

HOW TO

Do the Cupid Shuffle

R. KELLY INVITED US to step dance “in the name of love.” DJ Casper introduced us to the Cha Cha Slide. And what’s a wedding reception without the Electric Slide? Now Louisiana native Cupid and Atlanta’s own DJ Unk (of “Walk It Out” fame) bring us the latest line dancing craze, the Cupid Shuffle. The good news is that the dance is easy. Once the chorus kicks in, just follow the verbal cues (and the rest of the freaks on the dance floor) to look like a Cupid Shuffle pro! —CHANDRA R. THOMAS



1 “To the right, to the right, to the right, to the right.”

Even a preschooler can figure this part out. Take four baby steps to the right, just as if you were doing the Electric Slide. Make sure you’re moving in the same direction as *most* of the crowd.



2 “To the left, to the left, to the left, to the left.”

Now that you’ve mastered the right, do the same thing—only this time you’re stepping, well, to the left, to the left. You’re halfway there.



3 “Now kick, now kick, now kick, now kick.”

It gets fancy here. Start with your right foot and alternate kicking your legs in front of you two times each. If you really want to “turn it out,” bob up and down at the same time, and if you can handle it, swing your arms and shake your neck with attitude as you do this.



4 “Now walk it by yourself, now walk it by yourself.”

Swivel your hips, like Uma Thurman in *Pulp Fiction*, as you turn to the left. Simultaneously (a) look cool and (b) stay off your neighbors’ feet. Confused? Spend a few extra seconds on creative kicks until you figure out which way everyone is going. Repeat starting with Step 1.

USE THE FORCE, JERMAINE. USE THE FORCE.

ATLANTA PRODUCER JERMAINE DUPRI HAS WORKED WITH THE LIKES OF Mariah Carey, TLC, and Usher. His recent memoir, *Young, Rich, and Dangerous: My Life in Music* (Atria Books, October 2007), dishes on Justin Timberlake’s look (“ordinary”), testing material in strip clubs (“It’s like the girls are hit detectors”) and his girlfriend Janet’s famous family (“The Jacksons were just a regular black family with black people shit going on! They play board games”). But the real surprise is his affinity for the *Star Wars* mythology . . .



ON HIS START: “Back then I was invisible, like I was Anakin Skywalker in his early years, never taken seriously by the elders.”

ON HIS DECISION TO LEAVE VIRGIN RECORDS: “They give you the title president, but it doesn’t mean anything if there’s still someone above you and they don’t have your back. It was that whole Anakin situation all over again.”

ON HIS ALIASES: “If there’s no one around to play against I find random opponents over the Internet using different screen names like Dupri Style and Anakin Skywalker.”

ON CELEBRITY: “I call the kind of fame you can get through the media ‘The Force.’ That’s sort of how Anakin became Darth Vader in *Revenge of the Sith*. He figured out how to use his power and bend it to his will . . . [seeing the movie] every one around me must have thought I was on drugs when I said out loud, ‘That’s me! I’m Anakin!’”

ON USING THE FORCE: “The more people like label executives or music journalists frustrate me . . . the more I’m going to think about what it takes for me to be Darth Vader and start killing people! Of course, I mean that in the sense of killing the charts.”

DUPRI: PHOTO BY CHRIS WEST