



Name: Taylor and Connor Gnam

Dance Company: The Canadian School of Ballet

What years have you participated as professional instructors? 2019

How did you first learn about Swinging with the Stars? The Canadian School of Ballet has been a long-time supporter of the event and invited us to sit at their table the first year we moved to Kelowna. Connor and I were blown away by the whole event and how fun, inspirational and heartwarming the night was.

Why did you agree to teach our local celebrities their dances? Taylor's parents were asked to be the local celebrities with their group of friends and local business owners for Swinging with the Stars in 2019. Taylor had always wanted to teach her parents to dance and thought it would be so special to be a part of the night with them and their team.

What was the funniest moment you had with one of our local celebrities? Team Kitchen Party had a few members that were in Las Vegas for a builder's convention the week before the event. Their flight back home landed in Kelowna 2 hours before the dress rehearsal began. Connor and I were crossing our fingers everyone would make it there in time and nothing would go wrong with the flights! All ended well and our team had an amazing rehearsal and performance!

What is it about Swinging with the Stars that makes it so special, or that sets it apart from other events? Swinging with the Stars is a large event that brings a uniquely diverse community of business owners, professionals, local celebrities and COHA supporters together under one roof united with the goal to raise money for a great cause. Having centered the event around the dance competition adds another element to the fundraiser as audience members want to support all the hard work the dancers and choreographers have invested into their performances. The attendees also always get a kick out of seeing the local celebrities put on a costume and dance! Who would have thought the owners of a car dealership could be so light on their feet!

Has Swinging with the Stars impacted your life? Swinging with the Stars has become something we look forward to every year. If you've been a local celebrity dancer or choreographer, you know how much work and love is put into working on these dances. Most people have never taken a dance class in their life. Everyone is excited to show their hard work, but also come together as a community and raise money for COHA. There is an energy in the room that night that you just want to be a part of!