

# **new** dancing with the stars



Starts **Tuesday 7.30pm** October 1 on





# INTRODUCTION



There will be glitz, glitter and glamour when an exciting and diverse line-up of celebrities make their way down the staircase and onto the floor for Series 13 of the hugely popular **DANCING WITH THE STARS**. Casting their fears aside, 12 celebrities will take on the ultimate challenge in their quest to be the next **DANCING WITH THE STARS** champion. Among them is a legendary singer - songwriter, two Olympic gold medallists, Miss Universe Australia 2010, a TV legend, radio personality and a grand illusionist. Each will strut their stuff under the scrutiny of the judges and the Australian public in support of their favourite charity.

The group will kick up their heels alongside host Daniel MacPherson and his new co-host, Edwina Bartholomew.

Series 13 will see an expanded judging panel with four judges keeping a keen eye on our celebrities and their dance partners. Popular judges Helen Richey and Todd McKenney will return. They will be joined by experienced dancers Kym Johnson and Adam Garcia .

Professional ballroom dancer Kym Johnson has come full circle since competing on the show as a dancer in 2004 and 2005. In series two she took home the mirror ball trophy with her celebrity partner Tom Williams. In 2006 Kym headed to Hollywood to compete on the US version of **DANCING WITH THE STARS**. She has since appeared in 14 series and won twice.

Adam Garcia is an Australian actor and tap dancer who has appeared across our screens and on stage in a variety of loved roles. He appeared as a tap dancer during the Sydney Olympic Games opening ceremony and co-founded the dance troupe that went on to become the internationally acclaimed Tap Dogs. Adam appeared in the acclaimed local hit film Bootmen and has appeared across the West End in musicals Hot Shoe Shuffle, Saturday Night Fever, Wicked and Revolution.

Each week during the **DANCING WITH THE STARS** live show, scores will be combined from the judges plus the all-important viewer vote to determine who will be top of the dancing leaderboard and who will salsa out of the competition.

Among the charities to receive support this season are R U OK?, Father Chris Riley's Youth off the Streets, and Make a Wish.

## Dancing for the coveted mirror ball trophy in 2013 are:

### **TINA ARENA**

Legendary singer-songwriter

### **JESINTA CAMPBELL**

Miss Universe Australia 2010

### **RHIANNON FISH**

Home and Away actor

### **SALLY OBERMEDER**

TV presenter

### **SOPHIA POU**

My Kitchen Rules star

### **LIBBY TRICKETT**

Olympic Gold medallist

### **TONY BARBER**

TV Legend

### **COSENTINO**

Grand Illusionist

### **STEVE HOOKER**

Olympic Gold medallist

### **BRENDAN JONES**

Radio personality

### **JORDAN STENMARK**

Supermodel twin

### **ZAC STENMARK**

Supermodel twin

# PAST DANCING WITH THE STARS CHAMPIONS:



## **SERIES 1 (2004)**

Bec Cartwright (Hewitt) and Michael Miziner

Runner up:

Pauline Hanson and Salvatore Vecchio

## **SERIES 2 (2005)**

Tom Williams and Kym Johnson

Runner up:

Ian Roberts and Natalie Lowe

## **SERIES 3 (2005)**

Ada Nicodemou and Aric Yegudkin

Runner up:

Chris Bath and Trenton Shipley

## **SERIES 4 (2006)**

Grant Denyer and Amanda Garner

Runner up:

Kostya Tszyu and Luda Kroitor

## **SERIES 5 (2006)**

Anthony Koutoufides and Natalie Lowe

Runner up:

Arianne Caoili and Carmelo Pizzino

## **SERIES 6 (2007)**

Kate Ceberano and John-Paul Collins

Runner up:

Fifi Box and Paul Green

## **SERIES 7 (2007)**

Bridie Carter and Craig Monley

Runner up:

Anh Do and Luda Kroitor

## **SERIES 8 (2008)**

Luke Jacobz and Luda Kroitor

Runners up:

Danny Green and Natalie Lowe  
/ Paul Licuria and Eliza Campagna

## **SERIES 9 (2009)**

Adam Brand and Jade Hatcher

Runners up:

Kylie Gillies and Carmelo Pizzino  
/ Matt White and Ash-Leigh Hunter

## **SERIES 10 (2010)**

Rob Palmer and Alana Patience

Runners up:

Tamara Jaber and Carmelo Pizzino  
/ Alex Fevola and Arsen Kishishian

## **SERIES 11 (2011)**

Manu Feildel and Alana Patience

Runners up:

Haley Bracken and Aric Yegudkin  
/ Damien Leith and Melanie Hooper

## **SERIES 12 (2012)**

Johnny Ruffo and Luda Kroitor

Runners up:

Danielle Spencer and Damian Whitewood  
/ Zoe Cramond and Aric Yegudkin

# DANIEL MACPHERSON

HOST

**This series Daniel is celebrating his sixth year as host of DANCING WITH THE STARS.**

Whether it is acting, hosting or competing in triathlons, Daniel masters his performance and does it seemingly with ease.

Growing up in the Sydney beachside suburb of Cronulla, Daniel was discovered while competing in the Kurnell Triathlon and was subsequently offered the role of Joel Samuels in Neighbours. After making his mark on Neighbours, he received a Logie award for Most Popular New Male Talent in 1999.

In 2002, Daniel moved to the UK to star in the musical 'Godspell', alternating the lead roles of Jesus and Judas. Upon completion of the show, he was offered the role of PC Cameron Tait in the long-running iconic British TV series, The Bill. Within a year, Daniel was nominated for the British National Television Award for Best Newcomer. He also starred opposite legendary actor Edward Woodward on the stage in 'The Mysteries' in London's Canterbury Cathedral, to rave reviews.

Daniel's career has continued to traverse the globe and several genres, with leading roles on Tripping Over, Blackjack, Seven's hit crime drama City Homicide, as well as hosting various formats including The X Factor, Killer Sharks and The Morning Show.

In 2008, Daniel was named GQ Magazine's 'Television Personality of the Year', and not long afterwards joined Sonia Kruger to host his first series of **DANCING WITH THE STARS**.

In 2010 Daniel extended his hosting duties for the Channel Seven game show Beat the Star and filmed the Melbourne Cup feature film The Cup, starring alongside Stephen Curry and Tom Burlinson.

