

“
When love and skill
Work together
Expect a masterpiece.

-John Ruskin ””

E xtraordinary

Joel Marasigan and Clara Shih are an extraordinary, promising young couple.

L ove

P assion

Their love, passion and commitment for each other and for their dancing are ever-present in their daily lives.

C ommitment

Dancing

You can help

Dreams

Make their dancing dreams

Reality

A reality.

Joel & Clara

Joel and Clara are one of the youngest and most promising dance couples to ever come out of BC.

Born in the Philippines, Joel and his family moved to Richmond in August of 1988. Growing up in Richmond, Joel has always been very active in sports. Only until he started attending UBC did he begin taking ballroom dance lessons at the UBC Dance Club with some friends.

Clara was born and raised in Vancouver and is of Chinese descent. At a young age, she was introduced to many forms of dance, including ballet, jazz and Chinese folk dancing. After seeing ballroom competitions on television, Clara also decided to join the UBC Dance Club. It was in 1997, at the UBC Dance Club, where Joel and Clara first met and subsequently fell in love.



“ I was literally almost in tears after visiting Joel and Clara’s website! What a passionate life, and what good fortune to have that passion shared. I wish them both all the best in their dance competitions, their dedicated pursuit of the “perfect dance”, and a graceful intertwining of lives.



Joel and Clara began their dance partnership in April 1999. At that time, Joel and Clara were both studying at UBC. Since then, Joel has received a Bachelor of Science degree, and Clara has received her Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy.

During the first two years of their partnership, juggling school, work and dance, Joel and Clara quickly climbed through the ranks, winning their first Championship title as the 2001 BC Amateur Standard Champions. During that same year, at the Canadian Championships, not only were Joel and Clara the only BC couple to make the final round, but they placed fourth overall!

Although their progress and success up to this point have been exceptionally fast, they have realized that reaching their full dancing potential will be a long, learning process, requiring lots of hard work and determination.

During the past 2002 season, Joel & Clara have dedicated all of their time, money and energy to pursue their dream of becoming Canadian Champions. They are committed to achieve this goal, but they will need the support of the local community to help them succeed.

With sincere wishes of success and happiness,

-Jeehoon Kim
Principal Cellist, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

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Goals & Accomplishments

Joel and Clara are the current 2-time, undefeated BC Amateur Standard Champions.

Beginning their partnership in April 1999, they were an instant success. With only one month of training together, they placed 3rd in their first major competition together. Within the next two years, they quickly climbed through the ranks, winning their first Championship title in May 2001, as the 2001 BC Amateur Standard Champions.

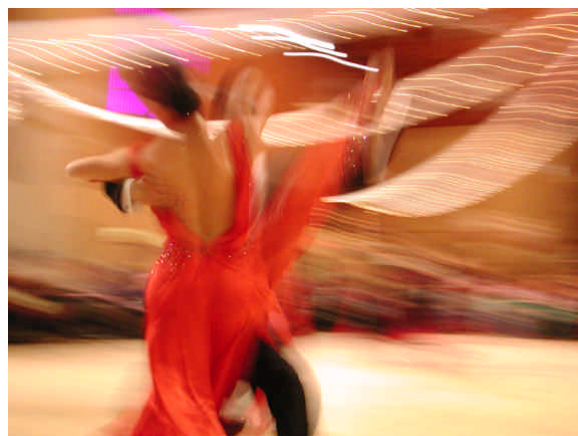
On a national level, Joel and Clara are currently ranked fourth in Canada. Joel and Clara have been the only BC couple to make the final round in the Canadian Championships over the past two years. Furthermore, they are very proud to be the highest ranked Asian DanceSport couple in Canada.



“ We have had the pleasure to watch Joel & Clara from the beginning of their dance partnership. They have continued to improve through hard work, dedication and a love of dancing. Joel and Clara have become not only BC Open and Closed champions, they have represented BC, placing in the finals at the Canadian Open and Closed Championships and at many international dance competitions.

Joel and Clara's goal is to become Canadian Amateur Standard Champions. When they achieve this goal, they will be the first Canadian Champions to come from BC in over 30 years!

