

**JOHN & LIZ**  
**SALSAMANIA DANCE COMPANY**  
**San Francisco-USA**



**John Narvaez and Liz Rojas** are world-class ground-breaking Salsa dance artists and are among the most accomplished competitive Salsa dance couples in the world. They are the founders and directors of the San Francisco, Bay Area-based Salsamania Dance Company, which was formed in 2000.

As a powerful force in the industry, John and Liz in just five short years have taken themselves and their company - which includes both the Salsamania, professional team; and Son De Mania, semi-professional team to the top of the world's competitive Mambo dance scene.

John Narvaez and Liz Rojas, born and raised in Colombia, have been dancing all their lives at social and family gatherings. John came to the U.S. at the age of 11 and Liz at the age of 10, where they both began a new life with new expectations. John Narvaez and Elizabeth Rojas are full time dance instructors and dancers that travel all over the world sharing their passion, love, and knowledge for salsa.

Under the leadership of Narvaez and Rojas, Salsamania presents more than 80 salsa/mambo performances annually. They have performed with Latin artists such as El Gran Combo and Spanish Harlem Orchestra.

In addition, Narvaez and Rojas or the team is invited regularly to perform and teach at Local and international salsa events such as...

- West Coast Salsa Congress (2001-2010)
- Sweden Salsa Congress (2009)
- San Francisco Salsa Congress (2002-2009)
- Chicago World Salsa Congress (2003)
- New York Salsa Congress (2003-2005)
- Boston Salsa Congress (2004, 2005)
- Rome Congress (2004, 2006)
- Las Vegas Salsa Congress (2005, 2006)
- Portland Festival (2005, 2008)
- Hong Kong (2003, 2005 & 2007)
- Japan Salsa Congress (2007)
- Congresso Mundial de la Salsa in San Juan Puerto Rico (2003, 2005)
- Roccapulco Competition Placing 1<sup>st</sup> (2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009)
- Las Vegas World Championship Competition, Placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world as a **Team** (2005)
- Las Vegas World Championship Competition, Placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world as a **couple** (2005)
- China World Championship Event (2006)
- UK Salsa Congress (2006, 2007)
- Spain Salsa Congress (2006)
- Accapulco Salsa Congress (2006, 2007)
- Las Vegas World Championship Competition, Placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world as a **Team** (2006)
- Las Vegas World Championship Competition, Placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world as a **couple** (2006)
- World Championship Competition, Placing in the top 10 as a **couple** (2007,2009)
- Australia Salsa Event (2007)
- West Coast Salsa Congress competition, Placing 1<sup>st</sup> as couple (2007)

And Many more.....

John and Liz are recognized as a premiere dancers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Their unique "San Francisco" style brings elements of Los Angeles, New York, and Puerto Rican style salsa together and fuses them with their own personal style, leaving a sharp, flavorful salsa that's hard to miss!

The company is known for its complicated footwork and patterns "On 2" and their ability to execute these to fast music. Salsamania is divided into three teams of varying skill levels. The company releases four new routines per year which are performed by two of the teams: Salsamania (Professional) and Son De Mania (Semi-Professional) teams. The third team, the Training team, focuses on technique and learning the principles of dancing on 2. Salsamania regularly promotes its dancers within the team.

Salsamania Dance Company members are trained not just to perform routines, but to develop skills and techniques which they can carry into the social dance floor. Salsamania is unique in many ways, but one distinction is that everyone is given a chance to learn if they have a passion for salsa and a positive attitude. The atmosphere at rehearsals is intense, yet relaxed and encourages learning. The time commitment to be part of the team is reasonable considering the members maintain full time non-salsa jobs. Although the group rehearses in the Oakland/Alameda area, members come from as far north as Petaluma and as far south as Santa Cruz.

John and Liz, in their inherent humble nature, believe that sharing their knowledge and talent of salsa with troupe members had allowed them to build their own dancing skills. "We started the troupe to have fun," said John and Liz. "To teach others what we know and do presentations as a group", they continued. Despite the enormous effort that they are required to put, John and Liz enjoy leading Salsamania Dance Company because they love dancing salsa. "We can express ourselves on the dance floor," said John and Liz. "Salsa is a way that we actually have a sense of peace."