

WDC WORLD PROFESSIONAL TEN DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP – C’EST MAGNIFIQUE!

Foreward – Steve Nikleva

The WDC World Professional 10 Dance Championship was held October 1-3, 2009 in Canada at the Centre Sportif Alphonse-Desjardins Trois-Rivières, Quebec. Sanctioned by the World Dance Council and Canadian Dance and Dance Sport Council (CDDSC) the competition was organized by a new group – Productions Mondial Danse - who have breathed fresh life into the Canadian dance scene, holding two world amateur competitions during the past two years followed by the Worlds Ten Dance in 2009 and the prestigious World Professional Standard Championship slated for 2010. If this Ten Dance was a harbinger of things to come, be prepared to order your tickets early for 2010!

The venue in Trois-Rivières was particularly appropriate as the city was celebrating its 375th birthday and the ballroom competition was chosen as one of its featured attractions. This was not by chance but largely due to the fact that one of the members of Productions Mondial Danse is Roger Picard, who has run a very successful dance school business and has been a well known member of the Trois-Rivières business community for many years. Roger was in charge of organizing the competition this year and his group worked tirelessly to ensure an event the city would be proud of. It lived up to the highest expectations. Signs came up more than two weeks before the competition started. SOLD OUT for Saturday night!

And the ones fortunate enough to have a ticket were not disappointed. The energy was there at the start of the competitions on Thursday with the winners of the Canadian Championships receiving standing ovations. Unbelievably the excitement continued to build during the next two days. The audiences in Quebec do not hold back. In fact their enthusiasm is legendary. Everyone who attended had their own idea on who was best and they were determined to let the judges and everyone else know who the winners should be. The atmosphere was contagious. The competitors rose to the occasion and the final was, indeed, a joy to behold.

The competitors are of course the backbone of any competition. And a Professional Worlds Competition is simply the very best. However the Ten Dance Worlds has a special unique position in the Ballroom World. With the trend to specialization so prevalent, the couples that continue to compete in both Latin and Standard deserve our admiration and respect for their dedication to both of our dance styles.

In addition to the Worlds Professional Championship, there were a host of other Open and Closed Canadian Championships – Professional, Amateur, Senior, Junior and the World Dance Trophy.

There were more than 25 countries represented at the competition and a total of 37 judges. But in addition to the competitors a great competition requires more. And Quebec

did not disappoint. This competition, coupled with the Quebec ambience of fine food and outgoing friendly people, was a treat to attend. World class dancing. A well run competition with hosts who attended to those details that make everything run so smoothly. Add to this an exuberant and enthusiastic audience to provide the excitement and you had all the ingredients that made this truly a competition to remember. The World Standard in 2010 is a must.

The superb panel of judges for the Worlds Ten Dance was as follows: Jerry Abrate, Italy; Branko Bohak, Slovakia; Sam Kahio, Japan; Gary McDonald, United States; Patricia Nikleva, Canada; Stanislav Popov, Russia; Walter Wat, Hong Hong; Tyrone Watkins, South Africa; Denise Weavers, England; Alan Yeh, Taiwan. The 22 couples competing represented 15 countries.

WDC World Professional 10 Dance Final Placings

1. Gherman Mustuc & Iveta Lukosiute USA
2. Alexey Zakharin & Anastazija Novojilova Russia
3. Roman Myrkin & Natalia Byednyagina Ukraine
4. Domenico Cannizzaro & Agnese Junkure Italy
5. Fabrizio Cravero & Lorena Cravero Italy
6. Simon Reuter & Julia Niemann Germany

Canadian Professional Championships

Commentary by Gary McDonald on the Canadian Professional Championships

The **Canadian Professional Standard Championship** consisted of a seven couple final: 7th Sylvain Castonguay & Helene Gagne (7,7,7,7,7) This couple lacked the quality of the couples placed ahead of them but that did not dampen their spirit. They danced with great determination and effort in every dance.

6th Mathieu Caron & Marilyne Prevost (6,6,6,6,6) A talented young couple who have enjoyed a long partnership together. Mathieu seemed to get high through his shoulder line which didn't give Marilyne enough space and freedom in her dance position. Working on relaxing the topline will be the first step into improving their position in this division.

5th Evgueni Chaoulski & Sara Schilling (5,5,5,5,5) Evgueni & Sara showed good movement in all dances. The second half of each dance showed a deterioration through their topline which could be more of a stamina issue. Keeping consistency in their dance frame will improve their placements.

