

Lindsey, Lilinoe

Niece of kumu hula Joan Lindsey, Lilinoe Lindsey has been teaching hula for the past twenty years. She conducts classes at the Manana Elementary School in Pearl City, O'ahu.

The name of my hālau is Ka Pā Nani' O Lilinoe. The name was given to me by Aunty Joan Lindsey, who is my aunt and kumu hula. Poetically, it means the beautiful sounds of the rain. Lilinoe is the fine misty rain and pā stands for the sound.

Aunty Joan has been my kumu hula from the age of five years old. I have been with her all these years and we continue to have a ~~our~~ close relationship. We actually teach at the same school with our classes running simultaneously. I consult with her on a lot of things that I need to have answers to and we are an ohana-type of hālau.

Aunty Joan taught me hula at my grandfather's home where we both lived. Her classes were made up of cousins, neighbors and friends. I went with her when she started to teach at Ka Makua Mau Loa Church in Kalihi and at St. Elizabeth Church in Pearl City. She taught there until I was about twelve years old. Then I helped her teach when she opened a hālau in 'Aiea and in Moanalua Shopping Center. So as I grew up, I was always with Aunty Joan. Since she didn't have children until a few years later, I was pretty much considered her daughter.

It was an unspoken law in our family that all the girls went to dance for Aunty. Our families realized the opportunity there was for us by learning hula, and, hopefully, ~~someday~~ teaching. So at parties and functions, all of the cousins knew how to dance. ~~It was like a family requirement to learn hula.~~

As a teenager growing up in the 1960's, every weekend was spent dancing. We would dance on Friday nights and on Saturdays after hula classes, do three shows in the evenings. We went from one church to the next, from one side of the island to the other side. We danced in Waikiki at the Halekulani, Princess Kaiulani and Moana Hotels. We did "Hawaii Calls" and performed at the International Market Place. This went on for about seven years. We did not

have as ^{many} ~~much~~ opportunities to go to football games ^{or} ~~and~~ parties as other children. But you never realize until after ~~you~~ ^{my} grow up, how much you ^{have} learn ^{ed} and gain ^{ed} from being a hula dancer.

I was about twenty-one when we had an 'uniki at the Neal Blaisdell Center. We all had to do our kahiko and our 'auana as part of ^{the} our 'uniki ritual. We also ^{the} had to make ^{the} our skirts. Each class ~~did theirs~~ differently. All ^{the} ~~the other~~ girls that 'uniki, took hula for at least ten years but I had the most years with Aunt Joan.

I have ~~taken on~~ Aunt Joan's style of hula which is ^{and} flat-footed, very simple, ^{and} a basic style of ~~dancing~~ ^{with}. We are very smooth and graceful and we tend to spend a lot of time developing the dancers' gracefulness and smooth transition from one motion to the next. It is similar to tai chi where your movement is a flowing style that never stops and one motion leads into the next without very much distinction.

^{To get page} Aunt Joan has been a great influence in my life. As I grew up, she advised me on what was best for me. I took her suggestions under deep consideration and made my decisions based on what she felt would help me throughout my life. We still go everywhere together. We do shows together and we pretty much help each other out. She impacted me to the point that I knew that hula would always be a big part of my life. And it has.

For the past eight years, Uncle George Naope has been helping us by doing workshops for our halau, especially during the time we were getting a class ready for 'uniki. He would come and share some of his chants with us. Sometimes, Aunt Joan, my cousin and I would fly to Kona and have workshops with him.

I enjoy kahiko more than I do 'auana. I always enjoy the rhythm, the tempo and the sound of the ipu and the pahu. It ^{the} really brings you into the center of hula ^{itself}. You ^{I am} are learning the culture ^{which} when you dance kahiko, ^{ing} and ^F for some reason, just the movement itself gives you the feeling about what our culture is all about.

I think it ^{is} important to relate to each child individually rather than just treating them as a mass group. I want each child to know that they are very important to me and their development is important to me. I try to do my very best to help them and I always pray that I will be able to recognize their needs.

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from page 2