

## PRESS NOTES



*Age Doesn't Matter Unless You're A Cheese*

TRT: 94 minutes

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[www.gottadancewithus.com](http://www.gottadancewithus.com)



## FILM SUMMERY

Who says you can't hip-hop if you're 80-years-old? Who says your days as an athlete are long gone? Who says you can't shake things up and light up a jam-packed sports arena with your hot moves and cool attitude?

Just because you're a card-carrying member of AARP, do you have to give up on your dreams?

No. You don't. Absolutely not.

GOTTA DANCE chronicles the debut of the New Jersey Nets, first-ever, senior hip-hop dance team, 12 women and 1 man, all dance team newbies, from auditions through to center court stardom. As smooth dance moves are perfected and performed in front of thousands, aging myths and misperceptions are pulverized.

### Meet the Team:

**Peggy - 74:** A former 'Miss Subway' and prize-winning "jitter-bugger", Peggy is determined to make a come back.

**Deanna - 65:** Deanna played hooky from work to try-out. She was caught by her boss when he saw her audition for the Nets Dance Team on the Nightly News.

**Pat - 70:** Pat agreed to try out only to appease her insistant grandson.

**Betty/Betsy - 64:** Kindergarten teacher by day, Hip Hop groupie by night. Betty/Betsy is struggling to unite her two disparate personalities.

- Edie - 64:** Children's dance teacher Edie figures it's now or never to grab her own '15 minutes'.
- Marge - 83:** Marge's granddaughter Marla is a Nets Dancer and her new coach.
- Claire – 63:** Started Ballroom dancing at 45. Now competes with her 27-year-old dance partner.
- Janice - 72:** Is not a hip hop fan. She has been a member of the 'Happy Tappers' for 25 years.
- Fanny - 81:** Fanny, a line-dancing regular, becomes a happenin' 'celebrity' in her Philippino community as word of her hip-hop stardom spreads.
- Willa – 74** A great-great grandmother who sports a new hair style ever week, Willa says she's been 50 for 24 years.
- Joe B – 62:** Joe, the only guy, tried out for the team on a dare from his sons. He has no rhythm whatsoever.
- Audrey - 60:** Audrey horrified she turned 60, lied to everyone about her age. Now she wears her age proudly on her jersey in front of an arena of cheering fans.

Despite swollen ankles, exhausting rehearsals, personality clashes and seemingly impossible dance steps, the NETSational Senior's go for it, spreading joy, inspiration and cool dance moves as they hip-hop their way into the hearts of Nets fans and beyond.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT / Dori Berinstein

Ageism is rampant.

You hit the big '6' – '0' and you've 'aged out' of so many things.

People perceive you differently...assume you can't or shouldn't do things....activities you've done and enjoyed your whole life.

Landing that corporate job or that writing gig is that much more unlikely.

I've witnessed ageism and it stinks.

I've also seen the opposite.

I come from theatre where age is deeply revered. Professionals on stage and behind-the-curtain are sought out for their wisdom, their experience, their professionalism.

This is how it should be.

I wanted to make this film to celebrate age and to inspire and challenge present and future AARP members to embrace life...to get out there and take on something they always dreamed of doing.

I wanted to make this film to spread the gospel of theatre legend Florenz Ziegfeld who observed:

*Age doesn't matter...unless you are a cheese.*





*"Gotta Dance" Test Run Dance Team on Royal Caribbean*

## MUCH MORE THAN A MOVIE

- **GOTTA DANCE** is a multi-generational hip-hop dance program on the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line currently rolling out across 20 ships worldwide.
- **GOTTA DANCE** is a Social Networking Website for Adults who love to dance (or who dream of dancing, but have never tried). Launching June 2009.  
[www.gottadancewithus.com](http://www.gottadancewithus.com)
- **GOTTA DANCE** is headed to Broadway. An all-star cast and creative team is being assembled.
- **GOTTA DANCE** offers instructional Hip Hop Workshops for all ages.
- **GOTTA DANCE** is an award-winning-film, coming to theatres this summer.

## THE CAST

### **The Netsational Seniors**

Fanny, Marge, Willa, Jeri, Deanna, Claire, Betty/Betsy, Edie, Janice, Audrey, Pat, Peggy and Joe B