In 2011 while hosting **DANCING WITH THE STARS**, Daniel assumed the lead role in Wild Boys, a period piece set in the 1800's about a group of Aussie bushrangers. His role as Jack Keenan earned Daniel a TV Week Silver Logie nomination for Most Popular Actor.

Away from his television and filming commitments Daniel has upheld a demanding and gruelling fitness routine and competes regularly in elite-level triathlons. Daniel is a six time Ironman finisher, and has competed in World Championships over three different triathlon distances, Olympic, 70.3 and Ironman.

Proving he is more than just a celebrity competitor, Daniel has won his division at numerous races, including Ironman China, The LA Triathlon, and the Santa Barbara International Triathlon. Having conquered the 'toughest one-day event on the planet' - the grueling Hawaiian Ironman- in 2009, Daniel is aiming to re-qualify and race again on the Big Island in 2014.

Daniel is also a multiple marathon finisher, and has used his profile to raise money and awareness for charities such as Reclink, Charity:water, and The Indigneous Marathon Project for which he is an ambassador.





# EDWINA BARTHOLOMEW

CO HOST



**Whether she is hanging from a helicopter over croc infested waters or bashing around the outback in a \$1,000 car, this season's brand new DANCING WITH THE STARS co-host Edwina Bartholomew is up for any adventure.**

Her latest exciting career endeavour as co-host will see her using her finely honed live television skills as she joins our contestants backstage to chat with them after their performances.

As Sunrise weather presenter, Edwina deals with the unpredictability of live TV every day and now must add navigating those stairs in stilettos to her set of skills.

Edwina is a home grown Channel Seven artist. She joined the network ten years ago and has worked her way up the ranks from news reporter to Sunrise's Sydney correspondent, she has also filed stories for Sunday Night and now delivers the weather from all over Australia.

Born in the South Australian mining town of Whyalla, Edwina's family spent her early years living in Japan and Malaysia.

Edwina completed her journalism degree at Bathurst University and also completed a Masters of International Studies in 2006.

She has worked as a reporter on Radio 2GB and for Seven Sport covering the Beijing Olympics and racing carnivals.

Throughout her career, Edwina has impressed at every turn showing a unique ability to chop and change from serious to sarcastic, covering everything from earthquakes and floods to dog shows and camel races.

In 2012 she secured an exclusive interview with Andre Agassi and during a backpacking trip in Europe covered the Britt Lapthorne disappearance for Seven News and 2GB.

Edwina will continue to traverse the country presenting the weather on Sunrise each weekday morning as well as her co-hosting duties with Daniel on Dancing With The Stars.



# TINA ARENA

LEGENDARY SINGER/SONGWRITER / AGE 45 / DANCING FOR: BARNARDOS

**“I’ve danced all my life but I don’t consider myself a dancer. I’ve got something to learn.”**

Superstar songstress Tina Arena is no stranger to performing, but this year she’s hoping to have all the right moves as she Cha cha’s from behind the microphone and onto the dancefloor. She says the decision to sign up for the show was easy, if not slightly daunting. “I always love something that’s new and challenging so for me the wonderful thing about this is the celebration of the art of dance, and that’s really what it is. I’m out of my safety zone. I’m totally out of my comfort zone. It’s like being thrown off the bridge and you just hope you’ve got a strap so you can bungee jump.”

Tina says she expects a lot from herself, and admits the competitive aspect of the competition hasn’t entered her mind. “I don’t

think I’m overly competitive. I want to do well but I’m a great believer that it’s out of my hands and I can only do the best that I can.”

The mother of one says as a child she watched her own parents dance, and says if the show has encouraged people to take to the floor, then it’s succeeded. “I think the wonderful thing about this whole thing is watching the evolution of that connection between a man and a woman. It’s such a beautiful connection that you can have with a human being.”

The six-time ARIA Award winner says she has few qualms in hearing what the judges may have to say. “I’ve got a PhD in how to deal with criticism, it’s something I haven’t

ever escaped and probably never will escape. My job is to take on board what it is they say and try to integrate it into my performance.” But she says if she and partner series pro Damian Whitewood feel wronged, they won’t be shy to speak up. “If I disagree with them you’ll know about it!”

Tina will be dancing for Barnardos. “It wasn’t difficult to choose Barnardos Australia as my charity once I became aware of what they do as an organisation. Whilst the subject of child abuse is difficult to approach, Barnardos aim is to prevent child abuse by supporting families at risk, along with finding safe homes for abused children through foster care and adoption. Barnardos deserve our collective support.”

## Damian Whitewood

**PARTNER**

Born and raised in Perth, Damian was first introduced to ballroom dancing at the age of 10 through his older brother, who took dance lessons to impress a girl. Damian learned to love competitive ballroom dancing and from the age of 14 he was travelling across Australia competing in both Ballroom and Latin competitions.

In 2001 he joined the cast of Burn The Floor, which has sold in excess of 4 million tickets in over 30 countries and 160 cities worldwide. He achieved one of his life long

goals with the company in 2009 making his Broadway Debut as a lead dancer, which opened to rave reviews and sold out performances. In 2010 Damian made the move to primetime television in the US as one of the professional dancers on ABC’s top rated program, **DANCING WITH THE STARS**. He was partnered with Pamela Anderson who he has since been working with all around the world.

Damian has guest appeared on the Australian, Israeli, Argentinean and Mexican versions of **DANCING WITH THE STARS**, and last series appeared alongside singer Danielle Spencer finishing as runner-up.





# JESINTA CAMPBELL

MISS UNIVERSE AUSTRALIA 2010 / AGE 22 / DANCING FOR: REACH

**“I’m fit and healthy, that’s probably the only thing I’ve got going for me in this competition.”**

Jesinta Campbell hopes living across the dancefloor this season will lead to a perfect score and the mirror ball trophy, but she’s got one minor obstacle. The 22-year-old says her dance skills leave little to the imagination. “I love to dance, but there is absolutely nothing co-ordinated about what I do and it is mainly daggy dancing.” She’s hoping first-time dance partner Jarryd Bryne can help pull her into line. “I don’t take myself too seriously but I take the dancing very seriously. So we’re knuckling down and rehearsing heaps together, and I’m loving it.”

Jesinta says she’s competitive but usually only against herself. “If I go for a run, for the person running in front of me, it’s a

race. They might not know it’s a race, but it is! So I’m very competitive like that, it’s in my nature.”

