

## Life

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# TWO-STEPPING

## *outside the box*

*She's an octogenarian,  
he's a teenager.  
Together, they  
know how to swing.*

By Lauren Bishop  
lbishop@enquirer.com

**R**ob Broome speaks softly under his breath as he steps to the sound of soaring violins.

"T ... A ... N ... G ... O. And T ... A ... N ... G ... O."

His dancing partner, Tillie Long, beams up at him as they glide across the polished wood floors of the dance studio, her right hand clasping his left, her steps mirroring his.

It looks like they have years of dancing experience between them. Long certainly has experience: She is an octogenarian (she chooses not to reveal her exact age) and a great-great-grandmother from Roselawn who remembers riding in a buggy with her parents to wherever there was music playing.

And he is a 17-year-old Lakota East High School senior who doesn't remember a time when you couldn't use the Internet to find information about anything, including ballroom dancing.

How they came to dance together is part pop culture's pull and part Long's push.

Broome and his mother, Jeanine Williamson, started taking ballroom dancing lessons at



**Rob Broome** and Tillie Long are partners at A-Marika Dance Co. in Sharonville.

E.L. Hubbard for The Enquirer

**What:** A-Marika Dance Co.  
**Where:** 10831 Sharondale Road, Sharonville  
**Information:** 513-769-0409; e-mail: A-Marikadancecompany@hotmail.com

**VIDEO**

Watch Rob Broome and Tillie Long ballroom dancing at Cincinnati.Com. Search: **video**

A-Marika Dance Co. in Sharonville in June after Broome became hooked on ABC's ballroom dancing competition "Dancing with the Stars," which brings its national touring show to U.S. Bank Arena Thursday.

At a social dance at A-Marika about two weeks later, Long approached Broome and told him she'd teach him how to tango, swing, cha cha and rumba.

"I kind of thought, 'OK, I don't think I'll be able to do this,'" Broome says. "But she's really firm and she's able to really lead somebody into doing something."

That wasn't the first time Long had approached a stranger and offered to teach steps she's spent years perfecting. She says she does it wherever she goes, which is just about everywhere.

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