



## **The Effects of Social Media on Ballroom Dance or Remember The Jetsons...**

Such an interesting phenomena social media. As a kid I watched cartoons like “The Flintstones” which were in Caveman times, and “The Jetsons” which were living in space in the future. On “The Jetsons” Astro the dog takes his daily walk out on a treadmill. It was so futuristic, but today it and other futuristic things seen in the cartoons and shows like “Star Trek” are common place today.

When something technologically new comes out I would laugh and say remember “The Jetsons.” George Jetson had a four hour work week at Spacley Sprockets, and now 57 years later a few countries are starting a four day work weeks.

The newest Royals Prince Harry and Meghan are “Stepping Away” from that fairytale lifestyle and will now be living off their own monies and incomes and doing charity work. They will try to raise their children as normal as possible and teach them about life accordingly. What really happened?. Meghan has signed a few deals to continue her career. This was all done before poor Queen Elizabeth had a clue. I watched the royal wedding and thought what are they thinking? People need water and food and if I were in their financial status it would be my duty to make sure people and animals in need would be taken care of. Social media now allows us to see what is happening around the world in real time, and now we see more wealth from businesses and individuals going to those in need.

As I watched a PBS special the other day on up and coming Russian Ballet Stars training in Vagonava technique. The ups and downs, blood, sweat and tears. But what impressed me the most was the Ballet Master and how he kept correcting the up and coming generation of dancers and their partnering techniques. He was always so upset with their lack of awareness of each other visually and use of touch and feel. He said something over his shoulder very casually but it was so profound. “This poor generation, all of their relationships are cultivated online. They will never experience a relationship with eye contact or touch. They are missing so much. That is why it takes so long to develop their technique.” To me that comment was worth the whole program.

Watching ballroom dancing today that is the first thing I see. You can almost see them texting each other as they are dancing. Not a lot of eye contact with their partners, most of them dancing on their own with out any organic connection because they are all trying to be faster than the other. Not aware of any response from their partners body expressions. Who has time? A missing sensation through out the field.

But with this generation it is not all their fault. They know nothing else. Many schools are trying to bring back no phones or texting in classrooms, art and painting and dance in schools along with music

for their curriculum. Even if your child is not a genius, studies show the brain develops faster and better being exposed to the arts, resulting in better development of the body, mind and spirit.

The Flintstones were just the beginning. The Jetsons are and will be the future. Let's hope ex-royals like Meghan and Harry are just the beginning of the new social trend that benefits the world, especially the arts and Ballroom Dance.

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