



Champions of the Dance

Welcome to a spectacular evening of World Professional Ballroom Dance Champions as featured in ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*, BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing* and the latest syndicated release of PBS's *America's Ballroom Challenge*.

Be enchanted as ten passionate and sensual champions from around the globe grace the stage with complete harmony and impeccable technique.

Produced by **Hong Cheng**

Co-Produced by **Steve Love**

Co-Created by **Hong Cheng & Taliat Tarsinov**

Choreographed & Directed by **Taliat Tarsinov**

Casting by **Hong Cheng & Taliat Tarsinov**

Art Design by **Val Brochard**

Sound Engineering by **Genaro**

Starring

Jonathan Roberts & Anna Trebunskaya, Radek Krystoflak & Inna Brayer, Gherman Mustuk & Iveta Lukosiute, Randy Dias & Viktorija Barasihina, Dimitrios & Maria Damalas

Thursday, December 15, 2011 @ 7:30 PM

Friday, December 16, 2011 @ 8 PM

Saturday, December 17, 2011 @ 2 PM & 8 PM

Sunday, December 18, 2011 @ 2 PM & 7 PM

*Join us for post-show demos with the dancers after the performances.
There will be one intermission. Program and artists are subject to change.*

About the Artists

THE DANCERS

Jonathan Roberts & Anna Trebunskaya

Jonathan Roberts began his dance career at the age of 20. Before he discovered the world of dance, his high school background was athletics—particularly basketball. Roberts (along with his family and friends) was shocked when he discovered his passion for ballroom dancing after viewing the famous tango scene in the Al Pacino movie, *Scent of a Woman*. He took advantage of the free ballroom lessons offered on the back of his ticket stub, and the rest, “is history.” With his first partner, Roberts won the 1997 USA Rising Star American Ballroom. He became the 2004 USA Rising Star Latin Champion and Open finalist and competed in Pro-Am (the Professional/Amateur circuit), where he became two-time undefeated USA Pro-Am 10 dance champions, three-time undefeated USA Pro-Am Latin champions and two-time USA Pro-Am American Ballroom champion.

Roberts retired from professional Latin dancing in 2006 but returned to competitions in 2008 winning the US and World Professional American Smooth Champion. He danced in seven seasons of *Dancing with the Stars*, partnering with celebrities such as Rachel Hunter, Giselle Fernández, Heather Mills, entertainer Marie Osmond, Monica Seles, pop singer Belinda Carlisle, and Grammy Award-winning artist Macy Gray. He travels around the world coaching and choreographing at dance studios, events and TV shows such as *So You Think You Can Dance* and *Dancing with the Stars*.

Anna Trebunskaya began her dancing career at the age of six in her native Russia. Her parents owned a dance studio, so she began dancing at an early age. At age seven, she entered her first dance competition, which she won, and has been winning titles (both amateur and professional) ever since. Trebunskaya moved to the United States (with her parents) at age 17. Her parents were dancers and her mother, Irina, still makes her costumes. They run You Can Dance ballroom studio in Hermosa Beach, California.

Her first US title was the 1997 Amateur Standard Youth Championship. She and her husband Jonathan Roberts competed in professional ballroom dancing competitions from 2001-2006 and achieved high placements in competitions around the world. Trebunskaya was the 2004 USA Rising Star Latin Champion and was ranked 6th in the U.S. and 24th in the world, also placing 2nd in the Blackpool Rising Star Latin championship out of 300 couples. When Roberts retired from competition, she teamed with Pavlo Barsuk for two years, capturing third place in the Professional Latin US final, second place in the Rising Star Professional Latin UK Championship and fourth in the Rising Star Professional Latin Blackpool Dance Festival.

Trebunskaya trains six days per week in Pilates, ballet, yoga, the Gyrotonic system and gym work. She danced in eight seasons of *Dancing with the Stars* and partnered football star Jerry Rice, model Albert Reed, actor Steve Guttenberg, UFC fighter Chuck Liddell, US Olympic Figure Skating Gold Medalist Evan Lysacek, football quarterback Kurt Warner, boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard, and TV star Carson Kressley.

