



Giancarlo is a Swedish national with Peruvian background and is no stranger to Latin music and dance. It has always been a part of his life and culture, but it was not until 2001 when a friend took him to a Latin nightclub in Stockholm when the passion and addiction to Latin music and dance really begun.

Giancarlo has had jazz and gymnastics training since the age of 11 and has been an active professional photographer since the age of 21. He arrived to the Australian continent in 2002 to further his photographic knowledge and experience, as this was his main goal in life. But as his passion and creativeness for photography grew, so did his salsa dancing and he quickly realized the advantages of being a photographer and a dancer. Although his intension was to excel in photography, he could not let go of dancing and co-founded Latinissimo Dance Company in Melbourne in 2003. The aim was to put his dance school on the international salsa circuit and with his background in jazz and gymnastics combined with amazing coordination, athleticism, and agility – it did not take him long to

make his salsa dancing impressive and unique. By 2004 the first step towards his goal had been achieved, he got an invitation to perform at the renowned West Coast Salsa Congress in Los Angeles.

Masha represented her native country of Slovenia as an elite rhythmic gymnast before relocating to New Zealand. Since the age of 4, Masha has been dancing ballet, jazz, Latin American Dance Sport and contemporary dance. In return she now has over 20+ years of disciplined dance training with immaculate dance and gymnastic techniques. Masha is an incredibly passionate dancer, performer and instructor. In fact so passionate that she took her dancing to an academic level. She studied Physiology, Nutrition and Anatomy as part of the Bachelor of Dance degree at Auckland University of Technology in 2001. Besides receiving numerous awards in rhythmic gymnastics in Europe, Masha also has a NZ Latin American Dancesport title.

Giancarlo and Masha perform with style, energy, professionalism and precision. They are known both nationally and Internationally, as New Zealand's #1 salsa dance couple by setting a standard each time they perform. They also lead the most successful student performance troupe in the country – TEAM Latinissimo.

Notable competition accomplishments for Giancarlo & Masha & Latinissimo:

- 2001 - 1st Place Club Marconi Salsa Competition (Masha), Sydney
- 2002 - 2nd Place Stockholm Salsa Open Championships (Gian), Stockholm
- 2003 - 1st Place IDO Australian Salsa Championships (Gian), Sydney
- 2003 - 1st Place NZ Latin American Dancesport Championships (Masha), Wellington
- 2004 - 2nd Place IDO Victorian Salsa Championships (Gian), Melbourne
- 2004 - Finalist Best of the Best Salsa competition (Gian), Sydney
- 2005 - Finalist Hamburg Salsa Open (Gian/Masha), Hamburg
- 2006 - 1st Place Asia Salsa Open Championships (Pro division – Gian/Masha), Hong Kong
- 2007 - Semi finalist ESPN World Salsa Championships (Team), Orlando
- 2009 - 2nd Place Asia Salsa Open Championships (Pro division – Gian/Masha), Hong Kong
- 2009 - 1st Place Asia Salsa Open Championships (Amateur division - Alyx/Tania), Hong Kong
- 2009 - 2nd Place Asia Salsa Open Championships (Team), Hong Kong