



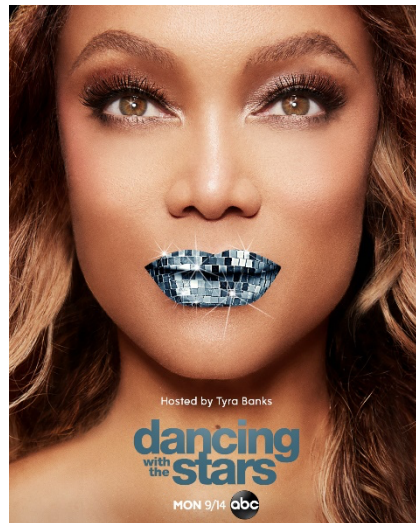
Sept. 2, 2020

**'DANCING WITH THE STARS' HEADS BACK  
INTO THE BALLROOM FOR ITS 2020 SEASON  
WITH SOME CHA-CHA-CHANGES  
AND A BRAND-NEW CELEBRITY CAST**

**Lineup Includes Carole Baskin, Nelly, AJ McLean,  
Monica Aldama, Jesse Metcalfe, Anne Heche, Johnny Weir, Vernon Davis, Kaitlyn Bristowe,  
Justina Machado, Charles Oakley, Jeannie Mai, Skai Jackson,  
Chrishell Stause and Nev Schulman**

**'Dancing with the Stars' Premieres Live,  
Monday, Sept. 14, 8:00 p.m. EDT**

**Supermodel and Businesswoman Tyra Banks to Host 2020 Season**



ABC announced today the "Dancing with the Stars" season 2020 celebrity cast, live on ABC's "Good Morning America." The series, hosted by supermodel and businesswoman Tyra Banks, returns to the ballroom with a lineup of celebrities including a GRAMMY® winner, a Bachelorette, a big-cat lover-turned-reality TV star and a pro-football legend, to name a few. The new celebrity cast will add some glitzy bling to their wardrobe and break in their dancing shoes as the show kicks off live on **MONDAY, SEPT. 14** (8:00-10:00 p.m. EDT), on ABC.

As announced this morning on ABC's "Good Morning America," the celebrities and professional dancers heading to the ballroom this season (in alphabetical order) are as follows:

Celebrities:

- head coach Monica Aldama ("CHEER")

- animal activist Carole Baskin (“Tiger King”)
- Kaitlyn Bristowe (“The Bachelor,” “The Bachelorette”)
- Super Bowl Champion Vernon Davis
- TV and film actress Anne Heche
- Disney Channel actress Skai Jackson
- actress Justina Machado (“One Day at a Time”)
- Backstreet Boys singer AJ McLean
- Emmy® Award-winning host of “The Real” and sideline correspondent on “Holey Moley,” Jeannie Mai
- TV and film actor Jesse Metcalfe
- GRAMMY®-winning rapper Nelly
- TV host Nev Schulman (“Catfish”)
- NBA superstar Charles Oakley (“The Last Dance”)
- actress Chrishell Stause (“Selling Sunset”)
- Olympic figure skater and on-air commentator Johnny Weir

Professional dancers:

- Brandon Armstrong
- Alan Bersten
- Sharna Burgess
- Cheryl Burke
- Artem Chigvintsev
- Val Chmerkovskiy
- Sasha Farber
- Jenna Johnson
- Daniella Karagach
- Keo Motsepe
- Peta Murgatroyd
- Pasha Pashkov
- Gleb Savchenko
- Emma Slater
- Britt Stewart

Viewers will have to tune in to the season premiere to find out with whom their favorite professional dancers are paired.

The series is produced by BBC Studios’ Los Angeles production arm.

Watch episodes on demand and on [Hulu](#) the day following their premieres.

“Dancing with the Stars” averaged 9.1 million Total Viewers last season after 35 days of viewing across linear and digital platforms.

