



## **KARINA SMIRNOFF**

Karina Smirnoff was born and raised as an only child in Ukraine. She started dance at the age of 11 and fell in love with the expression of it all. Since the beginning she has achieved what many have only dreamt about. Karina has taken the title at the UK Open, she's a three times Champ at the US Open, two time Champ at the Asian Open, five time Champ and the Dutch Open, Five time US National Professional Champion, Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the World, and took 2<sup>nd</sup> at the British Open Blackpool Dance Festival, and that's just to name a few. She says that the highlight of her career thus far, was being the 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Worlds with three dance partners and two of whom have not yet gotten that far in their careers since.

After immigrating to the States, she settled and made a home for herself in New York, where she later graduated from Fordham University with a Double Major in Economics and Information System Programming.

One of America's dance legends, Cyd Charisse is whom Karina admired as a young woman. Karina got to make her acting debut in the movie, "Shall We Dance", as well as, being one of the choreographers, and trainers for Jennifer Lopez, Richard Gere and Stanley Tucci who made their moves flawless in the Feature Film. Getting to be a part of Hollywood has brought such joy to her inner child.

Karina aspires to leave this world without regrets. Being a part of "Dancing with the Stars" is opening new doors for her that can make her dream of bringing the understanding of music through the body to underprivileged children and to a wider audience. She's signed on to do the "Dancing with the Stars Tour" this coming year, so we haven't seen the last of this talented lady, Karina Smirnoff.