The beauty queen says despite her catwalk work in swimwear, she finds the dancing costumes a whole different ball game. “People assume I’m so confident and comfortable in my body, and it’s not the case at all. That’s nerve-racking for me, the fact that I’m going to be dancing live on national television, it’s really nerve-racking.”

Jesinta says she looks forward to seeing her fellow celebrities out of their comfort zones. “We’ve all been thrown outside of our fields, and we’re all super uncomfortable. They’re

going to see our flaws, when we’re angry, tired and frustrated.”

She isn’t concerned about dealing with tough criticism from the judges. “I’m the sort of person who always asks a lot of questions and always asks for constructive criticism. I feel like I’ve been subjected to judging a lot in my life, particularly in the industry I work in, so it is what it is.”

Citing Home and Away actor Rhiannon Fish as a big contender to watch, Jesinta says she’s excited to be climbing into a new challenge. “I’m having the time of my life, it’s so much fun.”

## Jarryd Bryne

### PARTNER

At just eight years of age, Jarryd Bryne was inspired to dance after watching Baz Luhrmann’s *Strictly Ballroom*. At his insistence, his parents enrolled him in classes and he quickly found his place and knew dancing and performing was what he wanted to do, finding a love of hip-hop, break dancing and salsa. At 18, Jarryd moved to Sydney to focus on developing himself as a dancer, and has since gone on to compete at the highest level nationally and internationally in Latin American and

hip hop. Recently, he performed in the official opening of Baz Luhrmann’s *Strictly Ballroom the Musical*, and toured the US with *Burn The Floor*. His other achievements include Singapore International Latin Champion, National East Coast Classic Latin American Champion, *Strictly Dancing* finalist, finalist in the National Dancesport Championships and finalist in the Japan Open Latin Championship.



# RHIANNON FISH

HOME AND AWAY ACTOR / AGE 22 / DANCING FOR: MAKE A WISH



**“If the judge’s criticise, I’ll be fine but I might go have a cheeky cry in the car afterwards.”**

It’s nothing more than a Quickstep from Summer Bay to the dancefloor, and starlet Rhiannon Fish is taking it all in her stride.

“I believe that if something takes you out of your comfort zone and freaks you out a little bit, it’s important to do it. I think you really have to challenge yourself, and hopefully in the end I’ll come out surprised I was able to do it.”

The Canadian born 22-year-old says her parents signed her up for dance lessons as a young child because she was so uncoordinated. “I think the technicality of it is a challenge. They’re judging you on these tiny little specific techniques like each foot

needs to go in the right place at the right time. It’s much more technical than I ever could have thought.”

Balancing the needs of her character April Scott and rehearsals with seasoned veteran Aric Yegudukin, Rhiannon says she’s ready for it. “It’s a different kind of level of exhaustion. It’s the whole mental thing, you’re in those rehearsals and you’re trying so hard that you get home and you’re just exhausted thinking about it. I go home now and I can still hear Aric’s voice going over and over and over.”

Dancing this series for the Make A Wish Foundation, Rhiannon says she was moved meeting with some of the recipients. “The stories they tell you about the little kids, you just can’t hear one without crying.

Citing healthy competition as a good thing. Rhiannon admits the Grand Illusionist may be the one to take the competition away. “I think we all want it because we’re all fighting for these incredible charities and it would be so special to win on that basis alone. But I think Cosentino is going to win. He just has that mystery thing about him that I think he’s going to get on the dancefloor and just absolutely blow everyone away.”

## Aric Yegudukin

**PARTNER**

Last year Aric was runner-up with celebrity actor Zoe Cramond. In 2011 he was runner-up with Haley Bracken and in season three he took home the coveted trophy with Home and Away’s Ada Nicodemou.

At the age of eight Aric had to choose between his two great passions – dancing and tennis. He chose Dancesport and after just two years became the national juvenile champion. Aric teamed with two partners in the junior section, before being paired in the youth section with Masha Belash in

July 2001. Since then they have won many titles together, including the National youth Latin American Championship three years running, the Australian – and the South Pacific – Youth Under 19 Latin American Championships, and the World Super Stars Adult Latin American championship. They were also Australia’s representative to the World Ballroom and Latin Championships in 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2009.

Aric has toured with theatrical production ‘Burn The Floor’ and is one of the principal dancers and choreographers for stage show Dance Dance Dance, performing across Australia for a number of years. Aric holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of New South Wales and is an accredited instructor with Dancesport Australia, holding a Level one teaching licence.





# SALLY OBERMEDER

TV PRESENTER / AGE 40 / DANCING FOR: BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA



**“When I did my bridal waltz my husband asked why I was leading. I just have no idea.”**

Sally Obermeder is ready to Salsa across the floor this season – but the seasoned TV presenter and co-host of Seven’s afternoon show, The Daily Edition says she is terrified about performing. “I’m really excited to do it, but nervous too.”

Sally says her main challenge will be remaining physical and strong following her body’s recent battle with breast cancer. “My body has been through so much trauma in the last couple of years, now I want to give myself a challenge and find the new me.” Her success beating the disease meant the Breast Cancer Foundation of Australia was always going to have her support. “It was a really easy choice and a no brainer. I’m so lucky to be here and I know that.”

## Carmelo Pizzino

### PARTNER

Carmelo Pizzino was born in Perth and won his first dancing award at just five years of age. Moving to Sydney at a young age, Carmelo then moved to London to further his dance career and represent Australia on the international circuit. He has since won many Australian and World titles, including the most sought after prestigious British Latin Championship, The International Latin Championship, the Australian Open, South Pacific, Australasian, Singapore’s Lion City Championship and the Rumba in the Jungle Latin Championship in South Africa and many other titles.

She says joining the show she wants to improve on her dance skills, which she admits are currently non-existent. “I want to learn how to dance because I’m terrible, really bad. I just have no idea. I can’t hear the beat.”

But she knows partner Carmelo Pizzino is the only man to help fix her wayward steps. “Kylie Gillies and Kerri-Anne Kennerley both had Carmelo and both rave about him so I’m really happy because I’m in good hands.”

The bubbly TV host says the competition is riddled with favourites, and claims she might struggle to secure votes from her nearest and dearest. “My mum already told me she’s

voting for Tony Barber, and let’s face it my sister-in-law and girlfriends will vote for the Stenmark twins so that’s happening. My Dad is totally in love with Jonesey, he thinks he’s hysterical and is voting for him. I’ve got no-one, I’m out on my own!”