### **The Coaches**

Jaclyn Sabol & Marla Collins

### **Nets Management**

Kimberly Garris & Petra Pope

### **The Dancers**

The Nets Dancers, Team Hype, Denton Avenue Elementry School Students



## THE FILMMAKERS

### **Directed & Produced by**

Dori Berinstein

### **Executive Producers**

Adam Miller/Alan Fisher/Glen Siegel

Linda Goldstein Knowlton

### **Editor**

Adam Zucker

### **Director of Photography**

Leo Lawrence

### **Music**

Craig Sharmat

**Music Supervisors**  
Jim Black & Gabe Hilfer

**Graphics**  
John Jenkins

**Story Editor**  
Richard Hankin

**Associate Producers**  
David Rubin  
Sue Spiegel  
Jan Svendson



**Camera Operators**  
Leo Lawrence  
Mitchell Reichler

**Sound**  
Mitchell Reichler

**Graphics**  
John Jenkins & Merge Creative Media

**Assistant Editors**  
Kristian Gonzales  
Florence Holderman

**Post Production Sound**

701 Sound

**Sound Mixing Facility**

Post Works

**Sound Editor**

Ira Spiegel

**Dialogue Editor**

Marlena Grzaslewicz

**Music Editor**

Mariusz Glabinski

**Sound Assistant**

Dan Diego Fulton

**Sound Mixer**

Peter Waggoner



**Score Recorded By**

Craig Sharmat

The Not Quite in Topanga Philharmonic Orchestra

**Post On-Line Facility**

Glue

**Online Editor/Colorist**

Ken Sirulnick

**Assistant to Director**  
Sammi Cannold

**Assistant to Producer**  
Noah Cannold

**Production Assistant**  
Leslie Thivierge

**Opening Title Choreography**  
Sammi Cannold

**Legal Services**  
GreenbergTraurig  
Steven Beers

Shreck, Rose L& Dapello, LLP  
Nancy Rose, Alan Sacks, Charmaine Ferenczi

**Insurance Services**  
DeWitt Stern Group  
Peter Marshall





## ABOUT THE FILMMAKER / Dori Berinstein

Dori is an award-winning director, producer and writer of Film, Theatre and Television.

*Gotta Dance* (Palm Beach Int'l Film Festival Audience Award Winner, The Floating Film Festival Best Documentary Winner), is Dori's third documentary feature.

Her first film, *ShowBusiness: The Road To Broadway*, released theatrically nationwide, was recognized as one of the top five films of 2006 by the International Documentary Association (IDA) and won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary at the Florida Film Festival. SHOWBUSINESS goes deep inside the backstage world of Broadway, chronicling the behind-the-scenes passion, exhilaration, drama, sweat and high-stakes creative and financial risks of *Wicked*, *Avenue Q*, *Caroline, or Change* and *Taboo* from inception through the Tony Awards.  
[www.showbusinessthemovie.com](http://www.showbusinessthemovie.com)

*Some Assembly Required*, (SXSW '08), directed and produced by Dori, chronicles six teams of determined teenagers as they navigate 'the game of life' on their quest to win the national toy invention crown. (Int'l Family Film Festival Best Documentary Winner).  
[www.someassemblyrequitedthefilm.com](http://www.someassemblyrequitedthefilm.com)

Dori is a three-time Tony-winning Broadway producer. Her productions include: *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Tony Award), Liam Neeson and Laura Linney in *The Crucible*, Gary Sinise in *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* (Tony Award), *Fool Moon* (Tony Award), *Flower Drum Song*, Claudia Sheer in *Blown Sideways Through Life* and *Golden Child*. Dori is the 2009 recipient of Broadway's Robert Whitehead Award for 'outstanding achievement in commercial theatre producing'.

Additionally, Dori co-founded *Camp Broadway*, an immersive behind-the-scenes Theatre Camp for kids, and *Thru The Stage Door*, a arts education company creating cutting-edge educational programming. Both entitles are committed to instilling in kids a life-long love for the arts.  
[www.thruthestagedoor.com](http://www.thruthestagedoor.com)

## Director / Producer - Dori Berinstein continued

She Executive-Produced and/or supervised over 50 feature, special f/x and/or animated productions including Isaac Mizrahi's award-winning documentary *Unzipped*, *Dirty Dancing* and Jim Henson's *MuppetVision 3-D*. She also exec-produced websites for President Clinton and Oprah Winfrey.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR / Adam Zucker

Adam Zucker is an independent filmmaker and editor whose award-winning directing debut *Greensboro: Closer to the Truth* screened at over 30 film festivals, including Sarasota FF 2008. Adam previously worked with Dori Berinstein when he co-edited *Show Business*. He has edited dozens of feature documentaries with filmmakers ranging from Barbara Kopple, Rory Kennedy, Sydney Pollack to Ken Burns. Selected editing projects include *American Hollow* (HBO, Sundance Film Festival); *Broadway: The American Musical* (PBS); *Richard Wright: Black Boy* (PBS); *The West* (PBS), and the upcoming *Last Days of Carnegie Studios*.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR of PHOTOGRAPHY / Leo Lawrence

Leo Lawrence was born in Brazil in September of 1965 and is a New York City based cameraman/director of photography. As a graduate of Long Island University's C.W. Post College (BFA '89), Leo began his film industry career in the New York publicity department of Sony Pictures Entertainment's Columbia and Tri-Star Pictures where he worked on the publicity campaigns for over fifty films. An avid photographer since his pre-teen years, Leo was inspired to make the transition from film marketing to film and video production after meeting Robert Rodriguez while working with the director on publicity for the theatrical release of his debut film "El Mariachi". After working as a sound recordist and assistant cameraman on commercials and music videos, his career as a cameraman/director of photography began in 1996 shooting interviews for "VH1's Hard Rock Live" in NYC. Since then Leo has worked on everything from reality tv to live music performance, documentary to sports, network news to children's television. His extensive roster of clients includes IFC, Sundance Channel, PBS, History Channel, MTV Networks, Food Network, CNN, CBS, NBC, ABC, A&E, BBC, Comedy Central, Fox Sports and USA Networks.

Beginning with "Showbusiness: The Road To Broadway" and "Some Assembly Required", "Gotta Dance" marks the third time Mr. Lawrence has worked under the direction of and collaborated with director Dori Berinstein.

