The South Pacific Dance Company is dedicated to educating the public and promoting the dance, music and culture of the islands known as Polynesia. They include: Hawaii, Tahiti, New Zealand, Samoa and other island groups in the Pacific. The main interest is in performance of songs and dances as if the students are Polynesian.

Some of the Hawaiian dances include instruments such as the Uli Uli (feathered gourd), the Pu ‘ili (split bamboo) and the Ipu, (hollow gourd). Modern and Ancient Hulas, fast and slow are taught, as well as Maori Haka and Action Songs of New Zealand. Also included are Samoan Sasa and Slap dances, and the exciting Aparima and ‘Ote'a drum dances of Tahiti. Colorful costumes are handmade of natural materials sent here and put together by the performers. Traditional and modern costumes will be seen in our programs.

SPDC is the home of two performance groups, Te Mau Ta’ata Anuanua and Kiki Raina Polynesian Revue. Te Mau Ta’ata Anuanua is our nonprofit community performance group. It puts an emphasis on family and community. Its main purpose is to increase public awareness and exposure to the arts of Polynesia. Students often perform at Merced County Arts Council, Merced College and UC Merced, retirement and convalescent facilities, community festivals and fraternal organization functions.

The Kiki Raina Polynesian Revue specializes in professional performances for private venues such as weddings, birthdays, office parties etc. All dancers are paid performers who contract out their expertise. Each dancer is required to have a minimum of two years of dancing experience and must pass a qualifying audition in order to be hired.

SPDC is owned by Rebecca Manandic. She is the Artistic Director of Te Mau Ta’ata Anuanua. Born in Hawaii, “Aunty Becky” performed professionally throughout Hawaii and the “Mainland” also appearing on the Mike Douglas show, local television and headlined at Hama Blanca Resort in Japan. She has been teaching Hawaiian, Tahitian, and New Zealand dance, music, and culture since 1976.