

# Benny Ray

t h i s i s m y s t o r y

Line dance has many names which are instantly recognisable and Benny Ray is one of them. With dances, instructional DVDs and worldwide fame, he is an international dancer. Here is his story in the third of our profiles so far....

Hi, my name is Benny Ray, this is my story so far....

I am 33 years old, and I was born and raised in Randers, the fifth largest city in Denmark, where I still live today.

As a kid, I was very much into sports, always playing soccer, basketball, badminton and table tennis. In school I loved to read and write, and always thought that I would one day become a famous science fiction author.

In 1995 I finished school, and spent a year in the military, where I quickly landed a job that included writing articles and doing photography for the military base's magazine, plus other administrative duties. My work there earned me the finest grade attainable, the A1 mark which is only given to a select few.

It was around this time, that we got CMT on cable and I discovered new country music, and once in a while I would watch a certain music and dance show taped at the Wild Horse Saloon in Nashville...

In 1996, I decided to put my education plans on hold, so I travelled to London to try something different. I shared a room with a friend on Hackney Road, and found a job at Fancy That of London, a souvenir shop right in the heart of the city. However, the important thing is what I did when I wasn't working. One night, I noticed a club in Soho called Big Country that had a sign outside mentioning country music, and a huge poster of Garth Brooks next to it. Being a country music fan, I went inside, and discovered that there was much more than country music to the place. I had discovered Line dancing! I tried it out right away, and got hooked immediately. The music was great, and the people were really friendly. Quickly, I was dancing several nights a week in different clubs around the London area; Camden Roadhouse, City Slickers, Big Country, Outlaws & Sinners and Break for the Border.

