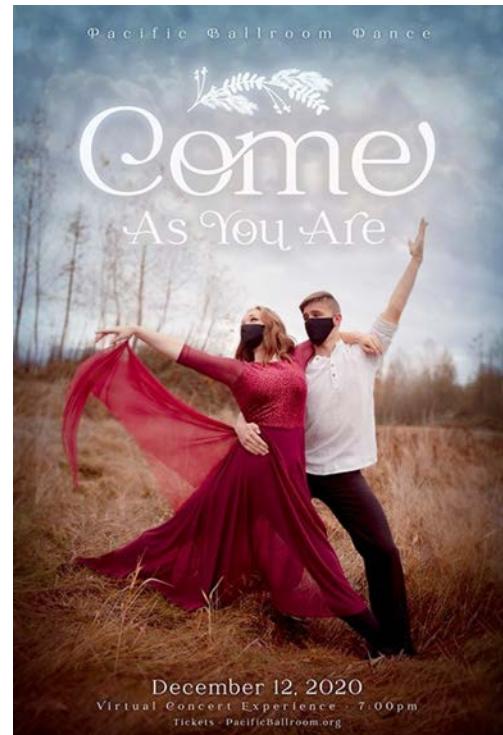
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Tickets available now for "Come As You Are": A virtual dance concert

Pacific Ballroom Dance (PBD) will present Come As You Are, a live-streamed ballroom dance concert on December 12th at 7 pm through the Vimeo platform. This is the non-profit youth organization's 2nd virtual dance concert since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic with their first concert, Mosaic, now reaching thousands of views since airing in June. Tickets may be purchased on [pacificballroom.org](http://pacificballroom.org) with Basic, Deluxe, and VIP options.

PBD has been strictly following city and state protocols put in place by Governor Inslee to combat the further spread of COVID-19. Classes are currently being held virtually as PBD strives to adhere to the newest Washington State mandates.

"This year Pacific Ballroom Dance has been hugely impacted by COVID-19. As a non-profit arts organization that seeks to bring dancers of all ages together through in-person social interactions, it has been devastating to our program to lose the ability to connect face-to-face," says Artistic Director, Katie Mecham. "We have overcome many challenges this year as well as seen many miracles. Our staff, board, students, supporters, and volunteers have rallied around our program, found creative solutions, and sacrificed to help us keep our doors open."



The title and theme of this years' concert was chosen deliberately and with care. Mecham states, "One of the core values of PBD is inclusiveness. Now more than ever before we felt like this message was needed. At PBD, we strive to create a program that becomes a home for our dancers and their families, a place where they are loved, accepted, and celebrated for who they are. Brene Brown once said, "True belonging doesn't require us to change who we are. It requires us to be who we are." And so, through our dancing and the experiences we share,

Preteen Premier Team Dancers film their rumba/two step for the virtual concert.

we celebrate this life together, and reach out a hand saying, "come as you are."

Senior dancer, Brandon Maner said, "being a part of filming dance videos for our concert has been a really fun experience because we have had to find exciting places to film and creative ways to set up a stage and dance. It's been fun having new experiences with the team while doing what we love, even if it can be muddy and gross and cold".

Adam Lee has been one of the many instructors who has taken on the challenge of a virtual concert.

"None of us have been trained in videography or editing, so it has been a steep learning curve. We've had to completely rethink how we choreograph dances and transitions from a stage perspective to a filmed one. We had a small taste of it in the spring, but I find that each time I film, I learn a little more about what I would do differently the next time. I keep learning from that and I feel the quality keeps getting better and better" says Lee.



Brandon Maner and teammates film a Viennese Waltz in the studio space

**ABOUT PBD:** Pacific Ballroom Dance (PBD) began in 1994 as a small, local youth club with a goal to provide young teens with the opportunity to build respectful social skills, self-esteem, fitness, and teamwork. In 2003, PBD became a 501c3 non-profit organization with a mission to build character in youth by providing a positive ballroom dance experience. Today, PBD is a thriving youth dance education studio based in Auburn, Washington, serving more than 1000 students annually from age 10-18 from throughout the Puget Sound area.

**MISSION:** Pacific Ballroom Dance builds character in youth by providing a positive ballroom dance experience.

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