



Name: Warren Eaton

Dance Company: Latinesque Ballroom and Latin Dance in Kelowna. I am a professional ballroom and Latin dancer, teacher and choreographer, over 27 years' experience.

What years have you participated as a professional instructor? I have proudly taken part in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2018, 2019, 2020.

What years have you been a judge for Swinging with the Stars? 2017

How did you first learn about Swinging with the Stars? COHA contacted me directly to see if I would be interested in helping them raise money for their organization. I have on many occasions, given back to my community through volunteering my time or donating money etc. But this was an opportunity to give back doing what I am trained to do, dance and teach! I could not resist 😊

What was the funniest moment you had with one of our local celebrities? There have been many funny/fond moments in my dealings with the various students COHA has given me to teach/perform with. The students are so nervous and excited, there is bound to be tension that needs release and it usually came in the studio when rehearsals were happening. Everything from slips and falls to burps and farts! It's a very humbling experience for most people.

What was your immediate reaction when you were asked to participate? When asked to be a judge for this event I was super happy! as every other time I took part it was as a professional choreographer/dancer. Much less stressful.

What is your favourite memory from the event? So many great moments to choose from, having been involved for so many years, I think my favorite memories are of the diverse range of people who offer to donate their time and energy. The mutual excitement/terror held by all the performers makes for a really interesting dynamic backstage:) I love to see everyone encouraging and complimenting each other throughout the whole process.

My fellow judges in 2017 were Mayor Colin Basran and comedian Rob Balsdon; both of whom have a great sense of humor, so Rob in particular kept us all laughing in between performances.

The highlight of the evening for me as a judge was getting a front row seat to see what great talent Kelowna has hiding away and the opportunity to let the dancers know how appreciative I was personally, for all of their hard work.

What is it about Swinging with the Stars that makes it so special, or that sets it apart from other events?

So many fundraisers every year in Kelowna but COHA's SWTS sets it's self apart by being the most entertaining night of the year! The high production value put into the show, the elegance of the decor and location help to give the evening a 'Hollywood Premier' feel that I know the audience really appreciates.