Sally admits she may need to hold it together if the judges take a firm approach to her Rumba. “I am a big sookie la la and I wonder if I will cry. I do generally take criticism quite personally and I’ll probably be quite hard on myself and think I’ve let everyone down. I’m unlikely to fire up.”

Since 2004, Carmelo has partnered six celebrities in **DANCING WITH THE STARS**. He made his debut with legendary actress Noeline Brown, then returned with chess grandmaster beauty Arrianne Caolili making the Grand Final. He was also in the Grand Final with The Morning Show host Kylie Gillies. In 2010 he partnered Tamara Jaber making it to the Grand Finals again, before partnering with model Lara Bingle in 2011 and Kerri-Anne Kennerley in 2012.

For three years Carmelo has been performing in Jason Gilkinson’s ‘Burn The Floor’s Floorplay’, touring Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Japan, Europe, Canada and the US.

Carmelo has also performed internationally, with recent appearances on So You Think You Can Dance Holland.



# SOPHIA POU

MY KITCHEN RULES STAR / AGE 29 / DANCING FOR: FATHER CHRIS RILEY'S YOUTH OFF THE STREETS



**“I see it as a challenge as opposed to something I have to win.”**

Sophia Pou may be a whiz in the kitchen, but this season will see her Foxtrot her way out of the frying pan and into the fire when she takes to the floor with partner Michael Miziner. She says she was nervous when first approached. “Initially I was a little bit taken aback, it is so far from my comfort zone. I was apprehensive but I thought about it and this is a good way for me to learn something that I genuinely enjoy doing.”

The 29-year-old Communications student says she has no dance experience and is looking forward to having a good time. “Generally when I’m out, I don’t dance. It’s not something I feel confident doing.”

Sophia, who has never been to a gym, says her main challenge will be building up the

stamina and endurance required for the rigorous dance training schedule. “Michael makes it look so easy, but there’s just so much thought involved in doing the tiniest step.”

A self-described homebody who cites clean laundry and fresh sheets as tasks which “butter her crumpet”, Sophia was one of the most contentious contestants on this year’s hit season of **My Kitchen Rules**. “It’s so different to the **MKR** experience – it’s night and day, black and white. There is no relation at all. The great thing about this show is I’m not coming in as a gatecrasher or an intruder, I’m starting at the same time as everybody else which is awesome because we’re on the same page.”

She says her main worry is remembering the steps. “I have this recurring image that I’m going to get onto the floor, the lights are on, the cameras rolling and I’m just going to completely blank.”

This season Sophia is dancing for Father Chris Riley’s Youth Off the Streets charity, which holds a special place in her heart. “It’s something that I’m really passionate about. I remember being a teenager and it’s such an important moment in a person’s life because that’s where you can either make good choices or bad choices. The decisions you make then generally set the tone for the next 10 years, that’s why it’s really important to deal with any early signs of depression and alcohol dependency.”

## Michael Miziner

**PARTNER**

Dance has been a way of life for Michael Miziner since he came to Australia from Russia at the age of 10. A few years later, Michael found his feet on the dance floors of suburban Australia. As a 12-year-old immigrant, Michael gravitated towards ballroom dancing as a way to connect with the equally dance-enthused local Russian community.

By 15, Michael was third in the world. Since the start of his dance career Michael has travelled the world to learn from the best teachers and compete in internationally-renowned competitions. Michael has 10 years of teaching experience, working in leading dance studios in the US, Russia, Japan and China.

Michael won the first season of **DANCING WITH THE STARS** with Bec Cartwright. He was the lead in ‘Valentino the Musical’, has performed in Broadway’s ‘The Dance Show’ for Richard Gere and appeared in the video clip for Cosima De Vito’s One Night Without You.





# LIBBY TRICKETT

MY KITCHEN RULES STAR / AGE 28 / DANCING FOR: R U OK?

**“It’s literally a world away from the sport I’ve come from.”**

Superstar swimming sensation Libby Trickett says her Samba and Salsa might not be perfect, but she’s ready to swap the swimwear for glitter and take to the floor to prove she’s got what it takes. “I was just so thrilled that I finally got an opportunity and it just came up at the right time. I’m really looking forward to learning how to dance.”

Now retired following a wrist reconstruction after the London Olympics, the four time gold medallist says the drive that propelled her along the pool can only help in the series. “I’m competitive, I’ve got pretty good endurance and stamina, I have a strong core and I’ve good flexibility – so I’m hoping that’s a good foundation to start with. But at

the end of the day I’m also a swimmer, and we are notoriously uncoordinated on land.”

The world record holder says she is thrilled to be showcasing a different side to her, claiming her biggest challenge now is becoming mentally comfortable in “frills and sparkles”. “It’s more fun to discover that side of me, I’ve always felt very girly even though I haven’t necessarily looked it or behaved that way. I’m going to embrace the eyelashes and the tan – there’s so much tan!”

Libby knows who to watch for in the competition, and says her fellow gold medal Olympian is right up there. “I think Steve is going to be a fierce competitor. He’ll be one to watch because he’s very strong and

I think he’s pretty co-ordinated. Across the girls, Tina is one to watch. She’s an entertainer – she’ll have some moves up her sleeve. I think Jonesy might also be a dark horse – he’s really nice and really funny so I think people will generally take to his personality.”

The 28-year-old admits she may have to bite her lip if the judges get too brutal in their criticism. “I hope I take them well. As long as they’re constructive, I’m really keen to get their feedback, I think that’s really important to grow as a dancer. I do get emotional sometimes, but my goal is not to cry!”

## Dannial Gosper

**PARTNER**

Dannial Gosper was introduced to Ballroom dancing at an early age, as his parents were competing professional dancers with their own dance studio. He started competing at eight, winning multiple national titles in Juvenile, Junior, Youth and Amateur. In 1999, he travelled to Switzerland to dance for the international Olympic committee in an effort to have Ballroom Dancing introduced into the 2000 Olympics as a demonstration sport. The next year, Dannial danced centre stage

at the closing ceremony of the Sydney Olympics, and in 2002, he joined the renowned show ‘Burn the Floor’, travelling extensively throughout the world for eight years.

He has previously appeared on **DANCING WITH THE STARS** with Layne Beachley in series nine, and Jo-Beth Taylor in series 10.



# TONY BARBER

TV LEGEND / AGE 73 / DANCING FOR: THE FORGOTTEN CANCERS

**“You don’t want to just sit down and stop, and that’s my message to older people.”**

Australian television legend Tony Barber is taking to the dance floor this season, keen to Cha Cha his way into the record books as the oldest winner for the show across its 13 series history.

