

**Contact Information:**

Project Connect

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Akemi Kinukawa and Project Connect, Present  
*Savoy! Dancing through the Swing Era*, an Interactive Swing Dance Show  
at the Chapin Home for the Aging in Jamaica

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Jamaica, NY** – Akemi Kinukawa and Project Connect is proud to perform ***Savoy! Dancing through the Swing Era***, an original interactive swing dance show for the first time at the Chapin Home for the Aging, 165-01 Chapin Parkway in Jamaica, NY on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 at 2:30 PM.

*Savoy! Dancing through the Swing Era* takes the audience on a journey through the swing era by following its main character, Lillian Carlyle, an aspiring dancer from Hollywood. The show features authentic jazz music by Big Band greats such as Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman, vintage fashions and, most importantly, the popular Lindy Hop dance, along with music and clothing from '20s, '30s and '40s.

“Our hope is that the seniors will be not just be a passive audience, but an integral part of the show—everything from clapping to singing along. After all, this is the music and dance of *their era*, so we hope the show will make them feel connected with performers as well as with one another,” explained Ms. Kinukawa. “We’ve even asked some seniors to model vintage fashions.”

The high energy, traditional Lindy Hop choreography, sometimes includes classic movements such as swing outs, Charleston and air steps, mixed with other styles, from tap to American Ballroom dance to Russian folk dance and even a few comedic scenes. And while the event is not open to the public, Ms. Kinukawa hopes that the show will be able to tour and entertain other nursing home facilities and senior community centers.

This project is made possible by the Queens Council on the Arts with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and with additional support from *You Should Be Dancing...! Dance Studio*.

**About Project Connect**

Project Connect is a charitable, volunteer-based organization focused on bringing the joy of swing dancing to residents of nursing homes and senior centers who might otherwise have limited access to cultural performances and activities.

**About Akemi Kinukawa**

Akemi Kinukawa is a professional Lindy Hop/Swing dance instructor, choreography, and performer. Ms. Kinukawa has taught and performed at various New York events, including Midsummer Night Swing and Jazz at Lincoln Center. As a teaching artist, she is passionate about sharing the joy of partner dancing with students from diverse backgrounds. She currently teaches social dancing to elementary and high school students in New York City public schools as well as after-school programs.

Ms. Kinukawa also teaches at universities, ESL and senior citizens' centers, as well as at major dance studios including; *You Should Be Dancing Studios*, *Sandra Cameron Dance Center*, and *Brooklyn Swings*. Ms. Kinukawa is the founder of *Swing Dance Astoria*, an organization dedicated to creating a friendly, diverse swing dance community in Astoria/LIC and other parts of Queens.

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