About the Artists

Gherman Mustuk & Iveta Lukosiute

PBS: *America's Ballroom Challenge Show Dance Champions*

2 Time World Professional 10-Dance Champions

3 Time US National and North American 10-Dance Champions

Internationally renowned ballroom dance couple, Gherman Mustuc and Iveta Lukosiute, are the reigning World Professional 10-Dance Champions which features both Latin and Standard-style dancing. They also are United States and North American Professional 10-Dance Champions. Their highly entertaining presentations are in demand worldwide.

Ukrainian-born Gherman Mustuc began dancing as a pre-teen after his family moved to Moldova. He eventually became a member of that country's World Champion Formation team for four consecutive years. He graduated with honors from the Institute of Choreography and Arts. In 2000, Mustuc came to the United States to work as the choreographer for Brigham Young University's Formation Team (BYU is the only university in the US which offers a major degree in ballroom dancing). Training in Salt Lake City, he became a US Amateur 10-Dance Champion and was selected to represent the United States in three World Championships. In 2003, Mustuc turned professional and formed a dance partnership with Iveta Lukosiute which continues today. He lives in New York City and is a highly respected dance teacher. When not dancing, he develops new choreography with Lukosiute for their shows.

As a child, Iveta Lukosiute began learning ballroom dance in her native Lithuania where she was accepted as a student in the prestigious Zuvedra School. She danced for pop groups, in concerts and festivals throughout the country, and appeared in several videos. She also studied drawing, art, music and choreography. At 17 years of age, Lukosiute came to America with her mother and settled in Chicago where she continued to study dance. She competed as an amateur and while in Chicago was a member of the Joell Hall Dance Ensemble studying classical ballet, jazz and modern dance. Lukosiute moved to New York in 2003 to form a new professional partnership with Gherman Mustuc. Lukosiute also teaches the Princeton University Ballroom Dance Team and coaches competitive dancers in New York and New Jersey.

Radek Krystofiak & Inna Brayer

7-Time US Champion and Representative to the World Open to the World Championship Blackpool Dance Festival *Dancing with the Stars, America's Ballroom Challenge*

Radek Krystofiak came to this country in 2001 to pursue his dance career. He has been winning consecutive awards and won the title US National Junior ballroom dancing championship. After winning the team match for his region he continued on to win the US Amateur title in Ballroom. He is also an architect and graduate of Pratt Institute. He is excited to be a part of Champions of the Dance!

Inna Brayer is best known for her role as a dancer on ABC's hit show *Dancing with the Stars*. She is 22 years old and is former seven-time US champion and three-time US Amateur 10-Dance Champion and seven-time World representative in Japan, Poland, China, Germany, Russia and Estonia. She has been featured dancing on PBS in *America's Ballroom Challenge*. She is currently a full-time college student and has been working on a documentary that features ballroom dancing and competitive young couples that she teaches.

About the Artists

Randy Dias & Viktorija Barasihina

2008 Eastern U.S. Open Professional Smooth Champions

2009 North Eastern Open Dancesport Champions

2009 Mexico Open Dancesport Championship – Bronze medalists

Randy Dias has been training in many styles of dance, from Ballroom to Latin, to Ballet and joined the Rhode Island State Ballet, where he performed as a principle dancer. In 1998, he became the US Rising Star Champion in International Standard Division.

Viktorija Barasihina started dancing at age seven. She holds many national dance titles from Larvia and Russia. Since their recent association, Dias and Barasihina have won the 2008 Eastern US Open Professional Smooth Championship and 2009 North Eastern Open Dancesport Championship.

Dimitrios & Maria Damalas

US Open to the World Professional Latin Champion

US Professional Rhythm Finalists and Greek National Champions

Appeared in the TV show *Dancing Boot Camp*

Dimitrios Damalas is originally from Athens Greece. He started dancing at ten years old. He became twice Greek National Champion at the age of 20 and immigrated to the United States to further his dance career. He took part in a few TV shows including *Dancing Boot Camp*.

Maria Damalas was born in Finland. She started dancing ballet at the age of five. Damalas moved to Canada at the age of seven and continued to study ballet at Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. She started dancing ballroom at the age of 12 and became the Canadian Youth Latin Champion. She moved to New York to continue her ballroom dance career on a professional level.