First approached to appear in series one, he was almost signed up before his wife was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Tony nursed her through a three-year battle before she passed away. He says his charity this season, The Forgotten Cancers, is in honour of his late wife.

Now remarried with 17 step-grandchildren, the 73-year-old says his message to older citizens across Australia is simple.

## Melanie Hooper

**PARTNER**

In 2011 Melanie made her DANCING WITH THE STARS debut, coming runner-up with partner Damien Leith.

Born in Townsville, North Queensland, Melanie moved to Brisbane at the age of 21 where she went on to compete throughout Australia in all three styles – Ballroom, Latin and New Vogue.

In 2000, Melanie decided to specialise in her favourite style – Latin American, and two years later moved to the UK with her

“To people like me born in the 30’s and 40’s, we’ve been through a lot – but you can’t stop. My message has always been do it, take on the challenge, have a crack.”

The Gold Logie winner says he heralds from a different era where men and women waltzed through the weekends. “I’m of the generation which danced. I loved dancing as a younger person.”

Tony says he’s only worried with how he performs with partner Melanie Hooper, not his fellow celebrities. “I’ve seen Tina Arena on stage and she can move, she’ll

then dance partner to further pursue her career. She enjoyed much success on the International dance circuit, dancing in championships throughout the UK and Europe.

In November 2008, Melanie joined the renowned stage show, ‘Burn the Floor’, performing on Broadway for seven months before continuing on the successful world tour. Melanie’s dance career has taken her all over the world with her biggest achievements including UK Rising Star Professional Latin Champion,

be fabulous, but I’m not really sizing people up, I’m hoping they all look great. I’m only competitive with myself, I want to be the best I can be.”

That best will have to include multiple hip replacements, a replaced knee and toe reconstruction, but Tony says he’s still prepared and is ready for any harsh criticism that may come from the judging panel. “No tears from me, I’m ready. I’m ready for Todd.”

British Professional Rising Star Latin runner-up, German Professional Rising Star Latin Champion, Australian Open Professional Latin Champion, and Moscow World Professional Latin. Last series on DANCING WITH THE STARS Melanie partnered with ‘80s rock legend Brian Mannix.





# COSENTINO

GRAND ILLUSIONIST / AGE 30 / DANCING FOR: THE AUSTRALIAN LITERACY AND NUMERACY FOUNDATION

**“If anything my only strength is that I’m a stage performer.”**

No stranger to a big stage, Cosentino is hopeful he won't have to resort to pulling a rabbit out of a bag to snare victory this series alongside pro regular Jessica Raffa.

The Grand Illusionist said he was thrilled to be part of the show, but admits it's entirely foreign. “It's exciting to be asked, it's an honour to be asked to dance. But I've never done partner dancing in my life, ever. So there's no strength in partner dancing.”

The 30-year-old says he looks forward to showing Australia a more playful and fun side, admitting his shows are often quite serious and dark. “I want people to see a different side of me, this is a big stretch.”

## Jessica Raffa

### PARTNER

This will be Jessica's fifth season on **DANCING WITH THE STARS**. In 2009 she made her brave debut with blind adventurer Gerard Gossens. In 2010 she partnered with Blair McDonough and in 2011 took Nick Bracks to the floor. Last season she took to the stage with AFL superstar Brendan Fevola. Jessica has been dancing since the age of three. She started her dancing career with the Junior Australian ballet then ventured into Ballroom. This led her to compete on both a national and

He cites singing superstar Tina Arena as a serious threat with decades of performance experience under her belt. “I think Tina is going to be really good, I think she's got that experience of performance and she's so lovely – I think she's one to watch.”

Cosentino has come a long way from a childhood where he was often described as quiet and nervous. “I was a very shy introverted 12-year-old boy, and magic gave me a skill that was unique... it was an ice breaker.” A bad speller and a child who struggled to read, Cosentino learnt to spell his first words when his Mum helped him read a series of magic books. “That was a huge obstacle that I overcame through my Mum

international level for over 10 years. She was trained in London by World Champion Latin dancers such as Brian Watson and John Eftidal. In 1999 at the age 15, Jessica competed at the prestigious Blackpool Ballroom Dancing Competition.

Ten years ago Jessica joined the cast of *Burn The floor*. She started teaching dance to blind and vision-impaired people after performing a blindfolded dance in the show. Jessica has taught throughout Australian and the US, working closely with Vision Australia.

helping me.” The battle meant he has long been an advocate for the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation. “Kids who don't know how to read and spell, they get lost. You become embarrassed and you feel dumb when you're just not. So I think it's really important that kids, particularly in remote communities, get the opportunity to read.”

Taking to the stage to have fun and learn how to dance, Cosentino says he's not concerned the judging panel may come down hard. “The judges are there to judge, they're going to criticise regardless. That's how I see it.”

Together with producer Harley Medcalf, Jessica created the non-profit organisation *Blindfold*, raising money for dead and blind children in Australia.

Jessica was the head spokesperson for ‘*Burn the Floor presents Floorplay*’, representing the company at promotional events in Australia, China, Japan, Europe and North America. Two documentaries have been aired in Japan focusing solely on Jessica's life and role in *Floorplay*. She is currently engaged to be married.



# STEVE HOOKER

GOLD MEDALLIST / AGE 31 / DANCING FOR: UNICEF

**“As soon I started the process with Ash-Leigh I knew I wanted to go a long way in the competition.”**

Gold medalist Steve Hooker has seen the dizzying heights of Olympic success when he reached 5.96m on the pole vault at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Now he's hoping to use the same determination and focus to waltz his way to the mirror ball trophy with partner Ash-Leigh Hunter.

But he admits there might be one minor obstacle. “I have a complete lack of experience. I think just not knowing what I'm getting into, not having any awareness of ballroom dancing, that's a big weakness for me.”

Living in the United States since the London Olympics, Steve has been training with a new round of coaches, and says the results speak for itself. “I think I'm in some of the best shape of my life, I'm probably faster than I've

ever been. I'm just healthier and happier with my body than I have been since my early 20s.” He's hoping the newfound fitness will help him throughout the competition. “I really enjoy the routine of training.”

Now 31, the Melbourne born athlete has also been busy since London, marrying Russian athlete Katya Kostetskaya, and in July, welcoming their son Max.