**MONICA ALDAMA** - One of the most successful athletic coaches in the country, Monica Aldama became an overnight sensation after starring in the hit Netflix docu-series “Cheer,” which chronicles her tremendous leadership in building one of the country’s most successful cheerleading programs from the ground up. Celebrated for her hallmark phrase, “You keep going until you get it right, then

keep going until you can't get it wrong," Aldama is her students' biggest advocate, always encouraging them to be the best versions of themselves. She has been with Navarro College for 25 years and has led the cheer squad to win 14 national championships, and was inducted into the inaugural class of the Navarro College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019. A true force and inspiration that has captured the hearts of the world, she brings her empowering messages on leadership, resilience, teamwork and success to audiences worldwide. Aldama also shares messages of inclusivity and acceptance, drawing on her experiences working with racially diverse, LGBTQ+ and low-income students in an insular, small town.

Follow Monica Aldama on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**CAROLE BASKIN** - Carole Baskin is the founder and CEO of Big Cat Rescue, the world's most influential, accredited rescue facility for exotic cats. She and her family volunteer for the Tampa-based nonprofit as unpaid staff and have 100+ volunteers and a dozen interns from around the world. Successfully rehabilitating and releasing a number of bobcats and other native animals since 1992, Baskin and the organization have been featured on CNN, Animal Planet, Discovery, People Magazine, "The Today Show," Sports Illustrated, local media outlets and many more national and international programs. She also recently gained public attention in "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness," Netflix's documentary series about Oklahoma-based private zoo operator Joe Exotic in a true murder-for-hire story from the underworld of big cat breeding. Over the years, Baskin has lectured in Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Brazil, Australia and countless cities across the U.S. as the host of Big Cat Rescue's [Cat Chat Show](#), a live interview with cat experts from around the world. Additionally, she lectures at universities, law colleges and in numerous animal association conferences on cage construction, legislative affairs and sanctuary standards.

Follow Carole Baskin on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**KAITLYN BRISTOWE** - From the small town of Leduc, Alberta, Canada, to the global stage, Kaitlyn Bristowe is the Canadian girl making waves – in a big way. Perhaps the most controversial and well-liked Bachelorette to date, Bristowe started out with big dreams and ballet shoes. Since the end of her season on the hit ABC series "The Bachelorette," Bristowe has taken the social media world by storm (with 1.8 million loyal Instagram followers) and continues to showcase her personality and unique perspective with [KaitlynBristowe.com](#). She has launched Dew Edit, a stylish hair accessories line; her own line of wine, Spade & Sparrows; her own digital series; and a country-pop song, which reached No. 2 on the U.S. charts within the first 24 hours of release. Her notoriously unapologetic style has landed her appearances on major network talk shows, including the likes of "Jimmy Kimmel Live!," "Good Morning America" and "Entertainment Tonight."

Follow Kaitlyn Bristowe on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**VERNON DAVIS** - Vernon Davis is a former American football tight end. The 15-year NFL veteran was selected by the San Francisco 49ers sixth overall in the 2006 NFL Draft and played his first 10 seasons with the 49ers. He joined his hometown team, the Washington Redskins, in 2016 and spent four seasons there before retiring after the 2019-2020 season. Off the field, Davis is a budding entrepreneur, dedicated philanthropist and actor. In addition to owning multiple Jamba Juice franchises in Northern California, he also has his very own supplement company, Timeless; is the co-owner of Q-Collar Innovations; and the co-owner and marketing advisor for Pescavor Jerky. He is

also partnered in PathWater as well as RASA, and is a limited partner of Next Play Capital. In 2012, Davis created the [Vernon Davis Foundation for the Arts](#) as a way to promote art education and art appreciation among youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2019, VDFA evolved into the Vernon Davis Foundation, which services at-risk youth of all interests and demographics. Davis played roles in movies such as "Baywatch" (2017), which starred Dwayne Johnson and Zac Efron, and "Hell on the Border" (2019). His latest role will be the male lead in the upcoming thriller "Red Winter."

