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‘Csárdás Dance Company’ celebrates Hungarian culture through passion of dance

Author Richard Graber chronicles history of dance company, shares insights on running nonprofit

PEARLAND, Texas – In 1994, author Richard Graber founded the Csárdás Dance Company, which would serve as the conduit for him to share his cultural heritage through the art of dance. With “Csárdás Dance Company: A History” ([published by Lulu](#)), Graber presents a 20-year retrospective on the story of how an ethnic dance company served as a vehicle for preserving his cultural heritage through dance.

The book was made possible through a grant from the Hungary Initiatives Foundation. “Initially we were going to make a scrapbook full of pictures but thought our work is worthy of more,” Graber explains. “The highlights are preserved, pictures are scattered throughout and the work of the company is captured with integrity and in such a way that I feel is much more meaningful.”

Through this project, the son of Hungarian immigrants further preserves his culture in the narrative of his life story. Based on his personal experiences, Graber’s journey is intended to be both a means of celebrating his own heritage and to inspire readers to pursue the same. Graber also provides his insights and philosophies on running a nonprofit organization.

Ultimately, the author hopes readers will come away knowing “Hungarian culture is amazingly rich and diverse” and understand “nonprofit organizations do not need to live forever and suspending of operations is not necessarily a sign of failure but on the contrary, can be a smart move – dedication and tenacity pay off.”

“Csárdás Dance Company”

By Richard Graber

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About the Author

Richard Graber hails from Cleveland, Ohio, and is the son of Hungarian immigrants. Graduating from the Ohio State University Department of Dance and founder of the Csárdás Dance Company, he now lives in Houston and serves as director of grants, programs and services at the Houston Arts Alliance.

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