“My wife actually really encouraged me to do the show, and as soon as I made the decision that I was going to do it, I was very excited about it. It's something I want to share with her. I think it will be so nice to dance with my wife.”

Steve says his fellow competitors are remaining guarded early on. “Jesinta's

foxing a bit, she's saying she's an awful dancer... everyone is throwing their poker faces at the moment, but all will be revealed week one.”

He says he's not worried about the often notorious judging panel. “I'm at the bottom of the barrel here in terms of knowledge so I think it might be hard, but at the same time as an athlete you're used to hearing feedback that's going to make you improve.”

Dancing for his charity **UNICEF**, Steve says he and dance partner Ash-Leigh have made a critical promise they hope will see them through to the end of the competition. “Ash-Leigh and myself really made a pact not to cry. Let's save the Australian public that!”

## Ash-Leigh Hunter

PARTNER

Ash-Leigh Hunter is one of Australia's most dynamic and well-travelled Ballroom performers, having been part of ‘Burn the Floor’ for over seven years.

Leaving her home town of Kalamunda, WA at 18 to tour the world meant that Ash-Leigh grew up on the road. She travelled extensively with the company to America,

China, Korea, London, Japan and Singapore as she honed her craft. Ash-Leigh began taking dance classes at five and moved quickly into Ballroom, showing an obvious aptitude for mastering the genre. Ash-Leigh's talents led to her being selected to compete at the British Junior Open Championships in Blackpool at 13. She won

the Junior World Gold Cup Latin American, came third in the Junior World Gold Cup Ballroom and was crowned the Junior British Jive Champion. This is not her first taking to the **DANCING WITH THE STARS** floor – in series eight she partnered now Seven News at 4pm co-host Matt White.





# BRENDAN 'JONESY' JONES

RADIO PERSONALITY / AGE 45 / DANCING FOR: SAVE OUR SONS



**“What I like is the camaraderie between everyone, we’re in the same boat. It’s a nice competition.”**

Breakfast radio DJ Jonesy says jumping on the dancing bandwagon is like joining a circus. “It’s also like going in a rapid ride, just try and follow the rapids. Don’t try and get out of the boat.”

He says his dancing style is unique to many men across Australia. “I’m the classic white man dancer. I’m a 45-year-old white man Dad dancer, and that’s it. I would be like Molly Meldrum and Derryn Hinch combined with Wendall Sailor.”

In tipping who to watch this series, Jonesy says there are a few viewers should keep an eye on to win. “I feel Sally Obermeder. There’s something about her, she’s teamed up with Carmelo and she’s a nice lady. She’s

used to adversity, like this is a walk in the park compared to what she’s been through. She’s a person who gets down and does stuff. I also think Steve Hooker and Libby Trickett will do well.”

His radio co-host Amanda Keller was a competitor in series five, and Jonesy says he’ll take her lead when balancing his time. Already used to the rigours of early mornings, he enjoys the routine of rehearsals, but admits, “it’s remembering the steps that’s a challenge”. “I like being busy so that’s cool, and I like routine.”

Dancing this season for Save Our Sons, which supports sufferers of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, Jonesy is emotional as

he says he’s committed to helping find a cure. “Surely there has to be something in the world to help these people. When you meet some of these kids it’s just heartbreaking, and it’s a tough one to sort out.”

He says he’s prepared for tough criticism from the Judges. “They’re judges and I’m not a dancer, I would never take it personally. Although it’s pretty easy to say that now. And in my job, people are always telling you how much you suck.”

But is he prepared to take his shirt off to secure some added votes? “No. Alana wants the shirt off and I said it’s not happening. I mean look at the twins, come on, look at them!”

## Alana Patience

### PARTNER

Alana began performing at the tender age of just three, first studying classical ballet, tap and modern jazz before moving into ballroom dancing when she was 10.

After becoming hooked on ballroom, Alana began to look seriously at a career as a Dancesport competitor. Alana’s Dancesport career has taken her all over the world and her highest achievements include twice Australian youth Latin Champion, twice South Pacific Youth Latin Champion, Australian representative World Youth Latin

Championships, Australian Junior ballroom finalist, All England Latin Championship finalist and Imperial Latin Championship semi-finalist.

Alana’s stage career took off in early 2001 when she began an eight-month tour with the ballroom phenomenon ‘Burn The Floor’. The cast was based in the United States and was a stand out success in all the venues in which it played.

Alana has studied musical theatre at the renowned Sydney Dance Company and just recently completed a three year diploma in acting at the Australian Academy of Dramatic Arts. Her acting credits to date include lead role of Merteuil in ‘Les Liaisons Dangereuses’ at the Pilgrim Theatre.

Alana won series 10 of **DANCING WITH THE STARS** with celebrity carpenter Rob Palmer and the following year with My Kitchen Rules host and judge Manu Feildel.



# JORDAN STENMARK

SUPER MODEL TWIN / AGE 21 / DANCING FOR: DONATE PLANET (THE SALVATION ARMY)

**“I’m as hard on myself as I think the judges will be.”**

Much like his twin brother, Jordan Stenmark will only have eyes on one competitor when he takes to the dancefloor this series. “I want Zac and I as a pair to beat everyone else, and then I want to beat him at the very end. If I lose to him, it will be so bad. It always burns losing to him.”

The Tom Ford supermodel says while the opportunity is new, he’s excited to learn a new skill. “I’ve never danced, like not even one lesson but from what I’ve seen and done, I think my strengths will come through in my athleticism. Growing up playing sport I’ve got good hand eye coordination.”

## Jessica Prince

### PARTNER

This is Jessica’s second time around the **DANCING WITH THE STARS** floor. Last series she made her debut with Ironman Caine Eckstein.

Trained in Ballroom, Latin American, Classical Ballet, Contemporary, Lyrical, Jazz, Broadway, Tap and Funk styles of dance, Jessica is ready to showcase her talents on the dancefloor. Jessica was a soloist dancer in the American Broadway production of *Burn The Floor*, as well as teaching the *Burn The Floor* Bootcamp

The catwalk sensation says he strives to be great. “I want to be better every day, every single day. I want to only do things that are going to better myself. My friends say I am the most competitive person they have ever met. I thought I was ‘normal level competitive’ until I spoke to friends and my parents who told me I was probably one of the most competitive people.”