In order to become Canadian Champions, Joel and Clara have intensified their training and competition schedule during the past 2002 season. This has really paid off, as they are closer than ever to achieving their goal. In April 2003, the Canadian Championships will be held in their hometown, Vancouver. With the support of their community behind them, they will be serious contenders for a podium finish.



A summarized list of Joel and Clara's latest achievements:



- 2003 Western Canadian Open Champions
- 2002 U.S. Holiday Dance Classic Champions
- 2002 BC Open Amateur Standard Champions
- 2002 BC Closed Amateur Standard Champions
- 2002 Vancouver Island Open Amateur Standard Champions
- 2002 Canadian Closed Grand Finalists
- 2002 Snowball Classic Showcase of Champions Demonstrators
- 2001 BC Closed Amateur Standard Champions
- 2001 Vancouver Island Open Amateur Standard Champions
- 2001 Canadian Closed Grand Finalists

This talented and personable couple are truly wonderful ambassadors for ballroom dancing, for Canada and for any sponsors who would be fortunate to have them as their representatives.

-Fred & Madeleine McTaggart
4 Times BC Open and Closed Ballroom Dance Champions
Runners up 1976 Canadian Open Dance Championships



Sponsorship Overview

Joel and Clara definitely have the hard work, dedication and passion to succeed. The only ingredient that is missing is the financing to support their dream.



Dedicating their lives to DanceSport has been a huge financial commitment. Unfortunately, Joel and Clara's rigorous training and competition schedule makes it impossible for them to hold regular full-time jobs. Therefore, they have depleted their savings, and are desperately looking for sponsorship. Not only do Joel and Clara dedicate every cent they have to their dance training, but they've also been forced to make numerous sacrifices in order for them to continue to pursue their goals.

Joel and Clara currently live with their parents at a time when most of their friends are moving out and getting married. To further save money, Joel has not renewed his car insurance for the past two years. Instead, they have been carpooling with friends and family and relying on public transportation.

Being quite isolated on the West Coast of Canada, Joel and Clara must travel very frequently to gain the necessary training and competition experience they need to become Canadian Champions. During this past year, Joel and Clara have been living out of their suitcases, spending a total of only five months in Vancouver. The other seven months have been spent in the major centres of DanceSport around the world: Los Angeles, Toronto and London, England.

Joel and Clara desperately need financial support. They rely on the generosity and commitment of individual and corporate sponsors to maintain the highest standard of training. Without such sponsors, they will be unable to continue to pursue their dreams of becoming Canadian Champions.





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Joel and Clara make a wonderful couple and they will succeed in all they do. They have positive attitudes, practice hard, train hard and focus on what's important. I see Joel and Clara as a very happy couple and many people could learn from this.

Success is found between two when there is a natural bond and love for one another. Joel and Clara's goals are shared and therefore their success is easier to attain and achieve. To still be so madly in love after this long and look so comfortable and happy together is a blessing.



I hope Joel and Clara embrace this and grow together as a couple on and off the stage. It takes the both of them and their hearts to make it as far as they have. Joel and Clara's conviction, passion and natural ability to dance make all this worthwhile.

Thank you for sharing your 'sport' with others. May it be an inspiration to us all, as ones love and respect for each other shine through in all areas of life. Keep up the good work and great things will happen for the both of you.

-Anonymous submission to
Joel & Clara's web site

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Annual Expenses

There are a number of unavoidable expenses incurred when competing at the highest level of DanceSport.

By far, the most expensive part of DanceSport is the unavoidable financial cost of travel. In addition, the cost of top-quality DanceSport coaching is immense. The average cost of coaching fees is about \$95/hour and can exceed above \$180/hour. Furthermore, the need for highly competitive costuming and grooming for both the man and lady is essential. Specialized DanceSport tailors in London and Italy offer the newest, most competitive costumes on the market, that are necessary to compete amongst the world's best under the scrutiny of the most discerning judges.



“ Joel and Clara are very fast rising stars in the Canadian DanceSport scene. They are constantly refining their dance skills to be more competitive and at the same time very entertaining.

