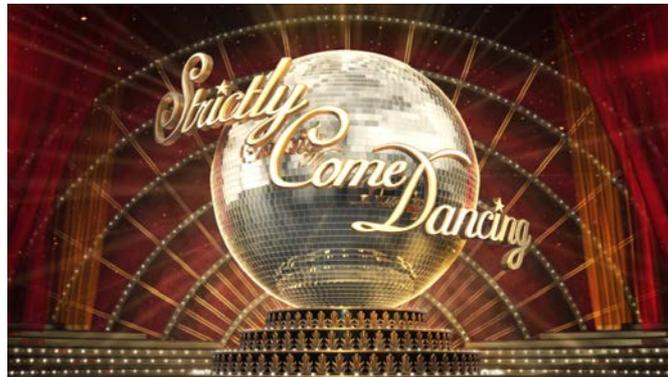


## The Big 5 - 0



### BBC Worldwide celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> country sale of Dancing With The Stars

[Click](#) to tweet: *#Slovenia becomes 50<sup>th</sup> country to order Dancing with the Stars, the international version of @bbcstrictly #DWTS50*

BBC Worldwide announced that it has sold **Dancing with the Stars** to Planet TV in Slovenia, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> country to license the format of this global TV phenomenon.

Since *Strictly Come Dancing* (the UK name) aired on BBC One in the UK back in 2004, the show has become a success story all around the world. Australia's Channel 7 was the first broadcaster to launch its own local format in the same year, and since then, **Dancing with the Stars** has travelled from South Africa to Kazakhstan, Finland to India across six of the world's seven continents. Over 250 series have been recorded to date and every week of last year a local version of **Dancing with the Stars** was in production somewhere across the globe. **Dancing With The Stars** will return to Channel 7 later this year for its fourteenth series.

Len Goodman, Head judge in the UK and US said: "As a dancer and judge, I've always known the magic of ballroom but the fact this hugely uplifting TV show is dazzling audiences the world over, that just takes my breath away. This show does have an enormous place in people's hearts".

Elin Thomas, Director, Global Formats at BBC Worldwide added: "Over the past 10 years we have had a global phenomenon on our hands. The format has been an almighty, multi-award winning international success, with electric, show stopping dance routines and buckets of glitter sprinkled on top. Dancing with the Stars has got the lot in terms of formats and we're thrilled to announce our half century. Next stop – 60!"

## **Dancing With The Stars Worldwide Facts:**

1. In Georgia, **Dancing with the Stars** is filmed inside a circus tent due to lack of studio space.
2. In 2011, President Obama rescheduled a major speech on Libya to avoid clashing with **Dancing with the Stars** on television in the US.
3. Over 12 million viewers in the UK watched Abbey Clancy crowned *Strictly Come Dancing* champion 2013.
4. Abbey Clancy's professional dance partner Aljaz Skorjanec, the *Strictly Come Dancing* UK reigning champion, was born in Slovenia which is the 50<sup>th</sup> country to purchase the **Dancing with the Stars** TV format internationally, after Serbia at number 49.
5. In Italy, a member of Royalty won series five of *Ballando con le Stelle* (**Dancing with the Stars**, 2009) as Prince Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy scooped the glitter ball trophy with Russian professional dancer Natalia Titova.
6. In the UK, professional dancer Flavia Cacace married the British actor Jimi Mistry in December 2013, after they danced together on *Strictly Come Dancing* in 2010.
7. Boxer Evander Hollifield (2005), reality star Kim Kardashian (2008), siblings Kelly and Jack Osbourne (2009 and 2013), *Baywatch* stars David Hasselhoff and Pamela Anderson (2010 and 2012) and *Dirty Dancing* actress Jennifer Grey, who won season 11 in 2010 with pro-dancer Derek Hough – have all starred in the U.S. version of **Dancing with the Stars**.
8. Aged 80, American astronaut Buzz Aldrin remains the show's oldest contestant (**Dancing with the Stars** U.S, 2010)
9. French footballer David Ginola, who played for Everton and Aston Villa, came third in *Danse avec les Stars* in 2011.
10. In Finnish the show's name translates to *Tanssii Tähtien Kanssa*, in Polish it's *Taniec z Gwiazdami*, in Vietnamese it's *Bước nhảy hoàn vũ*.
11. In 2013, new versions of the show launched in Thailand, Portugal and Macedonia.
12. In 2014 Costa Rica, Serbia, Cambodia and Slovenia joined the **Dancing with the Stars** global family.
13. In one series of *Strictly Come Dancing* in the UK, an average of 504 cans of hairspray are used and with those 252 litres, you could fill six Mini Cooper petrol tanks.
14. After the UK first launched *Strictly Come Dancing* in May 2004, Australia was the first ever country to adapt the **Dancing with the Stars** format internationally in the same year.
15. The world-famous Indian Bollywood star Madhuri Dixit has judged two seasons of **Dancing with the Stars** in India, known as *Jhalak Dikhhla Ja*.
16. Following American professional dancer Derek Hough's musical tribute in the 2013 series of **Dancing with the Stars in America**, the dancer was awarded an Emmy for 'Outstanding Choreography' from his routine which honored hit TV shows including *Breaking Bad* and *Mad Men*.
17. 1.5 million people applied for audience tickets for *Strictly Come Dancing* in the UK in 2013.
18. You can sail to the Caribbean or Alaska whilst learning new steps on a **Dancing with the Stars: At Sea** cruise or you can travel from the UK around the Mediterranean being judged by Craig Revel Horwood on a *Strictly Come Dancing* themed cruise with P&O Ferries.
19. *Strictly Come Dancing* will receive a prestigious BAFTA Special Award later this month with the show being honored for its creative and technical teamwork over the last ten years – consistently delivering a high-quality, live entertainment show watched by millions of viewers in the UK.

**ENDS**

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### **About BBC Worldwide Ltd**

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In 2012/13, BBC Worldwide generated headline profits of £156m and headline sales of £1,116m and returned £156m to the BBC. For more detailed performance information please see our Annual Review website: <http://www.bbcworldwide.com/annualreview>

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