Subject: My pick for the pic is.... Mad Hot Ballroom
Posted by lon on Fri, 09 Jun 2006 03:29:30 GMT
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This documentary was released by Nickelodeon. I saw a teaserfor it in different film and was attracted to it immediately.A competition is held for 10 year olds in New York Citywhich covers the whole town.The film follows the training of the dancers and the competition. Think of a cross between Spellbound andStrictly Ballroom.What you see in the film is this group of kids gainingpoise, confidence and style-- things which, in an idealworld, would be a part of everyone's upbringing. For myself,it made me sad that I never had such an experience. Butthe film is fast-moving and joyful. You can see the fun thedance teachers are having in this activity. This film shows everything rather than telling it. That'swhat a good film does.The film is available at libraries just about everywhere.

Subject: Re: My pick for the pic is.... Mad Hot Ballroom
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 09 Jun 2006 14:18:09 GMT
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So; whats the theme? Hey; Lavay Smith and the Red Hot Skillet Lickers is selling at Barnes and Noble. 10% off.

Subject: Re: My pick for the pic is.... Mad Hot Ballroom
Posted by lon on Fri, 09 Jun 2006 16:56:55 GMT
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Theme is kids have fun becoming ladies and gentlemen.

Subject: Re: My pick for the pic is.... Mad Hot Ballroom
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 09 Jun 2006 18:53:26 GMT
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You know I see you post a lot about dance music, dance movies etc. You never mention Fred Astair who is one of the better singers of dance tunes. I have two albums of his hits and they are really good. So are the movies.

Subject: Re: My pick for the pic is.... Mad Hot Ballroom
Posted by lon on Sat, 10 Jun 2006 15:37:36 GMT
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Well, I post some dour things too as someone pointed out a while back.I've seen most if not all of the Astaire films and the tv shows"An Evening With..." as well (one is which my other fave, Ken Nordinewas one of the guests.)Dance music and performance pieces choreographed by Hermes Panare two different things. Astaire worked in the popular mediumbut it is hardly the vernacular. There's style and grace of Astaire(something I've aspired to but never came close too-- who could?)and the athleticism of Gene Kelly. But there's this other guy (not Ann Miller) who was _really_ athletic and I cannotthink of his name, he does one routine-- I should say did --where he was in a gymnasium setting, was doing something on a trapeze,took his landing flat and broke his back. It's startlingbecause I believe the scene remains in the picture which I'veonly seen once.But no, ballroom dancing, swing and polka are not about watching,they are about participation even if it's just tapping your feetto the beat.One of the few films I've ever walked out on was "All That Jazz",the self-referential pic by and about Bob Fosse. As I'm thinking about this, Bobby Van stands out as one of the smoothest leading man dancers. That's the Bobby Van whowrote "Route 66" and sold to Nat King Cole to perform.Wait. Bobby Troupe the pianist wrote "Route 66."Women dancers are more tricky to pick for moves becausethe man is usually the show-stopper. Can you name a few?Which reminds me that I have to look up some bio onMussett Vander, one of the evil aliens on Stargate SG1 (season 5).

Subject: Re: My pick for the pic is.... Mad Hot Ballroom
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 11 Jun 2006 15:09:09 GMT
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I am afriad I don't have a huge amount of input on this. I liked Leslie Caron in "An American in Paris"; with Gene Kelly, she had a nice easy athletic grace.Ginger Rodgers to me had a deeper understanding of how to work as a couple; in fact watching the two of them; (Fred A) seems to me about the pinnacle of the art.Personally the only dancing I do is the shuffle; not all that talented in that arena. But I grew up with the Polka; Albert Mikesh and others. My mom and pop's did it. My grandmother played piano with Lawrence Welk when he was still doing local shows in Napolean South Dakota where my moms people are from.All that Jazz was a good film; I would need an interpreter to fully understand the nuances of the choreography. But the message certainly came through.