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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Dancing Lions Foundation Announces 2024 Ballroom Extravaganza: Elegance, Empowerment, and Special Guests Jon & Cindy Gruden

Tampa, FL — The Dancing Lions Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering special needs children and adults through ballroom dance, is thrilled to announce its 2024 Ballroom Extravaganza event. This spectacular event, set to take place from 10 am until 2 pm on Saturday, September 28, 2024, will be hosted at the Tampa Hilton Downtown (211 W. Tampa Street, Tampa, FL 33602), and promises to be an unforgettable experience filled with grace, passion, and inspiring stories.

This year's Ballroom Extravaganza will highlight the remarkable talents of participants and serve as a platform to share the Foundation's mission with a broader audience. The press and community members are invited to join the festivities, meet returning special guests Jon and Cindy Gruden, and witness firsthand the life-changing impact ballroom dancing has on these incredible individuals.

Jon and Cindy Gruden's Involvement

Jon and Cindy Gruden first attended the annual dance event in 2023 and were excited to return this year. Jon Gruden shared his passion for the cause, stating, "To see these athletes light up the dance floor, to witness their joy and confidence soar—it's truly something special. Cindy and I are honored to support this incredible organization and these amazing dancers."

With support from dance fans like the Grudens, the Foundation is able to draw attention to the importance of providing opportunities for special needs individuals to express themselves through dance. The Grudens will attend the 2024 Ballroom Extravaganza, offering the press a unique opportunity to engage with them and explore the powerful impact of ballroom dancing on the participants.

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History of the Dancing Lions Foundation

Founded in 2017, the Dancing Lions Foundation emerged from a powerful moment of connection and inspiration at the Tampa Classic event. It was here that Tommy DiTommaso first introduced ballroom dancing to special athletes, a gesture that sparked overwhelming enthusiasm from parents, participants, and the dance community alike. Recognizing the profound impact dance could have on this population, DiTommaso and his dance partner, Dr. Mary M. Fuller, PhD, BCBA, LMHC, collaborated to establish the foundation.

Since its inception, the Dancing Lions Foundation has been committed to providing ballroom dance experiences that enhance gross motor skills, balance, spatial coordination, and self-awareness. The foundation's mission extends beyond dance; it fosters self-confidence, teamwork, and improved social skills among its participants. Through solo performances with professional partners, group formations, and unified sports participation—where typically developing students dance alongside special athletes—the foundation has created a vibrant and inclusive community where everyone can shine.

Press Invitation

The Dancing Lions Foundation invites the media to attend this extraordinary event, meet Jon and Cindy Gruden, and share the stories of the dancers and their families. This is more than just a dance competition—it's a celebration of empowerment, inclusion, and the transformative power of ballroom dancing. Press members are encouraged to interview the Grudens, the dancers, and their families to help spread awareness of the foundation's mission and the incredible community it supports.

For more information, please visit our website, www.dancinglionsfoundation.org.

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MEDIA CONTACT

(for media inquiries, event registration, and further information):

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Dancing Lions Foundation Facts: <https://www.dancinglionsfoundation.org/faq>
- 2023 Event Video & Jon Gruden Interview: <https://www.dancinglionsfoundation.org/>
- Event Details: <https://www.dancinglionsfoundation.org/events>