

# Westside News



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» GIVEAWAY

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**TUNE UP FOR FUN  
WITH THE WIGGLES**

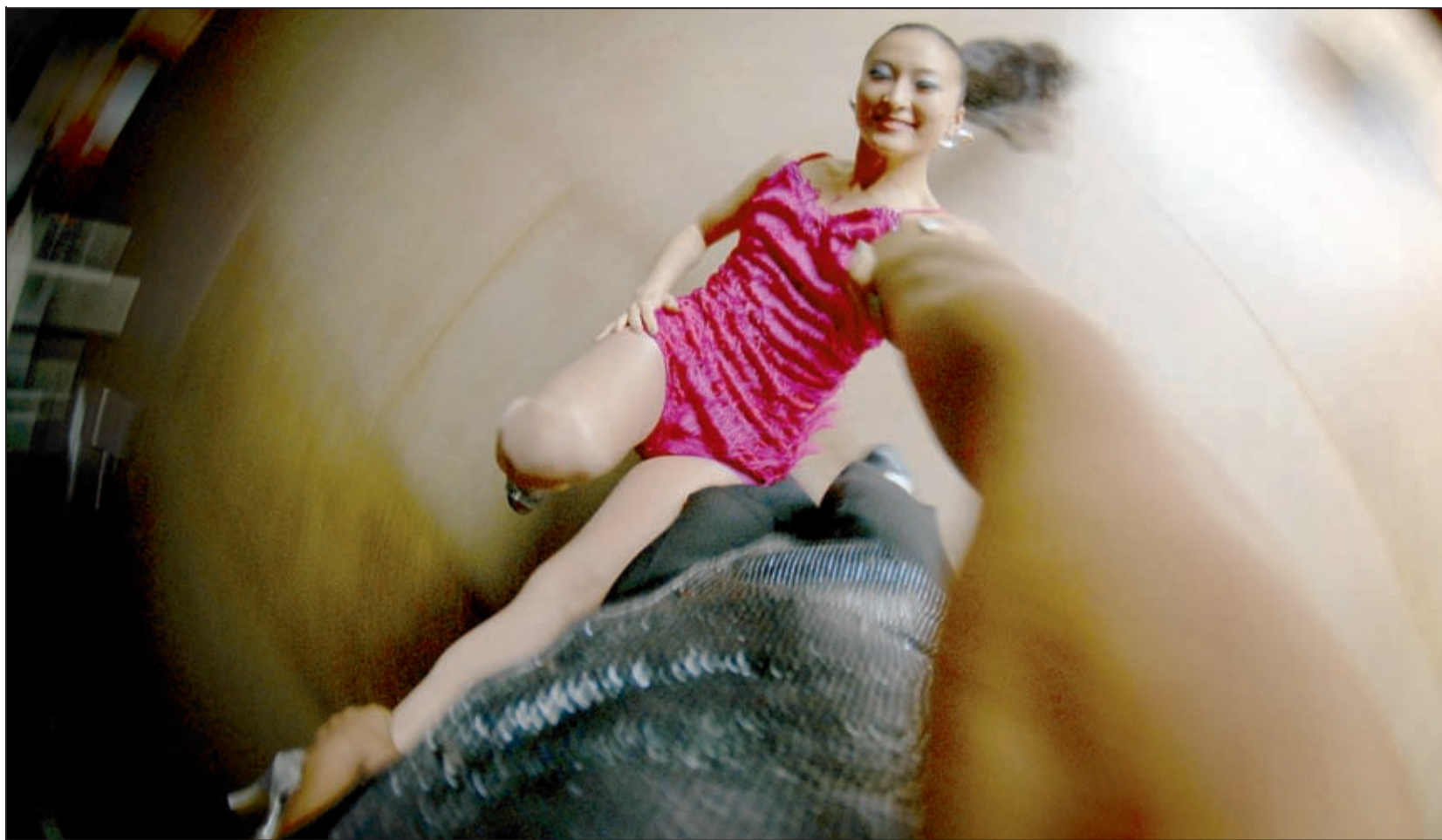
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**BMW M3 IS  
SMOKIN' HOT**

INSIDE

**WIN PLAYSTATION  
MONSTER PACK**

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## World spins for duo

■ **Left:** Milton's Vida Latina Salsa Studio directors Mio Takagi and Lenny Baeza have been caught in a whirlwind of success. They have just returned from the Japan Salsa Congress, where they were the only team representing Australia at the international event. See page 31.  
**Picture:** Nick Kuhn. NK130659

# Spider bite myth

By DAVID BARBELER

DOCTORS are fuelling the misconception that white-tailed spiders are dangerous, says Queensland Museum senior curator in arachnida Robert Raven.

Bellbowrie resident and Sullivan and Nicolaides Pathology phlebotomist Carron Phillips contacted the *Westside News* last week, keen to raise awareness of

what a white-tailed spider bite could do after hearing of three other similar cases.

"On Tuesday (October 30), I noticed an intense burning sensation and after I had a shower, a few pinhead-like yellow blisters started popping up on my arm," she said. "But I never felt the bite. I just covered it up and just kept going to work."

It wasn't until five days later that Ms Phillips visi-

ted a doctor and was told the dead tissue on her arm required immediate surgery.

"They removed flesh off my arm that was approximately the size of a tennis ball and they had to remove a vein as well," she said.

"The conclusion from the doctor at the (Royal Brisbane) hospital was it was a bite from a white-tailed spider. I just thought it was a mozzie or something.

"I never realised it was a spider."

Dr Raven said could not have been a spider bite.

"(White-tailed spiders) have less toxic venom than any other known Australian spider," he said.

"When a spider bites, immediate pain is felt and if you didn't feel the pinch, then it isn't a spider bite.

"You'll get more kick out of a bad bottle of red wine

than a white-tailed spider,

"People have been running on old information hyped up by the media in the '90s.

"And the second thing is doctors are using the old information, which they shouldn't be, because the correct information is in their medical journals."

The Australian Medical Association declined to comment.



JC130732

■ Ouch... Carron Phillips displays her injury, which required surgery.

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