



For Immediate Release

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Media Contact:

Ann Fink, Carol Fox & Associates

773.969.5042

annf@carolfoxassociates.com

**GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO HOSTS 15TH ANNUAL
“DANCING WITH THE GIORDANO STARS”
BALLROOM DANCE COMPETITION AT PARK WEST, OCT. 6**

CHICAGO - Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC) hosts its wildly popular “**Dancing With The Giordano Stars**” ballroom dance competition to benefit GDC’s Jazz Dance/Science & Health outreach program, company operations, and jazz dance advocacy and mentorship programs 7 -11 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6. The event will take place at Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave. This annual event, patterned after the hit ABC series “Dancing With The Stars,” teams GDC professional dancers with partners from the who’s who of Chicago’s civic, social and business communities to vie for “Best Male Dancer” and “Best Female Dancer” honors before a panel of celebrity judges. WGN’s **Anna Davlantes** will emcee.

The slate of male contestants (and their GDC dance partners) are **Shaun Gallagher**, Head of ADR Conversion Trading at BTIG (with Katie Rafferty), **Scott Hudson**, President & CEO at Gallagher-Bassett (with Erina Ueda), **Robb Leone**, Co-Founder & President at BIÂN Chicago (with Ashley Downs), **Raul Ruiz**, Senior VP: Global Houseware & Modern Design at Instant Brands (with Onjélee Phomthirath) and **Dr. Hilel Swerdin** of ENT Family Clinic (with Amanda Hickey).

The female contestants (and their GDC dance partners) are **Courtney Eisen Burk** (with Adam Houston), **Rachel Kohl** (with Ryan Galloway), **Sarah Norris**, Parter & Head at BBR Chicago (with Skyler Newcom), **Beth Ann Papoutisis** (with Zachary Heller) and **Randi Whitman**, Owner at Frog Temple Pilates & Yoga (with Fernando Rodriguez).

The evening will begin with spirits and light fare, followed by the competition. As part of the competition, each couple will perform a compulsory Foxtrot and a dance of their choice: Cha Cha, Swing, Rumba, Salsa or Tango. Open dancing for all guests completes the evening.

Tickets range from \$150 to \$1,600. Corporate sponsorships are available. For tickets or more information visit giordanodance.org or call 312.922.1332.

“Dancing With The Giordano Stars” precedes GDC’s fall engagement at the Harris Theater | Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph Dr., Friday, Oct. 21 and Saturday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale Aug. 11 at the Harris Theater box office. For more info visit harristheaterchicago.org.

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America’s original jazz dance company is celebrating 60 years of expanding jazz dance. Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC) is an iconic cultural organization and an integral part of Chicago’s vibrant performing arts community. From its origins in founder Gus Giordano’s original school in Evanston, Ill., to its current incarnation as a world-class dance company, GDC boasts over a half-century of worldwide performances (28 countries, 47 states, more than 1,300 cities) with an imprint on the art form of jazz dance that is far-reaching and significant. For 38 years GDC has been under

the Artistic Leadership of Nan Giordano who is responsible for commissioning numerous groundbreaking works, the mentoring of hundreds of young dancers and choreographers, and the development of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®. The Program, which offers multi-level instruction and certification in the proprietary Giordano Technique, has certified dance educators in 36 states and seven countries, all integrating the Technique into their college, high school, and studio programs. Each Spring, GDC's "Jazz Dance/Science & Health" program teaches elementary school anatomy and nutrition through a dance-centric program in CPS science classrooms. In 2022 the program brought 250 classes to 350 students in four under-resourced schools, all taught by GDC dancers. With the leadership of Artistic Director Nan Giordano, Executive Director Michael McStraw, and GDC's dedicated Board of Directors, GDC is stronger than ever. For more information about GDC, visit giordanodance.org.

Giordano Dance Chicago is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation and is not affiliated with the Gus Giordano Dance School in Andersonville or the Gus Giordano Jazz Legacy Foundation.