Follow Vernon Davis on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**ANNE HECHÉ** - Anne Heche is an accomplished Emmy® Award-winning actor with a wide-ranging body of work. She can currently be seen in "The Vanished," where she co-stars with Thomas Jane. Other recent feature films include "Best of Enemies," where she starred opposite Taraji P. Henson and Sam Rockwell, and "My Friend Dahmer." Heche also starred in Lionsgate feature film "Wild Card," opposite Jason Statham. She followed that with the films "Catfight," opposite Sandra Oh and Alicia Silverstone; "The Last Word," opposite Amanda Seyfried and Shirley MacLaine; and "Opening Night" with Topher Grace, Taye Diggs and Rob Riggle. Heche's television credits include a starring role on "Chicago P.D." as Katherine Brennan. Before that, she starred as Deputy Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Patricia Campbell, on the NBC series "The Brave." She co-created, executive produced and wrote for the NBC series "Bad Judge," starring Kate Walsh. Heche has three Emmy nominations and one win. She was nominated for a Tony® for Best Performance by a Leading Actress for her performance as Lily Garland in "Twentieth Century."

Follow Anne Heche on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**SKAI JACKSON** - At the age of 18, Skai Jackson has already been named to The Hollywood Reporter's inaugural Top 30 Stars Under 18 List, Variety's Youth Impact Report, been deemed one of TIME Magazine's Most Influential Teens, and was listed among EBONY's Power 100 honorees. Jackson became a household name after her starring role as Zuri Ross in the Disney Channel hit series "Jessie" as well as the spinoff series "BUNK'D." Her performance earned Jackson a 2016 NAACP Award nomination in the category of Outstanding Performance by a Youth. She is a passionate advocate for anti-bullying and is quickly becoming a role model for younger generations using her large following to stand up to bullies on social media. She hopes to continue to do so with her first memoir, "Reach for The Skai: How to Inspire, Empower and Clapback," which was released last year.

Follow Skai Jackson on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**JUSTINA MACHADO** - A talented and versatile actress, Justina Machado continues to endear audiences and earn critical acclaim for her work on stage, television and film. She currently stars in the hit comedy "One Day at a Time," opposite Rita Moreno, as Penelope, a newly single war veteran raising her two children with the help of her mother. In 2018, Machado earned her first Critics' Choice Television Award nomination for her portrayal of Penelope Alvarez. She was also awarded an Imagen Foundation Award for Best Actress and the show won for Best Comedy. Machado is perhaps most well known for her role as Vanessa Diaz in HBO's "Six Feet Under," additionally appearing alongside Gina Rodriguez in the fourth season of CW's Emmy Award-nominated comedy series, "Jane the Virgin," and voiced the character Carmen in Disney's animated series "Elena of Avalor." In 2009, she made her Broadway debut in the Tony® Award-winning musical "In the Heights," starring Lin-

Manuel Miranda. In 2010, Machado joined the production of award-winning director George C. Wolfe's "A Free Man of Color."

Follow Justina Machado on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**JEANNIE MAI** - Emmy® Award-winning host Jeannie Mai can be seen each weekday on the nationally syndicated talk show "The Real" and on ABC's hit summer series "Holey Moley." Mai serves as a sideline correspondent for the extreme mini-golf competition series. In 2018, Mai and her fellow "The Real" co-hosts received a Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Talk Show Host. A style expert and producer, Mai recently launched her web series titled "Hello Hunnay," which takes fans on her journey through fashion, fitness, finances and relationships; and also hosts the podcast "Listen Hunnay." Deeply committed to charities that advance women's interests, Mai serves as a board member for various organizations, including Dress for Success and Same Sky. As a first-generation daughter of immigrant Vietnamese and Chinese parents, she strives to give back to her homeland by traveling to Asia to volunteer her time with organizations dedicated to helping those who are less fortunate. For the last several years, she has served as an advocate to fight human trafficking and has been an ambassador for the Pacific Links Foundation, Step Up, Nightlight International, Not For Sale and Heartbeat Vietnam. In 2017, Mai executive produced "Stopping Traffic: The Movement to End Sex Trafficking," a documentary that investigates the international crisis of human sex trafficking from a deeply personal point of view. She is currently working on the follow-up.