In sizing up his competition, Jordan says all eyes should be on the Olympic gold medallists. “I think everyone wants this. Steve Hooker is obviously going to be really competitive from his sporting background. He and Libby are going to be competitive because it’s what they’ve done their whole lives.”

in Florida during the production. She was recently ranked fourth in Australia for New Vogue Danceport and eighth in Australia for Ballroom Standard Dancesport. She also performed at the International Boat Show 2011 for Musto Clothing Wear, choreographed by Ramon Doringo as part of the Sydney Dance Company.

But the talented athlete believes results will come to those who work for it. “It’s kind of a level playing field at the moment and it’s all about the effort you put in and how much you train. I’m so privileged to have this and this is such an amazing experience no matter what happens.”





# ZAC STENMARK

SUPER MODEL TWIN / AGE 21 / DANCING FOR: DONATE PLANET (THE HEART FOUNDATION)

**“I’ve never done any partner dancing before. The most is a little boogie on the dance floor with friends.”**

As one half of the supermodel sensation that is the Stenmark twins, Zac Stenmark doesn’t hold back when explaining who is his competition in this series. “I just really badly want to beat Jordan. He’s the number one. You always want to beat your best mate.”

The 21-year-old says making the decision to take time out from the pair’s intense overseas modelling commitments was not made lightly. But away from the catwalks of New York and Paris, he says they couldn’t be happier. “I’m actually having the best time. It’s going to be amazing fun. Obviously I’ll get very nervous but I just feel like it’s such an amazing opportunity.”

A keen and talented athlete, Zac played competitively in state level AFL, basketball, swimming and athletics growing up. “I love sport and have always played a lot of sport, and Jordan and I being the competitive people we are, we wanted to be the best.”

He says he has no concerns if he has to face some harsh criticism from the judges. “I think I take criticism pretty well, I’ve always been someone who asks lots of questions and know where I’m going wrong. Even if it’s only the smallest thing, I want it to be perfect... so I think criticism is the only way to get better.”

Dancing this season for the Heart Foundation under Donate Planet, Zac says he and Jordan were shaken when their father had a heart attack at just 49.

He says he’s determined to win but admits the technical challenges of dancing are going to be tough to battle. “I’ve never done any partner dancing before. I try to listen well and take direction, so I think that’s a strength that will definitely help me.”

## Jade Hatcher

### PARTNER

Jade Brand has always had a love of dance, studying a variety of styles including Ballet, Latin and Ballroom from a very early age.

Upon graduation from Ravenswood School for Girls, Jade enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences at Sydney University, but deferred to pursue a career in dance. She studied under the tutelage of choreographer Paul Green later gaining a role in his show, ‘Latin Prodigy’. Green also encouraged Jade’s teaching and choreography skills, allowing her to create modernised, individual pieces.

Jade won the right to represent Australia in the World 10 Dance Championship in Prague and then followed this up with a number of major championship wins, including the Latin American Australian Championship; the USA Open Amateur Junior Standard Championship; and the Junior Latin, Junior Standard, Youth Latin and Youth Standard categories of the USA Diamond Classic Championships.

Jade made her **DANCING WITH THE STARS** debut in 2008 when she partnered entertainment reporter James Tobin, and in 2009 took home the coveted mirror ball trophy with Adam Brand.



# TODD MCKENNEY

JUDGE



**Having recently completed Annie The Musical and currently touring with Grease, Todd McKenney has barely taken a break since picking up the maracas in 2011 to star as Peter Allen in The Boy from Oz.**

A former champion in Ballroom and Latin, singer/dancer Todd McKenney competed internationally for more than 10 years before breaking into theatre. Todd began dancing at the age of three at his mother's dancing school in Perth, training in Jazz, Tap, acrobatics and Ballroom.

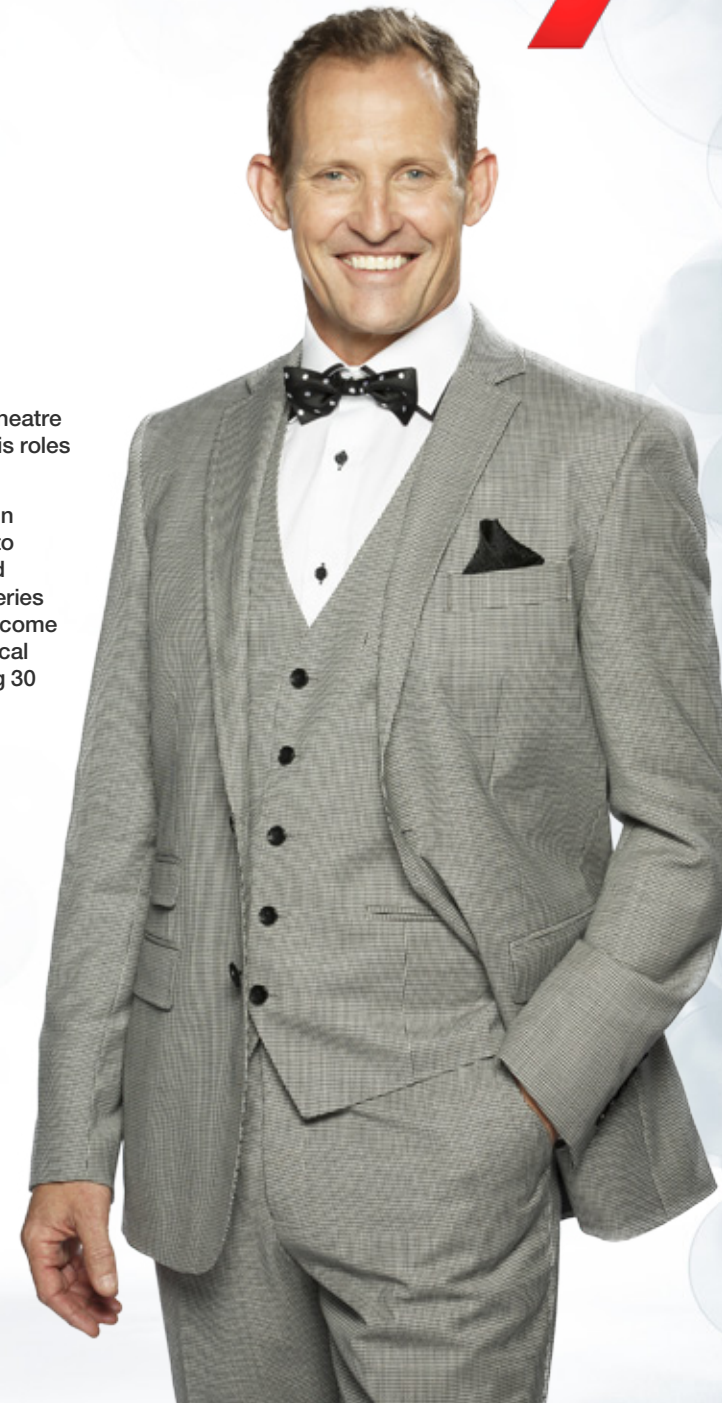
He was cast in his first professional musical, Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Song and Dance' in 1983. Many stage shows followed including; 'Cats', '42nd Street', 'West Side Story' and 'Crazy For You'. He was cast as Nathan Starkey in Baz Luhrmann's 1992 internationally acclaimed film Strictly Ballroom, alongside Sonia Kruger. A career highlight, Todd did 766 performances as Peter Allen in 'The Boy From Oz', winning two Mo Awards, the Variety Club Heart Award, the Glugg Award, the Green Room Award, the Australian Dance Award and the Helpmann Award. He recreated Gene Kelley's original famous tap dance on stage in 'Singin' In The Rain' - a performance that won him another Australian Dance Award.

