

Look Who's Kicking Up Their Heels for Curtain Call

What do Donny Osmond, Julia Frisoli and nearly 40 countries have in common? DANCING WITH THE STARS! And while Osmond, the recent winner on the similarly-named hit TV show, will not be appearing in Stamford any time soon that we know of, Frisoli, who played Osmond's on-screen-wife in COLLEGE ROAD TRIP, will be back on stage for CURTAIN CALL'S DANCING WITH THE STARS, STAMFORD on May 15.



"The phenomenal popularity of the TV show has led many organizations across the country to use that format as a vehicle for a fun and different means of fund-raising, so we jumped on the bandwagon," said Lou Ursone, Curtain Call executive director. "We launched our version of the event in May 2008 and had the most successful fund-raising event we've ever run," he said. Due to the unprecedented demand for tickets that first year, the program is once again playing at The Palace Theatre on Atlantic Street in Stamford. "With 1,500 seats, we should have plenty of room for everyone who wants a ticket, but we'd love to have a sell-out," Ursone added.

A dozen local "celebrities" have volunteered to be STAR DANCER'S for this event. They include: Bill Arnone-CPA, Capital Financial Management LLC; Elizabeth P. Ball, President / Creative Director of TFI Envision, Inc. of Norwalk and Director of the Pierce Ball Gallery of Stamford; Roxanne DeCarlo- Executive Accounting Manager, Conair Corporation; Connie DeGruttola- Regional Sales Representative, City Carting; Vinnie Fusco- General Manager, NBC Universal's Stamford Media Center; Amy George- VP, Talent, Diversity & Inclusion, Terex Corporation; Alex Lionetti-CPA; Michael Marchetti- Owner, Columbus Park Trattoria; Tom Ormond- Director of Social Catering, Hilton, Stamford; Robin Selden- Marcia Selden Catering & Event Planning; Sonya D. Van Norden- Grant Writer, CTE; and Karen Wilder, Board Member, Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens.

Each volunteer "STAR DANCER" will be partnered with a dance professional and train for 10 weeks prior to the big event. The dance studios and their pros include: Arthur Murray Dance Studio of Stamford – Michael Powers; Dance-Fit - Greg Kasprzak; Fred Astaire Dance Studios, Norwalk - Gina Goethche, Martin Goethche and Juliet Thibodeaux; Fred Astaire Dance Studios, Ridgefield – Peter Hahn and Lukas Klotzche; Latin Moves Dance Studio - Luis Lopez; Maria Fiora's Ballroom and Latin Dance Studio - Maria Fiora and Cameron Johnson; plus independent professionals: Sara Lee Michaels and Stamford's First Lady, Maureen Pavia.

"This year, more than ever, we need the support of our community to help raise the much needed funds to keep our doors open," Ursone said. "Arts organizations throughout the state and across the country have been shutting down due to decreased funding - we don't want to be another casualty. That's why this event is so important to us," he added. State Arts Funding in Connecticut was cut by nearly 70% this year, which hurt Curtain Call and many other organizations state-wide. Live theatrical programming at Sterling Farms has been a part of Stamford's cultural landscape since 1972. Curtain Call is Stamford's longest-running and only year-round, not-for-profit producing theatrical organization.

CURTAIN CALL'S DANCING WITH THE STARS, STAMFORD will be presented like the popular TV show. Video clips of rehearsals, behind the scenes interviews, conversations with judges, and of course, the live dances. "Audience members at our previous 'Dancing' events were thrilled with how much fun the night was and at how much like the TV show it was," said Jami Sherwood, co-chair of this year's event and a Star Dancer from 2008. Her co-chair, Julia Frisoli, was winner in 2008.

Tickets, including cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a desert buffet start at \$125 and go up to \$5,000. Event sponsorships range from \$2,500 to \$10,000. "This is a very important event for our organization and for our community," Sherwood said. "We can't afford to see another arts organization shutter its doors." Frisoli added, "The community has always supported our theatre and we know we can count on the residents of Fairfield County to again step up to the plate and help us out."

For more information about the event and / or how to a sponsor, contact Ursone at 203-329-8207. Tickets are available online at www.curtaincallinc.com or by calling the number above.

Curtain Call is the non-profit community-based theatre company in residence at The Sterling Farms Theatre Complex, 1349 Newfield Avenue in Stamford. Year-round productions and workshops are presented by and for area residents in The Kveskin Theatre and The Dressing Room Theatre. Curtain Call has been voted Fairfield County's BEST LOCAL THEATRE GROUP 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the Annual Readers' Poll of The Fairfield County Weekly and BEST PERFORMING ARTS GROUP by StamfordPlus magazine 2008, 2009 and 2010