

Help Remove Key Putin's Collaborator Stanislav Popov from the Judging Panel at the WDC World Professional Ballroom Championships in Las Vegas on November 2, 2024!

Popov is the head of the Russian Dance Union (RDU), instrumental in the eradication of the Ukrainian culture by helping set up Russian dance schools in occupied Ukrainian territories, including Crimea and Mariupol. Some of these schools facilitate the cultural cleansing and indoctrination of Ukrainian children, kidnapped by the terrorist Russian state.

He is the main organizer of the Kremlin Cup, the international ballroom dance competition at the State Kremlin Palace in Moscow. Held annually to glorify and legitimize its repressive regime and the invasion of Ukraine, this highly publicized event is co-organized and sponsored by the Russian government and businesses sanctioned by US and EU, like Gazprom.

In 2024, Popov was awarded the "People's Artist of Russia", a prestigious Russian government award for his loyalty and valuable contribution to the Russian state.



On December 31, 2021, Stanislav Popov (left) posted this photo with Putin on his Facebook page with New Year wishes, two months ahead of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Since its full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, the fascist Russian regime murdered hundreds of Ukrainian artists and performers. Like professional dancers Olexandr Shapoval, Rostyslav Yanchyshen, Artyom Datsishin, Anton Sljebal, Mykola Kondratyuk, Danil Bondarenko, Ivan Nalivayko and countless others. But its victims are not just Ukrainians.

On July 28, 2023, a 39-year-old Russian pianist Pavel Kushnir was murdered in a Russian prison for opposing the war in Ukraine. Two weeks later, an American dancer Ksenia Karelina, who was visiting her grandmother in Russia, received a 12-year prison sentence for donating \$51 to a Ukrainian charity.

As Pavel's life and Ksenia's freedom were being taken from them, the president of World Dance Council, Donnie Burns, traveled to Russia where in front of his adoring fans he called his visit to the fascist Russian state "the gift from God".

The same state that have killed or injured tens of thousands of Ukrainians who will never experience the joy of dancing again.

This includes over 2,000 Ukrainian children, like 15-year-olds Masha Lebid and Denis Melnyk, and 13-year-old Dmytro Kubata, all aspiring young dancers. Their "gift from God" came from Mr. Burns' Russian partners and supporters in a form of deadly missiles that ended their lives and dreams.

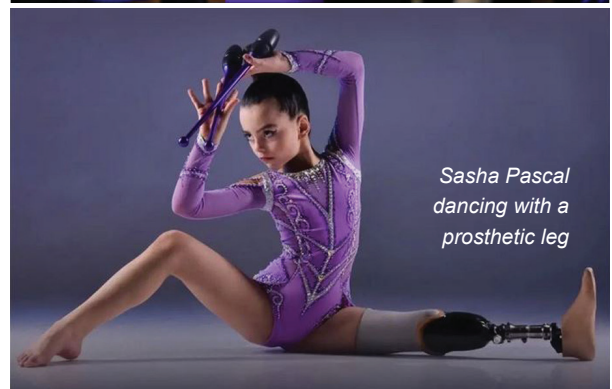
But not Roman Oleksiv, a resilient 8-year-old who survived the Russian cruise missile attack that killed his mother and 28 others. 30 surgeries later, with burns over 45% of his body, Roman now participates in ballroom dance competitions.

And there is Sasha Pascal, a 7-year-old rhythmic gymnast dreams of Olympic gold. Training on a prosthetic leg that replaced the real one lost in a Russian missile attack, Sasha is breaking courage records every day.

If Roman and Sasha can dance, then we can restore integrity to our dance community by banning Putin's collaborators from participating in our cultural events.



*Roman Oleksiv
dancing with mask and
gloves covering his burns*



*Sasha Pascal
dancing with a
prosthetic leg*

WDC's Strong Ties with Popov, RDU and the Russian Federation Exposed

World Dance Council (WDC) is a UK-based professional ballroom dance association with 69 country members that still includes Putin's Russia with Popov as its Honorary Member, despite his resume and documented track record. It also continues to maintain a flourishing business relationship with RDU's executive committee member Ruslan Aydayev, and its vice president Sergey Ryupin, who is also the Vice President and Board Member of WDC.

These RDU officials routinely travel to US and EU, and participate in WDC's dance camps and competitions. As dance instructors, they interact with hundreds of our children. As competition judges, they get to judge Ukrainian dancers whose families and culture they help exterminate.

This barbaric and repulsive conduct takes place despite US/EU sanctions forbidding individuals and organizations to conduct business with Russian entities involved in activities on occupied Ukrainian territories.

WDC's and Donnie Burns' deep bonds with Putin's regime go back years, when he and his partners trained children of many top Russian oligarchs and political leaders now in power. This explains why WDC has never issued a statement condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

To the Dance Community, Art & Entertainment World, the Press, our Political and Community Leaders, and everyone who will read this letter

If you value Life, Freedom, Dignity and Compassion, act now!

- Stop supporting WDC by boycotting its events until it ends all business with the terrorist Russian state.
- Express your outrage on social media and share this story with your friends, neighbors, colleagues, elected officials, schools and religious organizations.
- Write to event organizers, sponsors and political leaders, demanding that Stanislav Popov and other Putin supporters are banned from WDC Professional Ballroom World Championship in Las Vegas on November 2, 2024 (*See the attached email list*).

Special Message to WDC's Event Organizers, Sponsors & Partners

The planned participation of Russian dancers and judges with ties to Kremlin in the upcoming WDC Ballroom World Championships in Las Vegas has caused an outcry and condemnation across the globe.

