

## Joanna Leunis

(Born on 22nd of May 1981 in Rocourt Liege, Belgium)

Always ready to fight for what she wants. As a child she won with a serious blood disease. As a Latin Dance star she has already won everything that any amateur or professional dancer can dream of. Two months after turning 18 she won her first World Amateur Latin Champion title, which was at the time her biggest dream. In 2009 Joanna became World Professional Latin Champion for the second time in a row. Another dream came true. However, proud and happy as she is because of her successes, to feel fulfilled Joanna needs to be convinced that she performs at the highest level of her skills and qualities. She wants to be admired as a dancer who cares primarily about the effect of her performance on the audience and loves emotional reactions.

### *Dance for life*

Joanna feels privileged that her dancing career creates so many opportunities to meet and work with so amazingly talented people. She believes that these inspirational meetings are hugely responsible for shaping and discovering her own style. Enriched by people she works with and famous for the highest work ethic in the dance world, Joanna admits that training not only helped her improve physical abilities but also gave her best possible life experience. She feels more aware of herself and knows exactly how to push her limits in order to achieve what she wants.

Well known for her commitment, loyalty, sophisticated and elegant style (on and off the dance floor) she is always friendly and gives full attention to people she works with.

### *Family values*

Although Joanna spends almost whole year dancing in different parts of the world her heart is always with her family. The values she praises the most - respect for other's beliefs, opinions and ways of life, loyalty, trust, freedom - are those she learnt at home. Moreover, her mother Josée supports her also on the professional ground. She is her daughter and Michael's manager. Both Joanna and Michael know that they can always fully rely on her.

### *Inspiration all over the world*

Joanna believes in dedication and hard work. Her successful career in Latin Dancing proves that these priorities definitely pay off. However, it is not only time during training session that contributes to her achievements. She uses the ever changing environment around her to gain as much inspirations as possible and incorporates them in her dancing. Especially, being inspired by other forms of dance has become crucial to her. Travelling around the world and living in London - the city vibrating with different cultural influences - Joanna is constantly working on her style. She wants to be one of a kind dancer. She wants to make history!