The social club

A league of your own

JAMES MCAULEY

The Actionettes have taken their costumes and amateur dancing across the festival circuit

Whether you want to establish an all-girl dance troupe or become a karaoke star, the new year is a fine time to put your creative schemes into action. **Elizabeth Winding** finds out how to turn dreams into reality

Set up a dance troupe

The Actionettes are proof that you don't have to be a professional to dance on stage. Attired in anything from silver spacesuits to air hostess outfits, Miss Velvette, Miss Balconette and co have danced at clubs, festivals – even the V&A – to the sound of 1960s girl group pop, such as the Ronnettes or Dusty Springfield. Enthusiasm, decent rhythm and a love of dressing up are all that's required. 'Our code is strictly amateurs only,' confirms founding member Sue Todd (alias Miss Crêpe Suzette). 'That's what makes it such good fun.' Practise makes perfect: it took the group about a year to assemble a stable line-up and hone its act. Sue's advice to would-be troupes? 'Do it with people you want to spend time with and develop it in a social way, then see where it goes from there. It should never be a chore. And if anything goes wrong on stage, just keep smiling.'

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