



SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
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SUU BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY GIVES PERFORMANCES IN PUERTO RICO

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: Sharing their artistry, the **SUU Ballroom Dance Company** recently returned from a successful weeklong series of performances in Puerto Rico. From delighting patients in a children's hospital to impressing the island's governor, the Company displayed their customary showmanship winning fans among the residents. During their week's stay, the company gave five full concerts that showcased a variety of dance styles in bold colorful costumes.

The tour began on May 8, 2014, with a concert at San Jorge Children's Hospital and the SUU dancers engaged and entertained the facility's young patients who were enthralled by the performance. Then on May 9th, the Company performed at the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, an acclaimed contemporary art museum. The museum's patrons were enraptured by the dancers' dynamic performance. On May 10th, the dancers gave their all in two performances, the first at Universidad de Puerto Rico recinto de Bayamon in the late morning. Then that same evening the dancers performed at the Municipio de Toa Baja Apartado. They performed at an event sponsored by the University of Sagrado Corazon with **Alejandro García Padilla**, the Governor of Puerto Rico, in attendance. Padilla himself led the ovations at the end of the show. They gave their final performance on May 14th at Club de Leones de Cataño.

The concert featured a variety of popular dance styles including the Cha Cha, Foxtrot, Open Hop Lindy, Paso Doble, Quickstep, Rumba, Samba, Viennese Waltz and many others. The performances were accented by the Company's bold and vibrant costumes and the use of a pulsating soundtrack.

In and around all the performances the Ballroom Company was able to take in some of the inland's historic sights and points of interest during their week. Trips and excursions included Old San Juan, Culebra Island, El Yunque Rain Forest, Camuy Caves, The Fort of San Felipe, Isla Verde Beach and Bioluminescent Bay Beach.

Under the supervision of **Kay Andersen**, Chair, SUU's Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, the tour included the following members of the SUU Ballroom Dance Company **Jessica Alejandro, Carson Chandler, Alexis Chew, Corinna Christensen, Taryn Crimin, Richard Fauci, Ammon Garcia, Chandler Hall, Thomas Hanratty, Rebekah Harris, Timothy Jenkins, Sharlee Jepson, Amber Kunzler, Brian Kunzler, Dustin Liechty, Yolimar Llabres, Jeremy Muir, Colby Presley, James Proctor, Beth Snarr, Jordan Spidle, Kyle Taylor, Ryann Woodbury** and **Shelby Woolsey**. The Company members raised funds for the trip themselves through tickets sales from their popular SUU concerts.

The **Southern Utah University Ballroom Dance Company**, under the direction of **Andrea Zundel Johnson**, is one of SUU's outstanding performance groups. The company consists of three performing ensembles with more than seventy participating students. This outstanding group exhibits social and competitive ballroom dances that have developed and evolved both nationally and internationally. The SUU Ballroom Dance Company puts on several annual campus and community events including fall showcase, spring showcase, and this event, *Dancing with the Stars*. This dance company reaches out to the surrounding community offering frequent performances to local organizations. This energetic group will keep you tapping your feet and clapping your hands as you are entertained by wonderful rhythms, beautiful costumes, and amazing formation ballroom dancing.

The **SUU Ballroom Dance Company** has toured throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, and Latin America receiving numerous accolades for their performances. The Ballroom Dance Company has quickly grown to become one of the premier performing groups on the Southern Utah University campus. The company maintains a touring program that reaches cities across the United States and internationally.

For more information about the Company, please visit <http://suu.edu/pva/arts/ballroom/index.html>.