



Stamford Center for the Arts

PALACE THEATRE, 61 Atlantic St., Stamford CT 06901

STAMFORD CENTER FOR THE ARTS IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT 501 (C) (3) CULTURAL ARTS ORGANIZATION

The International Stars of Dance, Featuring The World's Top Ballroom and Latin Competitive Dancers Offer An Evening of Passion and Romantic Interludes, *The Rhythm of Love*, on the Stage of Stamford's Palace Theatre

Stamford Center for the Arts presents *The International Stars of Dance* featuring the world's top Ballroom and Latin competitive dancers in *The Rhythm of Love*, an evening of passion and romantic interludes. This Broadway-style stage spectacle is highlighted by classic ballroom, hot Latin and rhythm dances in addition to the vibrant Viennese waltz, the fabulous black-tie Foxtrot, the sizzling Mambo and jumpin' Jive.

The International Stars of Dance in *Rhythm of Love* was originally presented and produced on the stage of the **Palace Theatre**, located in downtown Stamford, Connecticut and was presented with support from the **Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism**.

Some might compare it to television's "Dancing with the Stars," but *The Rhythm of Love* improves on that concept with "The Best of Ballroom" meets "The Best of Broadway" while sharing a love story that carries the audience from courtship to celebration and from heartbeat to laughter. Best described as "an evening of hot tunes, elegant ballroom and stunning dance," the show guides the audience through timeless tales of romance from first glance to goodbye and even second chances. A touch of comedy rounds out the evening.

The real stars include these champion dancers and creators:

Emmanuel Pierre-Antione and Joanna Zacharewicz, 2005 World Pro Mambo Champions. Their global reputation as one of the most exciting American rhythm couples earned them a special invitation to perform at the Kremlin in Moscow. Last year, they joined Barry Manilow on national television as special guests for the hit ABC show "Dancing With The Stars." They can also be seen on the PBS special, "America's Ballroom Challenge," winning the U.S. Show Dance Championship.

Garry and Rita Gekhman are currently ranked in the top thirty professional couples in the world in the elegant International Standard style. They have been US Professional Standard Finalists and Blackpool Standard Rising Star Finalists. They are the U.S. National Professional Classic Show Dance Champions, and the US Representatives to the World Classic Show Dance Championships.

Steven Dougherty and Eulia Baranovsk are U.S. and World Finalists in the American Smooth style. In addition to appearing on ESPN and "America's Ballroom Challenge" for PBS, they are guest teachers and performers at The Juilliard School in Manhattan.

Felipe Telona, Jr. and Carolina Orlovsky-Telona formed a partnership in both marriage and dance in 2002. They have won World Mambo and Salsa Championship titles, and were Finalists at the US and World Rhythm Championships. They have been featured performers on the QE2 with Broadway diva, Ann Hampton Callaway. They also were Latin Formation Champions at Blackpool, UK, the world renowned ballroom festival.

Anya Garnis is originally from Moscow, Russia. She is a US and World competitive ballroom dancer, specializing in the international Latin style. With her professional partner, Pavel Kovalev, she reached the finals of the US DanceSport Championships and took 2nd place in the World Rising Star Championships at Blackpool, England.

Benito Garcia has a distinguished ballroom & Latin dance career. As a top US competitor, he was runner-up at the US and World Mambo Championships. In the 5-dance American Rhythm category, he was a finalist at the US DanceSport Championships. In theatre, he was a principal dancer in the North Shore Music Circus production of the Broadway hit, *Swing*.

The creators behind the scenes are **Brian Aldous**, lighting designer, **Jana Llynn**, production stage manager and **Taliat Tarsinov**, group choreographer, all under the direction of **John Hickok** and **Rick Lake**.

Rhythm of Love is **John Hickok's** third production with Rick Lake. His on stage Broadway credits include *Little Women*, *Parade* and Disney's *Aida* plus *Our Country's Good*, *Accomplice*. He directed the world premiere of *Burning Blue* on London's West End (which won two Olivier Awards) also L.A., San Francisco, NYC.

Rick Lake is the creator and director of **The Rhythm of Love**. In addition, he is a theatre producer, writer, director and performer. He won Harvard's David McCord Prize in the Creative Arts as a librettist and lyricist in musical theatre. *The Rhythm of Love* is his latest presentation, which also includes productions of *The Last Mambo*, *Elephant & Castle* and *I Sent A Letter to My Love*.

The Rhythm of Love reflects Rick's own ballroom & Latin passion. As an avid pro/am ballroom dancer, he has won many competition honors with members of the cast. With Anya Garnis: bronze medal, US Pro/Am Mambo Championships.

Rick is on the advisory board of the Stamford Center for the Arts, a trustee The O'Neill Theatre Center and a former trustee of The American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

This proves what Grammaçita and Grandpaçita taught: "There's always a rainbow."

The International Stars of Dance The Rhythm of Love is a fun night out, a dance delight, or a Valentine's weekend treat.

Palace Theatre, at 61 Atlantic Street, is conveniently located in downtown Stamford, Connecticut, just a few blocks from I-95 (New England Thruway/Connecticut Turnpike) and the railroad station (Metro North New Haven Line from Grand Central Terminal) and five miles from Long Ridge Road and High Ridge Road exits of the Merritt Parkway.

Palace Theatre is wheelchair accessible and equipped with hearing-assisted listening devices. Please let the box office know of any special needs when ordering tickets.

For additional information call **203.325.4466** or visit the SCA website at **www.stamfordcenterforthearts.org**