

## SPECIAL GUEST - SPOTLIGHTS



### **Tamara Levinson, Latin Dance & Rhythmic Gymnastics.**

A native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Levinson is one of the highest ranked rhythmic gymnasts in U.S. history. Levinson made her mark in the senior division when she earned one of the USA's two spots to compete in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, where she made her international debut at just 16 years of age. She

went on to finish 19th at the 1992 World Rhythmic Championships. Levinson was the 1993-94 U.S. champion and competed in the 1993 World Championships. Following a brief break, Levinson helped the USA win the team gold medal at the 1995 Pan American Games, where she also won the gold medal for ribbon, the all-around silver medal and bronze medals for rope, ball and clubs. She was coached by Catherine Yakimovich. Levinson retired from competition in 1995 and went on to perform in many different shows in New York, including three Madonna world tours and two off-Broadway hits. She is currently the owner Her proudest accomplishment is her creation of YOGANCE which is a culmination of everything she has gathered along the way as a student, performer and teacher.



### **Varvara Filiou, Rhythmic**

**Gymnastics** An eight time (2008-2016) Greek National All-around Champion. Filiou is one of Greece's most successful rhythmic gymnasts. She is currently ranked 27th internationally and placed 15th at the Rio Olympic Games. She has been on the Senior Greek National team for over 8 years. Her mother is a former Bulgarian Rhythmic Gymnast who introduced her to rhythmic at the age of seven.

- 6th place Ribbon at the European Championship 2014
- 2nd place All Around at the Mediterranean Games 2014
- 4th place ribbon at the world championship 2014
- 8th place All Around at the World Championship 2014
- 8th place Ribbon at the World Championship 2015
- Olympic Games Rio 15th All Around

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### **Tatiana Kastsenkava, Rhythmic Gymnastics.**

She has over 23 years of coaching rhythmic gymnastics in Belarus and Canada. Kastsenkava is a former rhythmic gymnast winning bronze for Belarus in the 1992 World Group Championships. She was also a Silver and Bronze medalists for the USSR National Championships. As a coach she has won the Canadian National Group Championships for 3 consecutive years and the Junior Group Pan-Am twice. She is a certified Level 3 Coach and National Level 1 Judge. She has a Masters degree in Physical Education. She is currently the Director and Head Coach of Trillium Rhythmic Gymnastics Academy and the Canadian National Coach for Junior and Senior FIG athletes.

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**Lourdes Ortega, Ballet.** Under the direction of Victor Huertas, she began her career at the renowned Ballet Teatro Municipal de San Juan. At age 12, she was awarded a scholarship by School of American Ballet for 4 consecutive years. At 14 she entered the Ballets de San Juan Company, where she worked as a soloist until 1986 when she was promoted to Principal Dancer.

She has danced in theaters Haiti, Miami, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Cuba, Barcelona, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago and Washington. She has served as Director of the School of Ballets de San Juan from 1992 to 2002 and as Artistic Director and Executive of the company from 2000 to 2002.

She currently serves as professor of the school of Andanza, Mauro, School of Performing Arts and the company National Ballet Theater of Puerto Rico.



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### **Puerto Rico Rhythmic Gymnastics Academy Hosting Coach**



#### **Misael García Santiago, Rhythmic Gymnastics.**

He has coached rhythmic gymnastics for over ten years. García is the founder and head coach of Puerto Rico Rhythmic Gymnastics Academy (PRRGA), the leading rhythmic gymnastics gym in the Caribbean for 6 years. He has grown the club to over 100 rhythmic athletes and counting. García hosted Caribbean Star, the first international rhythmic gymnastics invitational competition in Puerto Rico. Prior to having his own club, he has coached rhythmic athletes for the Pan American Junior Championship in both Cuba and Argentina. García is a former professional dancer for Joffrey Ballet for 4 years. He has over 30 years of experience in

classical and modern dance. He has danced on Broadway and as a dancer with Michael Jackson, with extensive training in ballet, modern, acrobatics, contortion and jazz. Currently, he is coaching athletes for rhythmic competitions in the US and internationally, coaching three Puerto Rico National Team Members, while continuing to grow the sport in Puerto Rico.