## While We've Still Got Feet: A Journey of Resilience and Adventure Through the Dance of Parkinson's Disease



In the face of adversity, the human spirit has an extraordinary capacity to find solace, strength, and even joy in the most unexpected of places. "While We've Still Got Feet" is a poignant and inspiring documentary that explores the transformative power of dance for people living with Parkinson's disease.

While We've Still Got Feet by David Budbill



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Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological disorder that affects movement, balance, and coordination. As the disease progresses, individuals may experience tremors, rigidity, and difficulty with walking and other daily activities. While there is currently no cure, a variety of treatments, including medication and physical therapy, can help to manage symptoms and improve quality of life.

One of the most innovative and groundbreaking treatments for Parkinson's disease has emerged from the realm of dance. Dance for Parkinson's programs have been shown to improve balance, coordination, and mobility, and to reduce tremors and rigidity. Perhaps most importantly, dance provides a sense of community and connection for people who may feel isolated by their condition.

"While We've Still Got Feet" follows the inspiring journey of four individuals living with Parkinson's disease as they participate in a Dance for Parkinson's program. Through their stories, we witness the transformative power of dance as it helps them to reclaim their bodies, find joy in movement, and connect with others who understand their challenges.

#### The Transformative Power of Dance

The benefits of dance for people living with Parkinson's disease are vielfältig. Dance can help to:

\* Improve balance and coordination \* Reduce tremors and rigidity \* Increase muscle strength and flexibility \* Enhance cognitive function \* Reduce depression and anxiety \* Promote social interaction

One of the most striking things about dance for Parkinson's is its ability to improve balance and coordination. Dance involves a series of complex movements that require coordination of multiple body parts. For people with Parkinson's disease, who often struggle with balance and coordination, dance can help to retrain the brain and body to work together more effectively.

Dance can also help to reduce tremors and rigidity. Tremors are involuntary muscle contractions that can cause shaking or trembling in the hands, feet, or other body parts. Rigidity is a stiffness or tightness in the muscles that can make it difficult to move. Dance can help to reduce both of these symptoms by improving muscle control and flexibility.

In addition to its physical benefits, dance can also have a positive impact on cognitive function. Dance involves a series of complex movements that require planning, sequencing, and memory. For people with Parkinson's disease, who may experience cognitive decline, dance can help to keep the mind active and engaged.

Finally, dance can provide a sense of community and connection for people who may feel isolated by their condition. Parkinson's disease can be a very

isolating disease, as it can make it difficult to participate in activities that were once enjoyable. Dance can provide a way for people with Parkinson's disease to connect with others who understand their challenges and to feel a sense of belonging.

#### The Stories of Hope

"While We've Still Got Feet" tells the stories of four individuals living with Parkinson's disease who find hope and healing through dance. These are people from all walks of life, with different backgrounds and experiences. But they all share a common goal: to find a way to live well with Parkinson's disease.

One of the most inspiring stories in the film is that of a woman named Peggy. Peggy was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in her early 60s. Prior to her diagnosis, she was an avid dancer and fitness enthusiast. But as her symptoms progressed, she found it increasingly difficult to participate in the activities she once loved.

When Peggy learned about Dance for Parkinson's, she was hesitant at first. She was afraid that she would be too clumsy and that she wouldn't be able to keep up with the other dancers. But she decided to give it a try, and she quickly discovered that she had found her new passion.

"Dance has given me back my life," Peggy says. "It's helped me to regain my balance and coordination, and it's made me feel stronger and more confident."

Another inspiring story in the film is that of a man named John. John was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in his early 50s. Prior to his diagnosis,

he was a successful businessman and an avid golfer. But as his symptoms progressed, he found it increasingly difficult to work and to play golf.

John was devastated by his diagnosis. He felt like he was losing everything that was important to him. But then he learned about Dance for Parkinson's, and he decided to give it a try.

"Dance has given me a new lease on life," John says. "It's helped me to regain my confidence and my sense of purpose. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to dance again."

#### The Importance of Community

One of the most important things that "While We've Still Got Feet" highlights is the importance of community for people living with Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's disease can be a very isolating disease, as it can make it difficult to participate in activities that were once enjoyable. But Dance for Parkinson's programs provide a way for people to connect with others who understand their challenges and to feel a sense of belonging.

"Dance has given me a community of people who understand what I'm going through," Peggy says. "It's so important to have people in your life who can support you and who can celebrate your successes."

John agrees. "Dance has given me a new family," he says. "These are people who I can share my laughter and my tears with. They're my support system, and I don't know what I would do without them."

"While We've Still Got Feet" is a powerful and inspiring film that celebrates the resilience and spirit of people living with Parkinson's disease. The film shows how dance can transform lives, providing hope, healing, and a sense of community.

If you or someone you know is living with Parkinson's disease, I encourage you to learn more about Dance for Parkinson's programs. These programs can provide a safe and supportive environment for people with Parkinson's disease to exercise, socialize, and connect with others.

With its message of hope and resilience, "While We've Still Got Feet" is a must-see film for anyone who has been touched by Parkinson's disease.



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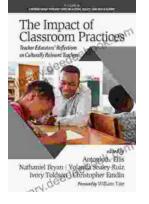
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