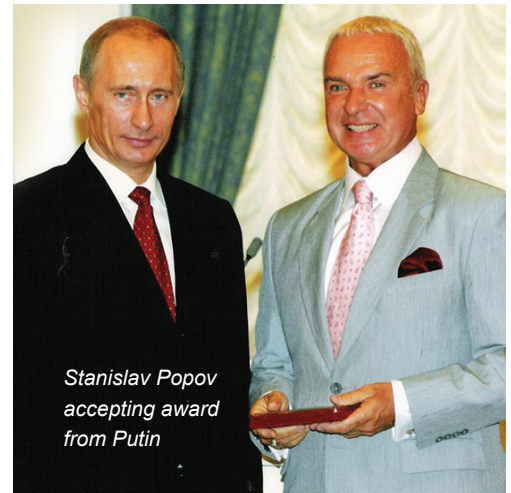
With the exploding public outrage, planned street protests and media coverage, this event will be widely associated with Murder, Destruction and Repression of the fascist Putin regime. Hosting, facilitating or sponsoring such an event will tarnish your brand, image and reputation.

Whether you are an entertainment operator, a hospitality brand, or a dance studio, we urge you to take a stand and inform WDC that Stanislav Popov and other Putin's supporters will not be welcomed at the venue that bares your name.

Special Message to Ballroom Dancers, Teachers, Students & Fans

By supporting the criminal Putin regime, WDC has betrayed principles and ethical standards of our dance community, lost its legitimacy in the dance world and no longer represents its values.

We urge you to do what's right and join a growing number of ballroom dance professionals, students and fans who ended all ties with this corrupt organization and have joined alternative dance associations.



Help Remove Key Putin's Collaborator Stanislav Popov from the Judging Panel at the WDC World Professional Ballroom Championships in Las Vegas on November 2, 2024!

World Dance Council (WDC)

Donnie Burns, President
dancingdonnie@hotmail.com

General Secretary:
gensec@wdcdance.com

Arthur Murray

tarachristensen@arthurmurray.com
tommurdock@arthurmurray.com
info@arthurmurray.com

National Dance Council of America (NDCA)

telspin@aol.com
ndca1vp@aol.com
martinchiang@abc-usdc.com
colinhillary@gmail.com
wayne@dancevision.com
lpulliam@fredastaire.com

MGM International (Operators of Bellagio Resort)

Bill Hornbuckle, President and CEO.
bhornbuckle@mgmresorts.com
bhornbuckle@mandalaybay.com

Corey Sanders
Chief Operating Officer (COO).
csanders@mgmresorts.com
corey.sanders@mgmresorts.com

Bellagio, Las Vegas

Anton Nikodemus, President
anton_nikodemus@lv.mgmgrand.com
anikodemus@mgmresorts.com
anikodemus@bellagioresort.com

Franz Kallao, General Manager
franz.kallao@bellagio.com
fkallao@bellagio.com
franzkallao@bellagio.com
franz@bellagio.com
kallaof@bellagio.com
kallao@bellagio.com
f.kallao@bellagio.com
franzk@bellagio.com

City Of Las Vegas

Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman
officeofthemayor@lasvegasnevada.gov
(702) 229-6241

Councilwoman Victoria Seaman
ward2@lasvegasnevada.gov
(702) 229-6405

Mike Janssen, City Manager
mjanssen@lasvegasnevada.gov

Steve Ford, Deputy City Manager
sford@lasvegasnevada.gov
(702) 229-6501

State & Federal Government

U.S. House of Representatives
Congresswoman Dina Titus
<https://shorturl.at/ftDQs>
(702) 220-9823, (202) 225-5965

Nevada State Senator Fabian Doñate
Fabian.Donate@sen.state.nv.us

Nevada US Senator Catherine Cortez
<https://shorturl.at/iM2S2>
(202) 224-3542

Nevada US Senator Jacky Rosen
info@rosenfornevada.com
(202) 224-6244

State Assemblyman Howard Watts
Howard.Watts@asm.state.nv.us

Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford
AgInfo@ag.nv.gov, 775-684-1100

Governor of Nevada Joe Lombardo
<https://gov.nv.gov/Forms/Share/>
(775) 684-5670, (702) 486-2500

Nevada Secretary of State:
Francisco Aguilar cisco@cisconv.com
sosmail@sos.nv.gov
(775) 684-5708, (702) 970-4400

Blackstone Group, (Owners of Bellagio Resort)

Stephen A. Schwarzman,
Chairman and CEO
info@blackstone.com

Jonathan ("Jon") Gray,
President and COO
COO of Blackstone
jonathan.gray@hilton.com
jonathan.gray@blackstone.com
jgray@blackstone.com
702-229-6501

Stephen A. Schwarzman, CEO
stephen.schwarzman@blackstone.com
stephenschwarzman@hotmail.com
schwarzman@blackstone.com
schwarzmans@blackstone.com

Las Vegas Religious Organizations

Archbishop George Leo Thomas,
Roman Catholic Archdiocese
of Las Vegas
<https://lvcatholic.org/contact-us>
(702) 735-3500

The Church LV
info@churchlv.com
(702) 361-1579

Central Church
info@centralchurch.online
info@centralonline.tv
702-735-4004

International Church of Las Vegas
info@iclv.com, ask@iclv.com
(702) 242-2273

Canyon Ridge Christian Church
info@canyonridge.org
702-658-2722

**Join Our Coalition and Support
Our Cause at:
www.danceforjustice.org**