PHILIPPINE DANCES

Filipino has boundless passion for dance. Traditional dances show influences of the Malay, Spanish, and Muslim. Native dances depict different moods of the culture and beliefs, tribal rites or sacrifice, native feast and festivals, seek deliverance from pestilence, flirtation and courtship, planting and harvesting.

Philippines dances were performed by famed dance troupe such as the Bayanihan, the Barangay, Kaanyag Filipinas and the Filipinascas or Karilagan. These dance troupes have performed around the world exhibiting the dances of our country. The more popular dances are featured here.

This is called Singkil, a Royal Muslim dance. Muslim are native who originally come from the Middle East. This well-known dance portray Filipino-Muslims courtship.

This dance is called Pandango Sa Ilaw, "dance with lights". The dancers move gracefully with little cups of lights on their head and held on back of their fingers. This popular dance is of Malays' influence.
The Filipinos love to celebrate Fiestas, wherein people feasted the whole day with lots of food, dances, laughter and games celebrating the town's patron saints. This picture is called Palaro or Palo Sebo, a game where the boys were made to climb a greasy pole at the end of which is a pot of gold. Whoever succeeds get the gold and share it with the girl he got as partner.

This is the most beautiful dance called Tinikling, "bamboo or heron" dance of Malay influence. A heron is a wading bird with long legs, neck and bill. The dancers will dance around the bamboo gracefully, trying to dance according to the rhythm of the beatings of the bamboo. This dance is a great tourist attraction.

This dance is one of the most interesting ceremonial dances of the Muslim people. This thanksgiving offering is an appeal for continued protection and for a bountiful harvest.
Pagdiwata is a dance originating from the Tagbanua tribe of Palawan which depicts rituals after a rice harvest. These rites are held as part thanksgiving and part an appeal for continued protection.

MAGLALATIK is a native dance that portrays the traditional rivalry among "latik" makers. Latik are cooked from extracted coconut milk and are very delicious and rich.

This dance is called HABANERA SOLTERA. This dance is performed by the bride-to-be and her close friends at the traditional social gathering on the eve of the wedding. On this occasion, the bride bids farewell to the state of single-blessedness.
Bilaan is a dance that depicts the lively, simple movements of birds in flight as they preen themselves, beautifully portrayed by tribal maidens. Costumes worn are typical of the Ethnic Tribe Bilaan from Cotabato.

Obando Dance (named after a town in Bulacan) is a dance of rural Philippines. Attire is the native "balintawak" and "salakot" for the ladies and "barong tagalog" and "buntal" hats for the gentlemen.

This dance is called Sayaw ED Tapew Na Bangko. An unusual native dance executed on a narrow "bangko" or bench.

Dugsu is a ceremonial dance of the Muslims. An offering is made to their gods in thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest.
Pandango Sa Sambalilo is a flirtatious dance from Bulacan, a barrio swain and his lady love plan and dance with a native hat. He tries to show off by picking the hat from the ground without using his hands.

A Dance With Sticks (Sakuting). On Christmas, boys and girls go from one house to house to perform this special dance with sticks in return for which they receive many gifts. Rhythms is provided by hitting the sticks in time with the intricate but lively steps.

Sua Sua is a dance from Jolo, Sulu. It is a courtship dance of the lover to his lady love, accompanied by a song, comparing her to the delicate, little white blossoms of the pomelo.
KUMINTANG-the graceful hand movements from the wrist going clockwise, or counterclockwise while dancing. This is a typical characteristic movement of the hands in Philippine folk dances.

BALANGBANG is a native victory dance of the Mountain Province.

SIMPATIKA -The prettiest colegiala entertains four of her suitors at a time. She makes her choice known at the end of the dance.
JOBATAL is a Philippines adaptation of the famous Jotas and Valses of Spain known for their elegant posturing.

Jota Caviteña is a dance that shows strong Spanish influence. Costume is elaborately embroidered "Maria Clara" and "barong tagalog". Castanets fashioned from bamboo provide clacking sounds adding to the lifting music.

Binanogbanog is a dance in imitation of the hawk which is held in reverence to the bird so as not to do harm to their community.

Ref.: http://www.phils-trade.com/philmap/dances/dances.htm