



**Name:** Amanda Sigouin

**Tell us about yourself:** My name is Amanda Sigouin, I was born and raised in White Rock BC. I moved to Kelowna in the summer of 2018 with my now husband Devin to work as an associate dentist at Advance Dental Group. Currently, I am back living in Vancouver attending UBC to specialize to become an Orthodontist.

**What year did you dance?** 2020

**What was your style of dance and why did you choose that one?** Leona and I didn't have a specific style in mind but we wanted to do something modern, fun and unique, with great costumes and I think we achieved that!

**How did you first learn about Swinging with the Stars?** I first learned about Swinging with the Stars through my boss Dr. Macdonnell when his wife, Maria, was asked to participate in the event, but given that she knew too many people in Kelowna she was too shy to sign up. Maria then asked me if I wanted to participate and I said sure. It sounded like a fun rewarding event, where I could challenge myself, learn a new dance move or two and give back to the community. Maria became my campaign manager and I was partnered with Leona for the event!

**What was your connection to COHA at that time?** I had no prior connection to COHA before hearing about SWTS but I have had experience with other hospice organizations in the lower mainland and have nothing but good things to say.

**What is your favourite memory from your performance?** There were so many great memories from that night but I think my favourite was the feeling of first walking on to the stage to perform. I was really nervous but also so proud at everything we had accomplished and excited to show everyone my new moves (and my wings!)

**Are you still dancing today?** I take Zumba lessons (online from the comfort of my own home with the new world we are living in). I would love to take dance lessons with my husband in the future.

**What backstage moments stand out to you today?** Getting backstage after performing was such an amazing feeling as all the other dancers were cheering you on.

**Has this experience inspired you to do other life changing things?** Since I completed SWTS in 2020 and then COVID hit I have yet to challenge myself to another life altering event, other than going back to school to specialize and complete a masters degree. I will say it was an incredible experience I will always look back on with fond memories and hey maybe I'll participate again in a group routine one day.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share?** If anyone else is thinking about SWTS for future years I highly recommend it, I had such a fun time and was able to make many new connections and give back to the community that welcomed me.