Follow Jeannie Mai on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**AJ McLEAN** - For 27 years, AJ McLean has been a part of the Backstreet Boys, one of the most successful groups in music history. He may be a legend of the '90s boyband era, but McLean has always been a cultural vanguard. A multiple award-winning and GRAMMY®-nominated performer, McLean has continually delivered the finest pop music one has to offer – tightly crafted songs, floor-shaking rhythms and unmistakable harmonies – making him one of pop's most influential performers. Along with the other members, McLean received a star on the legendary Hollywood Walk of Fame, performed for the president of the United States, and made an unforgettable appearance in the Seth Rogen hit film "This Is the End," which earned them a Best Musical Moment award at the MTV Movie Awards. McLean's work with BSB has gone gold and platinum in 46 countries; the group's first nine albums all debuted in the Top 10 on the Billboard Top 100, and the Los Angeles Times recently raved "the Boys' talents ... will survive almost any pop-culture apocalypse."

Follow AJ McLean on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**JESSE METCALFE** - One of the busiest actors in Hollywood, Jesse Metcalfe is clearly among its most coveted stars. Most recently, he was seen as the lead in action-packed thriller "Hard Kill," opposite Bruce Willis. On television, Metcalfe continues to be featured (and contribute original songs) as former country star Trace Riley of the popular Hallmark family drama "Chesapeake Shores." Last year, his presence drew audiences to two action films including the thriller "Escape Plan 2: Hades" with Sylvester Stallone and the horror flick "The Ninth Passenger." In 2006, Metcalfe showcased his comedy chops as the title character in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox feature "John Tucker Must Die." Metcalfe recently portrayed a bachelor on the Hallmark Channel's original holiday movie "Christmas Next Door" and a country music sensation on the network's original romantic drama "A Country

Wedding.” Metcalfe is well remembered for his breakout role as forbidden teen lover John Rowland, opposite Eva Longoria on the Golden Globe®-winning ABC series “Desperate Housewives.” He earned a Teen Choice Award for Choice TV Breakout Performance-Male and shared a SAG Award for Best Television Comedy Ensemble. He is also active in several charities including North Texas Food Bank, The Go Campaign, Weingart Foundation and UNICEF.

Follow Jesse Metcalfe on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**NELLY** - Diamond-selling, multiplatinum, GRAMMY® Award-winning rap superstar, entrepreneur, philanthropist and actor Nelly has continually raised the bar for the entertainment industry since stepping on the scene in 2000 with his distinctive vocals and larger-than-life personality. Currently, Nelly has again topped the country music charts with a collaboration with Kane Brown, “Cool Again,” and hit the No. 1 spot with “Good Times Roll” with Jimmie Allen. Some of his other hits include “Hot in Here”; “Dilemma” featuring Kelly Rowland; “Country Grammar”; “Ride Wit Me”; “Just a Dream”; “Cruise”; “The Fix” sampling Marvin Gaye; and summer sixteen’s dance anthem “Millionaire” with Cash Cash and Digital Animal Farm. He has won three GRAMMY Awards, released six top-selling studio albums, and graced both the small and big screens alongside Adam Sandler and Chris Rock, as well as played himself in BET’s “Real Husbands of Hollywood” with Kevin Hart. Nelly’s “Country Grammar” album and his song “Cruise,” his collaboration with Florida Georgia Line, **both** achieved diamond status in 2016; and he is only one of seven rappers to reach this honor. He is also the CEO of his own label Derrty Ent. and co-owner of the Charlotte Bobcats with Michael Jordan. Nelly supports Make a Wish and is the only rapper/music artist to own his own college, EI University, which provides education surrounding the music industry and personally provides scholarships for students.

