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**USA DANCE 2009 NATIONAL DANCESPORT  
CHAMPIONSHIPS COUNTDOWN**  
**America's Best Ballroom, Latin Dancers**  
**Return to Baltimore, Apr 3-5, to Compete for National**  
**Titles, U.S. Team for World Championships**

***NOTE TO EDITORS & PRODUCERS:*** Please add the upcoming USA DANCE 2009 National DanceSport Championships to your publicized event calendars and make plans to cover this nationally and globally significant event. Please contact USA Dance at [publicrelations-dir@usadance.org](mailto:publicrelations-dir@usadance.org) for additional pre-event information and to arrange for interviews before or at the event. Press passes are available at the event registration desk upon display of credentials. USA DANCE WEBSITE: [www.usadance.org](http://www.usadance.org)

BALTIMORE, MD – America's top ballroom and latin dance competitors return to Baltimore, April 3-5, 2009, for the **USA DANCE 2009 National DanceSport Championships**, sponsored by **USA DANCE, Inc.**, the National Governing Body for DanceSport in the United States, recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee and the International DanceSport Federation (IDSF). The USA Dance Nationals is expected to be the largest and most competitive of all USA Dance National DanceSport Championships in history.

The three-day USA Dance Nationals will be held at the five-star Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore's historic Inner Harbor area, 8 am – Midnight.

At the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships in Baltimore, more than 1,000 amateur DanceSport athletes – America's best – will vie for national titles and placements on the U.S. DanceSport teams scheduled to compete at the upcoming World Championships, sponsored and sanctioned by the International DanceSport Federation. In Baltimore, 20 DanceSport couples will be selected for 11 World Championship events.

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The USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships will showcase the four major ballroom dance styles -- International Standard, International Latin, American Smooth and American Rhythm.

Competitors are expected to represent nearly every state in the nation, ranging from Pre-Teen (as young as age 7) and Youth (to age 18) to Adult (age 19+) and Seniors (35 to 70+), all seeking to dance their best performances, having qualified at USA Dance National Qualifying Events held throughout the country during the year prior.

According to Daphna Locker, Nationals Chairperson, the USA DANCE 2009 Nationals “will definitely be a star-studded destination event. Spectators will see America's finest ‘real life’ dancing stars in action.” And as Locker confirmed, “The 2009 Nationals will also host some of the world's most elite ballroom personalities -- TV dance stars, internationally acclaimed judges and emcees, and other well-known celebrities.

In addition to hosting an elite judging panel of nationally and internationally acclaimed adjudicators, USA Dance is proud to announce that ABC-TV’s celebrity judge Carrie Ann Inaba will also attend the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships, serving as an Honorary Judge and masters workshop instructor. Ms. Inaba will provide additional critique to America’s top dancers in the overall artistic areas of performance, showmanship and individual talent.

Many of the celebrity youth couples who have competed on ABC-TV’s “Dancing With The Stars” will also compete throughout the weekend.

The general public is invited to attend the USA DANCE National DanceSport Championships starting 8 am to midnight each of the three days, Friday, April 3; Saturday, April 4; and Sunday, April 5. Tickets are available at the door, although advance tickets are recommended for Saturday evening.

Advance tickets can be purchased at either the door or online at [www.usadancenationals.org](http://www.usadancenationals.org) .

Individual tickets for Daytime Sessions are Adults \$15, \$10 for Teens and \$10 for Children Under 12. Tickets for Evening Sessions are \$35 for Adults, \$25 for Teens and \$20 for Children Under 12. For spectators, daytime attire is casual and night time attire is business to dressy.

General Weekend Packages are also available starting at \$90 per person. VIP Weekend Packages are also available for guaranteed front row seats and

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refreshments. Complete pricing details are online at [www.usadancenationals.com](http://www.usadancenationals.com).

The USA Dance Nationals schedule includes dance workshops and activities for social and competitive dancers. Various workshops will be taught by world-class adjudicators (session cost \$10 per person). A Social Dance Lunchtime Cruise on the Inner Harbor is scheduled for Sat., April 5. Other dance parties and social gatherings to be announced.

In the heart of Baltimore's Harbor area, the five-star Renaissance Harborplace Hotel provides full-service accommodations, parking, retail, dining, entertainment and convenience to the Baltimore Inner Harbor amenities across the street.

Additional donations to the USA DANCE national programs and athlete scholarship funds can be made online at [www.usadance.org](http://www.usadance.org) or by emailing Daphna Locker at [nationals-chair@usadance.org](mailto:nationals-chair@usadance.org).

**USA DANCE is a 501c3 non-profit organization responsible for the promotion of recreational ballroom dancing and competitive DanceSport in the United States. As the governing body for DanceSport, as recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee and as a member of IDSF (the International DanceSport Federation), USA DANCE organizes and hosts the USA DANCE national qualifying events and National DanceSport Championships each year in the U.S. It is the additional mission and goal of USA DANCE to gain the International Olympic Committee's final approval of DanceSport as an Olympic medal sport. [www.usadance.org](http://www.usadance.org) and [www.youtube.com/usadanceinc](http://www.youtube.com/usadanceinc)**

**USA DANCE National DanceSport Championships [www.usadancenationals.com](http://www.usadancenationals.com)**

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