In 2002, Todd performed his one-man show around Australia and in 2003 he had sell out performances of his show at Taronga Zoo, then went home to Perth to appear in 'Cabaret'. In March 2004, Todd starred in his own production, 'Todd McKenney LIVE', at Sydney's Star City for a week of sell-out shows. In August 2004, he and Rachael Beck performed with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Tommy Tycho. The same month, he sang with the Western Australia Symphony Orchestra and, in September 2005, presented his 'Todd McKenney Song And Dance Spectacular' on the Gold Coast. In 2005, Todd released his debut CD "Just a Gigolo", and toured Sydney, the Gold Coast and Melbourne in his own stage show.

In 2006 and 2007 he toured Australia in 'Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks' with Nancye Hayes. Also in 2007 Todd was nominated

for Helpmann Award and a Sydney Theatre Critics Circle Award for 'Priscilla' in his roles as Tick and Mitzi.

Todd is currently playing Teen Angel in Grease which will tour the country into 2014. His most recent venture is Todd McKenney's Centre Stage Tours; a series of personal tours which sees him welcome people into his world for a VIP theatrical experience. It's his way of celebrating 30 years in show business.





# HELEN RICHEY

JUDGE



**Known for her snappy wit and stylish good looks, DANCING WITH THE STARS judge Helen Richey was born and raised in Melbourne.**

At a very early age she started dancing, studying Ballet and Tap. At 15, Helen won the coveted Lily Ellison Award. Two years later she met her future husband, Robert and took up Ballroom and Latin dancing. After winning the Australian Rising Stars Ballroom Championship, they travelled to the United Kingdom to further their dancing careers. Originally planning to visit for six months, they stayed for 27 years.

Helen's competitive career included becoming undefeated All England Latin Champion as well as the South of England Latin Champion and the Imperial Latin Champion. In the major international events, Helen was placed third in the World Professional Latin Championship, equal third in the British Professional Latin

Championship, runner-up in the United Kingdom Professional Latin and was twice placed third in the International Professional Latin Championship. Helen was a Grand Finalist in the British Professional Championship, one of the most prestigious events, for seven consecutive years. She was also Australia's official representative in the World Championships in both the Ballroom and Latin Styles for over 10 years and was a regular semi-finalist in the Ballroom Style.

After retiring from competitive dancing, Helen has become one of the world's leading coaches and most sought-after adjudicators. She has judged the national dance championships of almost every country in the world. Helen has coached

World Champions, British Champions and Australian Champions. Many of the professional dancers in all of the series of **DANCING WITH THE STARS** have been trained wholly or in part by Helen.

An accomplished and skilled dressmaker, she makes the beautiful gowns that she wears on the show.

Undoubtedly Australia's most successful professional Latin dancer, Helen has been referred to as an icon of Dancesport and certainly deserves the title, "Australia's First Lady of Latin."



# KYM JOHNSON

JUDGE



**Professional ballroom dancer Kym Johnson certainly knows a thing or two about taking to the DANCING WITH THE STARS stage.**

Kym first appeared on the show during its first series in 2004, and the following year she took home the mirror ball trophy with her celebrity partner Tom Williams. In 2006 Kym jetted to Hollywood to compete on the US version of DANCING WITH THE STARS where she has since appeared in 14 series and won twice.

Kym started learning the art of dance at the age of three, training in all aspects of the performing arts including singing, ballet, tap, jazz and acrobatics. At 13, she was inspired to concentrate her talent in the field of competitive ballroom dance. She went on to become the Australian Ballroom Champion and represented Australia in the 'World 10' Dance Championships for two years running.

Before appearing on **DANCING WITH THE STARS** in Australia, Kym appeared in the hit show *Burn The Floor*.

Since moving to Los Angeles, Kym's celebrity partners have included talk show host Jerry Springer, 'N Sync performer Joey Fatone and actors David Arquette and David Hasselhoff.

In 2009 she took home the mirror ball crown with entertainer Donny Osmond and followed up the win with another in 2011 with sports star Hines Ward. Kym is the only professional dancer in the world to hold trophies on two different continents.





# ADAM GARCIA

JUDGE



**Adam Garcia is an Australian actor and tap dancer who has appeared across our screens and on stage in a variety of loved roles.**

In the late 90's Adam left university to pursue the role of Slide in the musical Hot Shoe Shuffle. During the same time he co-founded the dance troupe TapDogs which earned international critical acclaim and propelled Adam into stardom. In 2000 he portrayed Sean in Bootmen, a movie based on the story of TapDogs.

He appeared as a tap dancer during the Sydney Olympics Games opening ceremony and has appeared across the West End, winning critical acclaim. He was nominated for the Laurence Olivier Theater award for Best Actor in a musical for his portrayal of Tony Manero in the smash hit revival of Saturday Night Fever.

In addition to feature film roles in Coyote Ugly and Riding in Cars with Boys, Adam has appeared as a Judge in the UK Sky Production of Got To Dance and on the London theatre stage in roles in Death: Or The Playground, and as the lead in last year's Revolution.

Appearing on the musical stage, Adam played Fiyero in the multi-award winning production of Wicked, and most recently as Bill Calhoun in Kiss Me Kate.





# new dancing with the stars



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