We consider Joel and Clara to be part of our "Dance Family" here at Viva Dance Studio and always look forward to their time spent in Toronto.

As role models to the young dancers of Canada there are no two people better suited.

-Sylvain & Tanya Cardinal
1992 & 1993 Canadian Amateur
Latin Champions
Worlds top 24 Professional Latin
at Blackpool

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Overview of Joel and Clara's projected
Annual DanceSport Expenses

Weekly coaching fees	\$5,400.00
Out-of-town coaching fees	\$3,900.00
Practice floor fees	\$2,500.00

Total Training Costs **\$11,800.00**

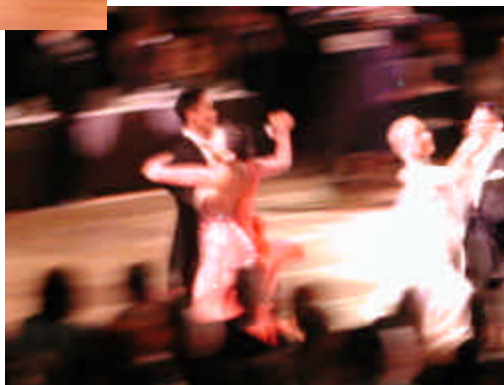
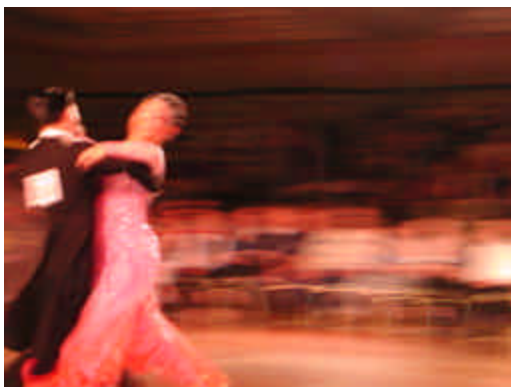
Clara's competition ballgown	\$4,500.00
Joel's competition shirts & accessories	\$500.00
Competition shoes	\$1,000.00
Make-up & hair products	\$400.00
Hair cutting & styling	\$850.00

Total Costuming Costs **\$7,250.00**

Competition registration fees	\$2,000.00
Travel costs	\$18,000.00
DanceSport Association fees	\$146.00

Total Competition Costs **\$20,146.00**

**Total Projected
Annual Expenses** **\$39,196.00**



Public Exposure

The amount of public exposure DanceSport has been receiving has exploded over the past few years.

Coverage through print, radio, television, movie and internet media has brought DanceSport into the public eye. DanceSport events are being attended monthly by hundreds of participants and spectators that represent an affluent and diverse demographic mix. Most notably, there has been a recent increase in interest and participation in DanceSport by the Asian Canadian community.

The image and culture that surrounds DanceSport is full of excitement, glamour and class. If your business wants to gain the "first mover advantage" into this very lucrative market niche, while being directly associated with a talented, hard working and well-respected DanceSport couple, here is your opportunity. Your corporate sponsorship of Joel & Clara will not go unnoticed within the DanceSport community and the public eye.



Joel and Clara have been featured in a variety of publications, web sites, radio and television:



- Women's Television Network's "Dancing at the Palais"
- CBC Radio
- World Journal
- Vancouver Courier
- Richmond News
- Vancouver Lifestyles Magazine
- RicePaper Magazine
- Philippine Journal
- The Point, UBC Sports Newspaper
- Sport BC Calendar
- Dancin', DanceSport BC newsletter (regularly featured)
- DanceSport BC website
- Grand Ballroom website
- Snowball Classic website

“ DanceSport has been growing in popularity by leaps and bounds during the past few years. Since 1998, I have been closely working with the International Olympic Committee and the International DanceSport Federation for the inclusion of DanceSport in the 2008 Olympic Games.

The future is very bright for DanceSport, and I see its public and mass media exposure increasing exponentially. As an example, in 1997 the sport's international TV exposure was under 10 million, but in 2003 it will reach 146 million viewers on six continents.