Follow Nelly on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**CHARLES OAKLEY** - Charles Oakley is a basketball legend and one of the most beloved Knicks players of all time. The ninth overall pick in the first round of the 1985 NBA Draft, Oakley went on to play 19 years in the NBA, 10 of which were with the New York Knicks – and all 10 of which the Knicks made the playoffs. He was named to the NBA All-Star Game and the NBA All-Defensive First Team in 1994, and also named to the NBA All-Rookie Team in 1986 and the NBA All-Defensive Second Team in 1998. As a power forward, he ranked as one of the best rebounders in the NBA and was known for his tough defense, such that he is often referred to as “The Enforcer.” Most importantly, he was beloved by his teammates and always respected by his fellow competitors. Oakley is now a player and coach for the Killer 3s in the NBA Big3 Basketball League. Alongside his playing and coaching, Oakley’s dedication to giving back to the community and passion for cooking led him to start the Charles Oakley Foundation, a nonprofit organization that is focused on helping impoverished and underprivileged communities through direct impact projects with the mission to #OakOutHunger. He has long been an advocate for the cause of hunger relief and has cooked and served thousands of meals as a part of the Foundation’s 2020 Feed America Campaign.

Follow Charles Oakley on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**NEV SCHULMAN** - Nev Schulman is an American producer, photographer and TV host. He is best known for the 2010 documentary film “Catfish” and the follow-up TV series “Catfish: The TV Show,” of which he is the host and executive producer on MTV. Aside from his impressive entertainment career, Schulman spends time supporting local organizations and charities in New York City and

nationwide. He served on the youth board for the Canadian-based organization Leave Out Violence and hosted the annual Dance Against Cancer. In 2014, Schulman published his first book, "In Real Life: Love, Lies & Identity in the Digital Age," in which he gives both personal history and observations gleaned from his work on "Catfish." "Catfish" is more than just a popular TV series, but it is a commentary on our society today. Because of Schulman and older brother Rel Schulman, the phrase has become widely understood today and since been added to [The Merriam Webster Dictionary](#). Schulman and his wife, Laura Perlongo, host the Facebook series called "We Need to Talk." Additionally, Schulman and Laura have created a series of socially focused videos online (around issues like parental leave and gender roles) which have garnered over 250 million views.

Follow Nev Schulman on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**CHRISHELL STAUSE** - Chrishell Stause is from Kentucky and can most recently be seen starring in "Selling Sunset," an original docu-series for Netflix. A realtor in the high-end luxury market, the show follows Stause breaking into the industry. In addition, she has made herself a known name in the daytime community. She has starred on "All My Children," "The Young and the Restless" and as Jordan Ridgeway on "Days of Our Lives," which earned her a Daytime Emmy® Award nomination this year for Outstanding Guest Performer in a Drama Series. She also recently starred in the Netflix thriller "Staged Killer." In her spare time, Stause is very active in her charity work. Having experienced being homeless at times during her youth, she is passionate about raising money and volunteering at Upward Bound House. It is an organization committed to eliminating homelessness among families with children by providing housing, supportive services and advocacy. For more information, please visit [upwardboundhouse.org](http://upwardboundhouse.org).

