

Sad news – Farewell Arte Phillips (1959-2008)

On November 12, 2008 ... It is with great sadness that I write this message. Unfortunately we have lost one of the shining stars in our dance world.

-Arte Phillips has passed away-

He was found still sleeping in his bed at home in Philadelphia on Wednesday, November 12th. An autopsy has revealed that he had heart failure due to an enlarged & diseased heart – a hereditary condition.

I think Arte's friends and family, and anyone he came in contact with, felt what a big heart he had on the dance floor & in life. He was such a brilliant dancer, tremendous human being and an incredibly dear friend. He had such passion and cared so much about the people as well as the dance. On November 9th at MM2008 in Lake Tahoe, Arte presented a most amazingly brilliant Hustle History seminar with exciting video footage, wonderful photos and a most interesting and valuable commentary. It was fabulous! Arte's passing is such an extreme loss and he will be so greatly missed.

I am in shock and I know that I already miss my friend!

Michelle

Michelle Kinkaid

Email: wcdancer@ix.netcom.com

Website: <http://www.michelledance.com>



Ciao ... as Arte would always say

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A tribute to my friend, Arte Phillips ...

To My Dear Friend, *Arte*:

The lights have been dimmed ... as the curtain closes on this earthly segment of your life's production. I know you are already moving to the next "stage" in heaven to continue with your brilliant and amazing contributions.

My time spent with you will always be cherished as every time we were together, we had so much fun ... so many laughs ... and of course our memorable and immeasurable "Sunday Strange Dance Improvisations" at Mountain Magic/Lake Tahoe over the years. There were many that stayed over specifically just to see you and I dance ... or perhaps be unbelievably creative is a better title. The intuitive and spontaneous connection present for us was incredible.



Michelle & Arte at Mountain Magic, Lake Tahoe

My heart goes out to your family and all who had the good fortune to know you. You are a "Class Act" with an incredible ability to brighten a room. Your passion and caring for people as well as the dance is a very rare gift and this world will be a less bright place without you.

Thank you for all the class you brought to the dance and most of all for your friendship – I will cherish that the most! I will miss you here on Earth. I am in shock and I know that I already miss you.

Farewell my Friend! Rest in Peace ... and Dance On into Heaven.

Michelle Kinkaid



Arte Phillips

[taken from his website @ <http://www.artephillipsdance.com/toc.htm>]

Theatrical Dance Champion, Instructor, Performer & Choreographer

Arte Phillips is an international dance performer, choreographer and teacher. His choreographic and performing work spans music videos, top recording stars, theatre productions and musicals. Arte was The United States Ballroom Champion, 5 time Star Search Finalist and winner of the "Gypsy of the Year" (Best of Broadway). He has danced on numerous award shows as well as the Miss America Pageant and Broadway Bares. Arte performed in several Broadway shows as: Tommy Tune's Grand Hotel, Victor Victoria with Julie Andrews, Once Upon a Mattress with Sarah Jessica Parker, the original workshop of "Fosse" and as a dancer and Associate Choreographer for the Broadway production Swing.

As a choreographer Arte's romantic and sweet-tempered work is theatrically persuasive. Arte has presented his work extensively throughout the Metropolitan area. A review by John Kenrick (Author of Musicals101.com) said "Arte Phillips fine choreography for Victor Victoria at the Papermill Playhouse, was miles ahead of the Broadway version, making "Le Jazz Hot" and other numbers genuinely exciting." Joseph Bowen was quoted to say ".....along with excellent ballroom choreography by Arte Phillips, gave this show 'Queen of the Stardust Ballroom' the polish it deserves." Other works are Big Rosemary at the Helen Hayes Performing Arts Center, Harmony at the La Jolla Playhouse, Finain's Rainbow and a production of Saturday Night Fever at the National Theater in Santo Domingo.

Leave a comment about Arte at:

<http://thehustlelounge.com/arte-phillips-rest-in-peace/#comments>

Visit Arte's website at:

<http://www.artephillipsdance.com/toc.htm>