Joel & Clara are two of Canada's best dancers, and represent the future of DanceSport in Canada. They very well could be Canada's first DanceSport Olympic Athletes. I know them personally: their commitment to their training and competition is wholehearted and full-time. I ask you to join with our Association in supporting them as they reach for the top.

-James Fraser
President, Canadian Amateur
DanceSport Association
Member, International DanceSport
Federation Presidium

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Sponsorship Rewards

“ Behind the scenes, Joel and Clara are athletes who are passionate, determined, and focussed on perfecting their dancing...but on the dance floor they are 100% entertainers...they captivate the audience with their display of elegance, sophistication, and playfulness...

Joel and Clara are fully aware of the challenges they face as they work their way to the top of Standard DanceSport. All they need to conquer each challenge is financial support and encouragement from those who appreciate their rare talent, determination, and athleticism.

It's a magnificent thing to watch Joel and Clara dance. They smile not because they are supposed to, but because they truly love DanceSport and enjoy entertaining the audience...it's sincere and it shows!

Joel and Clara are polished... Their dancing is filled with intensity, beauty, and athleticism. They are not only entertainers but also the most determined and goal-oriented athletes you'll ever meet. Don't be surprised if they become the Canadian Standard Champions in the very near future!

-Mariannina Cusano
Team Captain,
2000 Canadian Formation Team

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As Canada's top-ranked Asian DanceSport couple
and one of Canada's most prestigious DanceSport Couples,
Joel and Clara offer the following partnership opportunities:



Sponsors of \$500 or more:

- Recognition on Joel & Clara's web 'Homepage' for present month sponsors.
- Recognition on Joel & Clara's 'Contributors to the Dream' web page.
- An autographed 'Thank You' picture of Joel & Clara.

Sponsors of \$1000 or more:

- All of the previously mentioned sponsorship rewards.
- An honorary DanceSport demonstration by Joel & Clara at an event of your choice.
- Free banner space for their corporate web site on Joel & Clara's "links" page.



Sponsors of \$5000 or more:

- All of the previously mentioned sponsorship rewards.
- Free banner space for your web site on Joel & Clara's "Home" page.
- Recognition in one competition souvenir program of your choice.
- Special one-year sponsorship recognition in all media coverage of Joel & Clara.



Sponsors of \$10,000 or more:

- All of the previously mentioned sponsorship rewards.
- Free banner space on every page of their dance web site.
- A special 1-year recognition as Joel & Clara's Official Sponsor on:
 - A Corporate Sponsorship Patch on Joel's competition and demonstration apparel and
 - Both Joel and Clara's warm-up track suits, which are worn to and from all competitions and demonstrations.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship can take many forms.

Joel and Clara are primarily seeking financial sponsorship. However, sponsorship can take many forms. In addition to monetary donations, Joel and Clara are also seeking the products, services or expertise that they need for their dancing. One of their largest expenses is the cost of travel to attend various competitions and get the world-class coaching that they need. Therefore, donating "Air Miles" or "Aeroplan Miles" is another great way of helping this young couple succeed. The following is a list of other sponsorship opportunities:



- Air miles or Air Canada Aeroplan Miles
- Airline guest passes
- Travel agency services
- Accommodations
- Rental car services
- Hair products
- Make-up
- Haircuts and styling
- Dance shoes and accessories
- Nutritional supplements
- Athletic supplies (i.e. sport drinks, athletic tape, etc.)
- Pilates or Yoga classes
- Jazz or Ballet classes

“ Joel and Clara are the reigning B.C. Standard Champions having successfully defended their title in May, 2002. Filled with ambition to become our next Canadian Champions, they travel around the world to train and compete. Their accomplishments to date have made them well respected throughout the B.C. dance community. On behalf of DanceSport BC, I wish Joel and Clara every success in their future endeavors and in particular, to win the Canadian Standard Title in front of a home crowd at the Canadian Closed Championship in Vancouver in April, 2003. Good luck, Joel & Clara.

-Pinky Wong,
President, DanceSport BC

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Contact | nformation



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