

Cult Classic film "Hairspray's" 25th Year: Explosion of Free Fun in Grand Park

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Contra-Tiempo instructing the crowd at Grand Park on how to do the ROACH.
Laura Ann Tull

On Friday, June 21, 2013, in the New Grand Park in Downtown Los Angeles, the LA Film Festival and [Dance Camera West](#) sponsored a free community showing of the cult classic John Water's film "[Hairspray](#)" to commemorate the film's 25th anniversary. This special viewing was highlighted by free dance lessons and viewers were encouraged to dress 1960s and dance during the dance numbers of the film.

Recently [Steven Spielberg and George Lucas](#) discussed how in the future the film industry would experience an "implosion" with big theaters and a spectacle experience. Well there were over a hundred people in the park dancing and learning the steps to 6 of the dances from the film, including the bird and the classic "Roach." With food trucks and a theatrical show reminiscent of the cult classic "Rocky Horror Picture Show" minus the screams at the movie screen, the audience danced, laughed and enjoyed picnics under the stars. The ticket price for this event was a large zero.

The dance lessons were conducted by members of the LA based non-profit activist dance company [Contra-Tiempo](#) who hold community salsa dance lessons on Monday nights for a small fee at their facility in Santa Monica. The dance company recreated the events on the screen on stage below the film, often in time with the movie. The dancers would freeze during non-dance parts often having to hold rather difficult positions in the dark as seen in the slide show that accompanies this article.

This event is one of many free scheduled in Grand Park through the summer including more dance lessons, ballet, a 4th of July block party, live music, a political speaker series to discuss local issues, and a celebration of National Dance Day on July 27. See their [website](#) for more details. An explosion of free fun for all.

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