

OUR PROFESSIONALS

TOMAS MIELNICKI AND JENNIFER "JT" THOMAS



Tomas Mielnicki began dancing ballet in Poland at the age of 7. He entered the ballroom world at age 10 and by age 15 was the Polish Youth Ten-Dance Champion. He was a finalist in numerous world youth and amateur ten-dance championships in Europe. Tomas completed a degree

in law from the University of Wroclaw while competing. He moved to the United States in 2003 and has achieved great success as a professional competitor and coach.

JT has been dancing in various forms since the age of 5. She has studied ballet, jazz, tap, acrobatics and all forms of partnership/ballroom dance. She earned a BFA with an emphasis in dance at the University of Arizona in 1996 and has since competed and performed throughout the United States and Great Britain.

Tomas & JT are the 2007 World American Ballroom Champions, the 2007 U.S. National American Ballroom Champions and the 2007 North American Smooth Champions.

Their performance experience include being the featured entertainers for the 2007-2008 Heritage Classic, Mexico Open and Sapphire Balls. In the 2007-2008 season of America's Ballroom Challenge (PBS) they were featured competitors. During the 2007 season of Dancing With the Stars (ABC) they

appeared on the October 2 episode as featured performers. Tomas also appeared as a featured performer in the 2005 ABC promotions for Dancing With the Stars & JT appeared in the 2005-2006 ABC promotions for Dancing With the Stars including on "Good Morning America" and in "Times Square." The pair are also featured dancers in the 2007 November released Disney movie "Enchanted."

Tomas & JT will be performing for a special reception to honor the military & wounded warriors on Saturday afternoon and again at the evening's professional show for the ball attendees.

ROBERTAS MALECKIS AND INGA SIRKAITE



Robertas and Inga were born in Kaunas, Lithuania. Both began dancing at around age 7, when they entered grade school. They have been dancing together, as they say "forever" – over 15 years.

As amateur partners, they were Lithuanian

National Amateur Latin Champions four times and also won twice as Professional National Champions. They went on to represent their country at numerous World and European events. Winners and finalist in many competitions they were ranked, according to the International Dancesport Federation, 10th out of the top 500 competitive Latin couples in 2000.

They turned Latin professionals in 2002, competing in the prestigious Blackpool “British Open Championships” where they placed 4th in “Latin Rising Star.” They lived in England for 2 years where they received coaching from among some of the world’s best teachers and former World Champions. At the end of 2002, they ranked 8th in the world standing as compiled by the World Dance & Dancesport Council. Among their World rankings they were the Pro Rising Star Latin Champions of the Elsa Wells International Championship, Champions of the German Open Pro Rising Star Latin, Vice-Champions of the United Kingdom Pro Rising Star Latin Championships and finalist at the British Open Pro Rising Star Championships.

They moved to the United States in 2002. Since moving here they have won or been finalists at many of our top competitions including the Heart of America, Philadelphia Festival, St. Louis Star Ball, Yankee Classic, Maryland Dancesport Championships, Ohio Star Ball, Florida Superstars and First Coast competitions. They currently live and teach in Durham, North Carolina.

Robertas and Inga comprise the second part of our special show to honor the military & wounded warriors on Saturday afternoon and will be performing for our ball attendees in the professional show on Saturday night.

EDUARDO TORRES AND CRISTINA ACEVEDO



Eduardo and Christina are both originally from Puerto Rico. They grew up feeling and loving the Latin rhythm of dancing. They discovered the world of ballroom dancing in 1998. They started competing as amateur dancers, though in different styles of dance.

They formed a partnership after deciding to specialize in the American Rhythm style of dance. Beginning their competitive careers as amateurs, they ranked 2nd in the USBDS Nationals in 2005.

They then decided to turn professional and some of their accomplishments to date are:

- *Hotlanta 2006 Novice Pro Champions*
- *2007 Yuletide Rising Star Rhythm Champions*
- *2007 Heritage Rising Star Rhythm finalist*
- *2008 Randy Ferguson Dance Houston Champions*
- *2008 Virginia Dancesport Open Rhythm finalist*
- *2008 Hotlanta Open Rhythm finalist*