

Oscar Olivarez Introduction to DTROCK

For those that don't know me I am Jose Oscar Olivarez Jr. and I founded DTROCK dancing in 2017. What started out as just a way to share a love for dancing has now grown bigger. We want the idea of Etiquette, tradition, and culture to be revitalized in all places that support or call themselves country or Western. I grew up in true South Texas along the border in the Rio Grande Valley. I was born and raised in Harlingen Texas. I spent some years living with my grandparents in Santa Rosa Texas and went to headstart and Kindergarten there. My mother was a teacher and got a job in Rio Hondo Texas so I spent a year or two in that school district as well before going to public school in Harlingen. I feel Rio Hondo is where the agrarian culture began to influence me. My cousins were in the local Briggs Coleman 4H club in that school district. That club really emphasized educating young ones about agrarian culture. I too joined that club around 2nd or 3rd grade. I joined the boys and girls club and boy scouts around that age as well. Which provided a love of learning for the outdoors even more (primarily hiking and fishing). I did not grow up in an urban location nor would I say it was rural. I like to believe I got a good mix of both worlds. I grew up in a 3 acre lot with a small two bedroom one bath trailer. This allowed for a lot of exploring the outdoors because even though we live on a 3 acre lot which is already quite a bit of room. Our neighbors also lived on big lots of land ranging from 2-5 acres. The neighbors usually had agriculture on their land as well ranging from cows, chickens, goats, sheep and at times horses. There has always been a minimum of two dogs at my parents house growing up. Majority of my elementary and middle school age we had several animals ranging from goats, chickens, dogs, cats and of course all the jack rabbits, snakes, owls, bats, and other natural wildlife that come with living on an open space. My father and I were always working on the land growing up. He did more of the major work while I just mainly cut the grass and gathered the branches

from all the mesquite trees. Later my responsibilities were to of course feed some of the animals as well. I showed hogs during my 2nd and 3rd grade year and I have had a love and appreciation for agrarian culture ever since. The plan was to get a horse or some donkeys at one point, but when the city of Harlingen annexed our area to become part of the city those plans fell through due to not meeting requirements by .25 of an acre. Growing up country and tejano music was always playing every day working on the land, every family cookout or get together and was a huge part of what brought our family together. I later played in country and tejano bands beginning in 2010. The reason I stress my upbringing of agrarian culture is the fact that country and western dance halls are a place for agrarian folks and culture to be celebrated and are directly tied to one another. I was in martial arts at the age of 7 and continue to learn and teach to this day. In 2001 I joined a hip hop dance team at a local dance/ballet school. From 2002-2004 I was in a hip hop/stomp team with my middle school. I was in sports in middle school as well as band in school. In 2016 I was inducted into the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame and continue to be their official DJ every year. As well as a camp instructor every three years or so. This background influences the dancing instruction I give. I try my best to give structure and foundation to each lesson. I began hitting the dance halls around 2014. The main dance hall I would visit was Wild Bills in Harlingen Texas, after learning from some friends I started to begin to get asked to teach and would do so here and there. Then around 2016 I began to get people to ask me to teach where they would pay, I didn't feel right teaching to get money out of it when I had not paid anyone else money either. More of an influx of people began to ask us to teach when we won a local dance competition in 2017 at Vaqueros Hang out in Mission Texas. In 2018 we won another local dance competition in 2018 at Rinky Dinkys in Edinburg. We then won a competition in 2018 at our first major dance competition in San Antonio at Cowboys dance Hall

with over 100 couples there, where we walked away with 3rd place. We then began to take lessons with other phenomenal dance instructors not in our area. We then felt that we had our credentials to teach and get paid a little something for it. DTROCK strives to educate others of our culture and dance hall etiquette, as well as dance tips to make everyone better dancers and build a dancing community. Thank you for reading a short introductory about us and where we come from.

