



## CHERYL BURKE

With over 17 years dancing experience and several championship titles under her belt, professional dancer Cheryl Burke, has tangoed and salsa danced her way into the hearts of America through the hit ABC television show *Dancing with the Stars*. Cheryl and partner Drew Lachey blew their competitors away with their smooth-rhythmic routines and outgoing personalities. Her ability to transform Drew into a competent ballroom dancer, and as a result winning the show, has proven to be Cheryl's most prized accomplishment to date.

Oakland native, Cheryl first began dancing at the age of four, taking ballet lessons and performing throughout the Bay Area. At 10, she discovered what would be her winning talent, ballroom dancing, and decided to hang up her ballet shoes to begin training in both Standard and Latin ballroom dancing. By the age of 13, Cheryl was traveling and competing throughout the world, later moving on to win several championships including 2005 Ohio Star Ball Rising Star Champion, 2005 San Francisco Open Latin Champion, 2005 World Cup Professional Rising Star Latin Champion, several UK Championships, and a fourth place showing in the U.S. "Under 21's" division.

Now at the young age of 22, she has used her appearance on *Dancing with the Stars* as a stepping-stone to propel her career into different avenues. Initially, Cheryl was scouted by ABC reps at a dance competition and was recruited to be the professional dance partner for dancing novice Drew Lachey. Now, as the reigning *Dancing with the Stars* champion, countless doors have opened for her with guest performer public appearances, talk show appearance, and several exclusive Hollywood events. Cheryl has also been invited back to dance another season on *Dancing with the Stars* and defend her title. She has even dabbled with acting playing the role of a bespectacled awkward and shy nurse who blossoms into a ballroom sensation, on the Disney show, *Suite Life with Zack and Cody*. Although dancing continues to be her number one passion, acting definitely proves to be an interesting and challenging endeavor she would like to pursue.

For Cheryl, dancing is a way of life. It provides a medium for her to express her inner feelings and passions all while maintaining focus and composure during extremely high-pressure situations. It is dancing that has made her such a competitor, both on and off the floor, and made her strive for perfection in anything that she sets out to do.