



**Name:** Martine Parent

**Tell us about yourself:** I'm a 43-year-old mom of a beautiful 21-year-old daughter. I love to be busy and continue to work with the local police, along with owning my small wedding and event planning business. I'm passionate about being creative and connecting with people as much as possible. When I can, I love to travel to New Orleans, Louisiana to take in the amazing food and culture.

**What year did you dance?** 2018

**What was your style of dance and why did you choose that one?** Hip/Hop and Latin to a 1980's Michael Jackson medley. Kurt and I chose this because the theme in 2018 was decades and we both love the 80's and Michael Jackson. Kurt and I wanted to meld our dance styles together.

**How did you first learn about Swinging with the Stars?** I first learned about Swinging with the Stars through Nica Graziotto when she hired me to assist her with the very first Viva Glam gala, which was a fundraising event with former dancer, Val Cocar.

**What is your favourite memory from your performance?** The feeling of excitement and accomplishment when we had completed the dance.

**Are you still dancing today?** I am still dancing today. I already had quite a few years of dance training prior to my performance, mostly in Latin & Ballroom with my instructor, Warren Eaton. Warren and I have competed in Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary and Edmonton together, and have done very well. Today, I'm continuing my dance training and plan on competing as many times as I possibly can.

**What backstage moments stand out to you today?** The backstage moments that stand out, are the cheering and camaraderie with the other dancers.

**How has Swinging with the Stars impacted your community involvement?**

Hearing everyone's stories who have participated with COHA in some way, and with my grandfather passing away from cancer in 2015, has inspired me to actively listen, practice gratitude daily, and connect with people in the community and help fundraising through my event planning company. I try and donate flowers from my events to Hospice House as well.