

DANZA DUENDE

Dancing your life!

"When consciousness shines the Duende begins. If Art can be Duende, life can be Duende too!"



Gypsy Duende Wild and Free Forever!

a review by Karine Butchart

“Wild and Free Forever” was a great sub-title for this gypsy duende workshop with Monica Roncon held recently in West Cork, Ireland. Whilst learning gypsy dance techniques from Russia, Hungary and Romania, the main focus of the weekend was really on the spirit of the gypsy style or the duende of dance. Monica, who is Portuguese living in France, was knowledgeable, skilful and playful as she inspired the group with her energy and enthusiasm. The room became a swirl of colour and joy as we swished our huge skirts and shawls feeling exhilarated by the music and energy of the dance. The whole weekend was well paced with good warm up and stretching.

This workshop was one of a series of danza duende workshops held in the beautiful location of An Sanctoir – a place set amidst the emerald hills of Ballydehob. All the teachers on this project have a lovely quality of clarity and purpose that they bring to their work – constantly seeking new ways to deepen the experience of any style that they share.

Last November Maribel Molina from Madrid brought the wildness of Rumba Flamenco with a delightful fiery passion to burn away the wintry blues; and last July Myriam Szabo ran a 3-day gypsy workshop with Ozan Aksoyek bringing an Indian quality to the style plus theatre skills and awareness techniques.

The beauty of the danza duende project from my point of view is that it deepens one’s understanding of dance, movement, the impulse from which we dance, the authentic, true nature of dance, bringing self investigation as well as sharing with, and being inspired by others. By exploring space, shape, pace, expansion, breath and stillness there is an enhanced sense of being very present and alive. Technique has its place but really that is only the beginning.....! The approach deeply resonates with my own background of body work, movement and dance.

If you are interested in having an inspiring time in Ireland there are more workshops planned – Choreography and use of Space with Ozan in May and an 8 day retreat in July with Myriam Szabo (the founder of danza duende) and Liliane Viegas (see diary date listings).

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