4th Stanislav Kochergin & Anastasia Florin (4,4,4,4,4) This couple could have easily placed one position higher in my opinion. They showed quality movement and a good understanding of position and connection. Anastasia got a little disconnected through her head and neck line while in promenade position in a couple of places but overall a very good performance from this couple.

3rd Francis Lafreniere & Claudia Primeau (3,3,3,3,3) A very talented 10-Dance couple who always please the audience with their performance. One thing they do not lack is stamina, they danced full out from the first step in Waltz until the last bar of Quickstep.

To challenge the couples in front of them Francis could work on softening his topline by relaxing his left elbow which would make their overall frame look less strained.

2nd Serghei Pogonet & Anastasia Kazmina (2,2,2,2,1) Very worthy runners up and great Canadian representatives to the next World Championship! They showed beautiful quality in their dancing and a good understanding of using contrast in their timing to provide a well rounded performance. Anastasia could soften up her back slightly by giving Serghei a little more of her left side and freeing up her neckline but that is only one little negative in a very positive performance.....well done!

1st Anton Lebedev & Anna Borsch (1,1,1,1,2) Canada can be proud to have this talented couple as their Champions. There was no question in my mind that this tall elegant couple would be taking home the title on this occasion. They have improved dramatically from the time that they have turned professional which wasn't that long ago. Covering the floor with ease and grace they showed a confidence in their performance that was a joy to watch. Very worthy winners of this prestigious title. Congratulations!

The **Canadian Professional Latin Championship** started off as an eleven couple semi final which was narrowed down to a final round of six.

6th Ilya Maletin & Lumilla Sekret (6,6,6,6,6) Ilya & Lumilla were very worthy finalists with Ilya showing a nice rhythmic fluidity through his body action. Lumilla appeared to be distracted at times through her focus which gave her a look of not being sure of her overall performance. Focus on each other for a more committed performance and I am sure higher placings will be coming your way in the future.

5th Sharone Levit & Yuliya Zavadzka (5,3,5,4,5) Rule 10 This couple had danced earlier in the Rhythm division which may have affected their placing in this division. A first impression is very important so when they danced out of time in Rumba, Bolero and Mambo in the Rhythm final and danced the same Cha Cha routine for both styles my thoughts were already negative when I saw them dance latin. If you include the Smooth they dance three styles which is a lot of practice time and they must be commended for their hard work and dedication. Latin is by far their strongest division but it is important to go out looking good in every division you dance in.

4th Maxim Kazakoff & Mariam Savaria (4,5,4,5,4) Rule 10 Maxim and Mariam have not been together too long but after watching their performance they look like they have been together forever. Very well rehearsed and committed in everything they danced. Max sometimes forgets to keep his shoulders relaxed which can sometimes make it look like he's getting tired and trying too hard. In the past I have found Mariam to lack focus but I am happy to say that is no longer the case, she was feeling and attacking everything she produced. They were also one of the best dressed couples in the final, combining classy and sexy is sometime a difficult task which they proved to master very well.

3rd Kamil Studenny & Katya Trubina (3,4,3,3,3) In only their second competition as professionals Kamil and Katya are already 3rd in the country.....well done and well deserved! They took a break in their partnership which shows in some of their connections especially in Jive which looks like it is not quite 100% rehearsed. They both have such great natural body rhythm and are a joy to watch. As soon as they spend a few more months getting back into the groove I foresee that the only way they can move is up!

2nd Francis Lafreniere & Claudia Primeau (2,2,2,2,2) Before this event started I was thinking that Francis and Claudia might be challenged for the runners up position but boy was I wrong! They exuded confidence and determination in every step and left no doubt that they were going to be representing Canada later this year at the World Latin Championships in Blackpool. Francis is great at creating volume in their partnership by creating space through his strong frame and Claudia is dancing softer and sexier than ever which gives them a fantastic masculine feminine look which is one thing they have better than any other couple in this final.

1st Andre & Natalie Paramonov (1,1,1,1,1) True Champions from the moment they entered the floor. One of the things I admire most about this couple is that they have created their own look and style completely different than any other couple they compete against and more importantly they believe and stick with it in everything they do. They are definite crowd pleasers as everything they do is a show and perfectly rehearsed to the smallest detail. Congratulations to both of them for retaining this very prestigious title