

# SHEER DANCE

A monthly publication to engage the dance community. Learn. Discuss. Contribute. Enjoy.

1 FEB 2018

[SHEERDANCE.COM](http://SHEERDANCE.COM)



*Congratulations to Dancers Studio's  
Woodrow Wills and Neli Petkova for winning  
Professional Rising Star International  
Standard Ballroom! Photo by Dan Browning.*



## Heart of Dance Celebrates its Largest Colors of the Rainbow Team Match Yet!

BY ROSE HARTNETT

IMAGINE NEARLY 200 5TH AND 8th grade students from 17 schools in Duluth, Rochester, and the Twin Cities dressed in their ballroom best ready to compete in three back-to-back Colors of the Rainbow Team Matches! Parents and families filled the ballroom at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington December 10 in anticipation of the big events. You could see the nervous excitement in the students as they practiced with their partners on the ballroom floor. These students represented over 1100 students who had just completed their Fall semester ten-week residency of Dancing Classrooms as offered by the nonprofit Heart of Dance. They were about to showcase

not only their new dance steps, but the essential life skills they learned along the way.

As one 5th grader said: “We are doing ballroom because we need to accept one another and work with everyone. And we need to accept the other gender living upon the earth the same as us... Ballroom dance has changed me.” Dancers demonstrated the Respect, Elegance, and Teamwork that are the Social Emotional Learning fundamentals of global Dancing Classrooms.

Students performed their elegant dances, including the exciting Swing and smooth Foxtrot, to enthusiastic applause and cheers from the crowd.

Parents, younger siblings, peers, grandparents, and teachers showed their support in the surrounding audience. Parents were well aware of the growth in their student’s social and emotional skills, reaching beyond the dance classroom.

One parent noted that his son became more respectful, confident, excited, and emotional throughout the residency. Another said of her child: “She started to think better of the other kids, especially the boys. She commented more on inner abilities of other students.” The parental comments kept on coming on their surveys. Check out a few of them with the photos below!

Special thanks to Professional Ballroom Dance Judges Scott and Amy Anderson, Gordon Bratt, Nathan Daniels, Donna Edelstein and Eliecer and Rebecca Ramirez who volunteered their time to judge the three Colors of the Rainbow Team Matches! **E**



Photos provided by Heart of Dance.