Dimitrios and Maria Damala met three and half years ago in New York City and became the Professional Greek National Latin American Champions. Nine months ago they added American Rhythm Style to their repertoire. They are the finalists of 2009 National Rising Star Championships and winners of several Rising Star and Open competitions. They live, dance and teach in New York City and recently opened their own dance studio in NYC Basic Ballroom Manhattan.

CONTRIBUTORS

Hong Cheng (Producer and Co-Creator)

Hong Cheng is the founder and producer at Aim Entertainment Inc. and director of Dynasty Entertainment where she specializes in producing American talents in China and vice versa—pop stars, jazz and classical musicians, dance performers and acrobats have benefited from her expertise. Her credits include 2011 TODES China Tour, Cirque D'Amour, *Break! The Urban Funk Spectacular China Tour*, Tenger Concert (NJPAC), TVB New Talent Show (US East Coast), and *Mid Summer Night's Dream* (Atlantic City) Being a competitive ballroom dancer herself for ten years, her involvement and passion for ballroom dancing prompted her to bring this very special art form to the main stage. She is also a board member of the national amateur Dancesport organization USA Dance NY.

About the Artists

Steve Love (Producer)

Steve Love is thrilled to bring the magic of ballroom dancing to the theatre with *Champions of the Dance*. Love has conceived and directed numerous touring productions including *Break! The Urban Funk Spectacular* and *The New York Express Roller Dance Company*, which received worldwide acclaim. He has hosted his own TV show and choreographed and directed numerous music videos, commercials, and industrial and educational films for the corporate world. Clients include MTV, Sony, NYNEX, AOL, Lucent Technologies, Starbust, Cheerios and Time/Life. He has worked closely and appeared with numerous celebrities such as Bill Cosby, Ben Vereen, Demi Moore, Jeff Daniels, Conan O'Brien, Nicolas Cage, Lou Gossett Jr. and two-time Academy award winning director Robert Wise. As a producer/director, Love's performing companies have enthralled millions in theatres and arenas across five continents.

Taliat Tarsinov (Co-Creator, Choreographer and Director)

Taliat Tarsinov with his wife and partner Maria Tarsinov began dancing together in Russia in 1974, a partnership that blossomed into marriage and family. In 1992, they moved to New York and have run the New York East Side Fred Astaire Dance Studio since 1994. They are former National Fred Astaire Professional Standard and Latin Champions and were selected to be members of the National Fred Astaire Council of Dance. For three years they were the hosts of a Russian television show called *Dance Globe* and starred on many popular television shows in Russia. Tarsinov is the author of numerous articles published in *Dance News* (England), *Dance Beat* (USA), *Dance Sport* (USA), *Dance Notes* (USA), *The Professional* (Russia), and *Ballet* (Russia). Interviews and articles about the Tarsinovs have appeared in print, such as in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Dance Beat* and *The Professional*. Their credits include: Ohio Star Ball, PBS: *America's Ballroom Challenge* and ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*.

Darrin M. Ross (Lighting Designer)

Darrin Ross is the recipient of a 2001 New York Dance & Performance Award (BESSIE) for his work on Rennie Harris Pure Movement's *Rome & Jewels*. His design credits include, *Fallen Crumbs From the Cake*, *Cool Heat Urban Beat*, The Pennsylvania Ballet, The Memphis Ballet, The Colorado Ballet, Hot Mouth, *Facing Mekka*, Maurice Hines *Hot Feet*, *Carols in Color* and numerous dance theatre works. Ross has worked with Love Productions for the past five years as lighting designer and tour director for numerous productions.

Val Brochard (Art Director)

Val Brochard has produced many concerts as well as music and industrial videos. She has conceived and directed commercials for brands such as Budweiser, Rogaine, Claritin and M&M's. In addition, Brochard has produced several independent feature films including *Ocean Park*, the multiple award-winner of the 2002 Los Angeles and New York Independent Film Festivals. Brochard has been involved with Love Productions since its inception in 1985 as creative consultant and production advisor.