

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Twenty-five world-class couples. Five hours of sizzling competition.

See what it takes to be America's Best.

***AMERICA'S BALLROOM CHALLENGE* RETURNS WITH NEW HOSTS JASMINE GUY AND RON MONTEZ WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30 AT 8PM ON PBS**

(Boston, MA, January 2, 2007) Swirling gowns and elegant tails, spicy sambas and mesmerizing mambos ... Let the dancing begin! True ballroom competition returns to the small screen when *America's Ballroom Challenge* premieres five weeks of all-new **prime-time** competition **Wednesday, January 30 at 8pm on PBS (check local listings)**.

Stage and screen actress **Jasmine Guy** (*A Different World*, *Showtime's Dead Like Me*) and undefeated **seven-time Latin Dance Champion Ron Montez** join the series as hosts. Shot in stunning High Definition at the world's largest ballroom dancing competition in Columbus, Ohio, *America's Ballroom Challenge* once again takes viewers onto the dance floor and behind the scenes as 24 world-class couples compete for the ultimate dance title, **America's Best**.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to host *America's Ballroom Challenge*, because it's like returning to my roots," says Guy. "I feel very much at home on this show, because it's dance, which is my first discipline, and because of my awe and respect for the performers. I'm so amazed with the magnitude of the competition—the number of dancers and the flawlessness of it all. I feel honored to be a part of it."

From the producer who first brought the magic of competitive ballroom to American television, *America's Ballroom Challenge* is the only series that dedicates one full hour to each of the four major dance styles: American Smooth, American Rhythm, International Standard, and International Latin. Each of the first four hours of competition yields one champion couple in that style. Then, in the exhilarating "Grand Finale," the best battle the best, pulling out all the stops in front of an international panel of judges. After five hours of high-stakes competition, only one couple will walk away with the crown.

"It's truly wonderful to be able to bring such comprehensive coverage to this spectacular event," says series creator and Executive Producer Aida Moreno. "Ballroom is an art form that is widely loved and respected. We are thrilled to continue to showcase it in its true form, giving recognition to as many of these extraordinary dancers as possible."

In addition to the competition, the series is packed with behind-the-scenes footage, dazzling exhibitions performed by top dancers of all styles, and an up-close look inside the world of ballroom—from the art of designing a costume to the secrets of judging.

For more information about the series and fun facts about ballroom dancing, visit pbs.org/ballroomchallenge.

America's Ballroom Challenge is a production of Moreno/Lyons Productions, LLC, and is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston. Funding is provided by the World Federation of Dancers.

About The Production Team

America's Ballroom Challenge is produced by Moreno/Lyons Productions, a Boston-based production company with more than 25 years of experience in television production. Aida Moreno, creator and Executive Producer of the series, is best known as the creator and original Executive Producer of *Antiques Roadshow*, now the most popular program on PBS. Moreno worked on a variety of programs during her 24-year career at Boston's WGBH. In 1980, Moreno introduced American viewers to the world of competitive dancing with a program called *Championship Ballroom Dancing*. What was supposed to be a single 90-minute special went on to become a perennial favorite—one of the highest rated specials in the PBS schedule for 20 years. The ballroom community recognized Moreno's contribution to the sport by inducting her into the World Dance Hall of Fame in 1999. And in 2007, the National Dance Council of America inducted Moreno into the U.S. Dancesport Hall of Fame, citing her pioneering role in presenting ballroom dancing to the public.

About WGBH

WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcasting producer, the source of fully one-third of PBS's prime-time lineup, along with some of public television's best-known lifestyle shows, children's programs, and many public radio favorites. WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors: Emmys, Peabodys, duPont-Columbia Awards—even two Oscars. In 2002, WGBH was honored with a special institutional Peabody Award for 50 years of excellence. For more information, visit www.wgbh.org.

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