

## **DANCING WITH THE STARS**

**4/26/19**

I'M DEBORAH URODA SITTING IN THE STUDIO TODAY WITH LESLIE CARLSON, A LOCAL DANCE INSTRUCTOR, AND YOU ARE CHOREOGRAPHING ALL THE DANCES FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL DANCING WITH THE DURANGO STARS THAT'S GOING TO BE ON MAY 4TH. TELL ME ABOUT THIS FUNDRAISER. WHO'S IT FOR?

THE FUNDRAISER IS FOR THE DURANGO DERAILERS AND THEY ARE A CYCLING TEAM THAT STARTED A DOZEN OR SO YEARS AGO TO RAISE MONEY TO HELP PAY NON-MEDICAL TRAVEL COSTS FOR FAMILIES THAT HAVE TO TAKE THEIR CHILDREN TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN DENVER. SO FOOD, LODGING, GAS.

THAT'S A VERY WORTHY CAUSE. AND THEY'RE, YOU'RE TRYING TO RAISE \$50,000 FOR ALL THE FAMILIES IN LA PLATA COUNTY THAT HAVE TO GO TO DENVER.

YES, THIS IS ONE OF THEIR FUNDRAISERS. THEY'RE ALSO HAVING FUNDRAISER RIDING IN THE IRON HORSE CLASSIC AND THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE COURAGE CLASSIC UP IN SUMMIT COUNTY WHICH IS STRICTLY FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. AND IF THEY RAISE AT LEAST \$50,000 (THEN) 100 PERCENT OF THE FUNDS STAY IN THE FOUR CORNERS AREA. THEY SERVICE 5 COUNTIES AND OVER THE LAST DOZEN YEARS, 11 YEARS I BELIEVE, THEY HAVE MADE THEIR GOAL AND THEN SOME. THE LAST TWO YEARS OUR SHOW HAS RAISED \$30,000 EACH YEAR.

WOW! THAT'S AMAZING. SO HOW DOES DANCING WITH THE DURANGO STARS WORK?

WELL, UM ,YOU KNOW, EVERYBODY IN DURANGO IS A CELEBRITY, BECAUSE IT'S A SMALL TOWN, SO WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH DANCE TEACHERS TO GO AROUND. SO ALL THE COUPLES ARE NON-PROFESSIONALS DANCING TOGETHER. AND IT'S NOT THE BEST DANCER WHO MIGHT WIN, IT'S WHO RAISES THE MOST MONEY. JUST LIKE ON THE TV SHOW WHERE VOTES PLAY A BIG PART IN WHO WINS, SO IN DURANGO, WE VOTE WITH OUR DOLLARS.

ALL RIGHT. AND SO HOW DOES IT WORK IN TERMS OF THE DIFFERENT SHOWS? YOU HAVE ONE AT 5:30 AND ONE AT 8:30. THESE GUYS HAVE BEEN PRACTICING FOR HOW LONG, AND WHAT'S THE CUMULATION ALL ABOUT?

WE START PRACTICING AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH. SO THEY GET EIGHT WEEKS. EVERYBODY WANTS SIX MONTHS, BUT I'M LIKE, NO WE GOT TO MAKE, PUT THAT URGENCY IN THERE. AND SO WE INITIALLY ONLY HAD ONE SHOW AND IT WOULD SELL OUT, AND WE HAD A LINE OF PEOPLE STILL WANTING ANY TICKETS SO WE ADDED THE SECOND SHOW. YOU DON'T GET TO FIND OUT WHO WINS UNTIL THE END OF THE SECOND SHOW BECAUSE SCORES ARE CUMULATIVE. WE DO HAVE THREE JUDGES WHO GIVE SCORES AND, THEN OF COURSE THE MONEY. WE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES AT THE SHOW FOR PEOPLE TO VOTE FOR THEIR FAVORITE DANCERS WITH THEIR DOLLARS. AND SO IT'S THE SAME CAST BOTH SHOWS THIS YEAR. WE HAVE NINE COUPLES DANCING. WE'VE HAD ANYWHERE FROM NINE TO TWELVE IN THE PAST. 12 IS TOO MANY. WAY TOO MANY.

NINE SOUNDS LIKE A PERFECT NUMBER.

SO, THEIR JOB IS TO PRACTICE, LEARN THE ROUTINE. COSTUMING IS 90% OF IT, IS WHAT I ALWAYS SAY. AND THEN TO GO OUT AND RAISE FUNDS BECAUSE IT'S NOT ABOUT THE DANCING IT'S ABOUT, IT'S ABOUT THE CHILDREN.

THERE YOU GO. AND SO AREN'T THERE ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF DANCING GOING ON?

YES, IT'S ALL COUPLE DANCING. WE HAVE EVERYTHING FROM A JAZZ ROUTINE TO A MAMBO. WHAT I'M MISSING THIS YEAR, SOME OF THE MORE TRADITIONAL BALLROOM LIKE WALTZ AND FOXTROT. IT'S A REAL JAZZED UP SHOW THIS YEAR WITH A LOT MORE LIVELY DANCES.

AND SO WE CAN EXPECT TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN AND BE VERY ENTERTAINED BY THIS AND RAISE MONEY FOR A GOOD CAUSE. THAT'S THE SIXTH ANNUAL DANCING WITH THE STARS, SATURDAY MAY 4TH. SHOWS AT 5:30 AND 8:30. YOU CAN GET TICKET INFORMATION AT [HENRYSTRATERTHEATER.COM](http://HENRYSTRATERTHEATER.COM). THANKS FOR JOINING US, LESLIE. I'M DEBORAH URODA FOR DURANGO TV NEWS