Follow Chrishell Stause on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**JOHNNY WEIR** - Johnny Weir is one of the superstars of figure skating and a pop-culture icon. Born in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, he is a two time U.S. Olympian, three time U.S. National Figure Skating Champion, 2008 World bronze medalist, two time Grand Prix Final bronze medalist and the 2001 World Junior Figure Skating Champion, as well as NBC's lead figure skating commentator, ambassador to the Olympic Games and cultural icon. Weir is known for his commentary and provocative style during NBC's coverage of the Kentucky Derby, the Super Bowl, National Dog Show and Beverly Hills Dog Show. He's also known for producing and starring in the award-winning, EPIX-produced 2014 documentary film, "To Russia With Love"; and for producing and starring in "Be Good Johnny Weir," and hosting the Facebook Watch series "Trading Faces." Most recently, Weir starred as Gabe in the Netflix drama "Spinning Out" and hosted Food Network's "Wedding Cake Championship." He continues his role as Winter Village Skating Ambassador for Bryant Park in New York City, commentating for NBC's coverage of the 2019-2020 figure skating season, and dazzling audiences with his skating while on tour around the world.

Follow Johnny Weir on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

"Dancing with the Stars" is the series in which celebrities perform choreographed dance routines that are judged by a panel of renowned ballroom experts. Andrew Llinares and Tyra Banks are executive producers.

**About ABC Entertainment**

ABC Entertainment airs compelling programming across all day parts, including “Grey’s Anatomy,” the longest-running medical drama in primetime television; riveting dramas “The Good Doctor,” “A Million Little Things” and “Station 19”; trailblazing comedy favorites “American Housewife,” “black-ish,” “The Conners,” “The Goldbergs” and “mixed-ish”; the popular “Summer Fun & Games” programming block, including “Celebrity Family Feud,” “Holey Moley,” “Match Game,” “Press Your Luck” and “To Tell the Truth”; star-making sensation “American Idol”; reality phenomenon “Shark Tank”; “The Bachelor” franchise; long-running hits “Dancing with the Stars” and “America’s Funniest Home Videos”; “General Hospital,” which has aired for more than 55 years on the network; and late-night talk show “Jimmy Kimmel Live!”; as well as the critically acclaimed, Emmy® Award-winning special “Live in Front of a Studio Audience: Norman Lear’s ‘All in the Family’ and ‘The Jeffersons.’” The network also boasts some of television’s most prestigious awards shows, including “The Oscars®,” “The CMA Awards” and the “American Music Awards.”

ABC programming can also be viewed on demand and on [Hulu](#).

### **About BBC Studios**

BBC Studios, a global content company with British creativity at its heart, is a commercial subsidiary of the BBC. Formed in Apr 2018 by the merger of BBC Worldwide and BBC Studios, it spans content financing, development, production, sales, branded services, and ancillaries. BBC Studios’ award-winning British programs are internationally recognized across a broad range of genres and specialties. It has offices in 22 markets globally, including seven production bases in the UK and production bases and partnerships in a further nine countries around the world. The company, which makes over 2,500 hours of content a year, is a champion for British creativity around the world and a committed partner for the UK’s independent sector.

In the Americas, BBC Studios operates two production units – one in Los Angeles, responsible for ratings juggernaut and Emmy®-nominated *Dancing with the Stars* and multi-award-winning *Life Below Zero*, and the other in Brazil, where local productions *Dancing Brasil* and *Bake Off Brasil* have become breakout hits. The company manages joint venture relationships with AMC Networks for flagship channel BBC AMERICA (U.S.) – home of original series *Killing Eve* and global brands *Dynasties*, *Doctor Who*, and *Top Gear* – and with ITV for SVoD service BritBox (U.S./Canada), as well as strategic partnerships in Canada with Blue Ant Media for BBC Earth Channel and Corus for BBC Canada. The company also boasts a franchise management business and a robust linear and digital content sales and co-productions operation.

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Photography and video available at [www.wdtvpress.com](http://www.wdtvpress.com).

For more information on “Dancing with the Stars,” visit [abc.com](http://abc.com).

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Follow “Dancing with the Stars” (#DWTS) on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

**Cheat Tweet:** 15 celebrity dancers announced! Don't miss the season premiere of @DancingABC on Monday, Sept. 14, with new host @tyrabanks! #DWTS #ABC\_Publicity

-- ABC --