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CONTACT: Jen Farley / Insight Mgt / 615-885-3650 / jen@michaeljmedia.com

BURN THE FLOOR FIRES UP NORTH AMERICAN STAGES

*Show receives accolades from dance legend Rita Moreno during run at
San Francisco's Post Street Theatre*



Photo credits: Steve Underhill

BURN THE FLOOR is bringing dance back to North American audiences with a youthful, rebellious flair – combining the sensual and physical chemistry of Ballroom and Latin dancing with a 21st Century edge. **The show has international audiences and critics swooning, including dance legend Rita Moreno.**

The renowned performer paid the cast a visit backstage after the February 3rd San Francisco premiere. As stated by the San Francisco Chronicle's Leah Garchik,

*"The after-show following Tuesday night's opening of "Burn the Floor" was behind the curtain. **Rita Moreno**, who had been in the audience, stopped by to greet the dancers. That's putting it mildly. She dropped to her knees to kowtow to them, keeping up a stream of praise: "You're astonishing"; "You're amazing"; "Who wants a kiss?"; "You're going to run forever, if you live" (the routines are strenuous, to put it mildly); "Come share your sweat with me"; "Did you all see 'West Side Story'?" (They had. Creator **Jason Gilkison** said he'd shown them the movie and held up Moreno as an example of perfection); "How wonderful you are"; "Bravo, bravo."*

Currently in the middle of its U.S tour, the show is in San Francisco for a limited six-week engagement until March 15th at the Post Street Theatre. The next stop begins on March 24th at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Centre in Charlotte, NC, with additional tour dates TBA.

BURN THE FLOOR is a dazzling display of Ballroom dance that forever blurs the line between the frenetic energy of an electrifying rock and roll arena show and the seductive glisten of Broadway-style theatre. Featuring a high-voltage, superbly executed blend of Rumba, Cha-Cha, Samba, Salsa, Waltz, Tango, Quickstep, Swing and Jive, **BURN THE FLOOR** ushers in a new era of Ballroom dance. Stripped of pretence, the performances have an unbridled energy that makes this sensuous mix of dance and music a stunning rhythmic spectacle of dramatic sophistication never before seen on stage.

Dubbed as the “rebellious little sister” of the original, the latest BURN THE FLOOR production has been described by reviewers as a “sexy, steamy, sophisticated dance extravaganza” ([The New York Daily News](#)) and “the world’s hottest dance sensation” ([OK Magazine](#)). [The London Independent](#) has suggested the show is “so hot it probably contributes to Global Warming.” Critics from around the globe have been raving about BURN THE FLOOR for nearly ten years.

BURN THE FLOOR’S troupe of 16 award-winning dancers, two percussionists and two vocalists hail from around the globe—U.S., Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Russia, Australia, Sweden, the Philippines—and include Australian Ballroom dance champions and World Latin American champions. The dancers, who hold more than 100 championship dance titles amongst them, move to the vision of artistic director and choreographer Jason Gilkison, whose work recently thrilled audiences on season four of *So You Think You Can Dance* and was featured on the recent NBC’s series *Superstars of Dance*.

Australian-born BURN THE FLOOR creator Harley Medcalf serves as a show producer with former World Champion Latin and Ballroom dancers Peta Roby and Jason Gilkison. The original idea for BURN THE FLOOR came in a burst of color and energy to Medcalf, who drew inspiration from a scintillating, life-changing display of Ballroom and Latin dance witnessed at Sir Elton John’s extravagant 50th birthday celebration in London in 1997. With just the spark of an idea, Medcalf was soon to discover the Ballroom dance world, its people and their intensity, commitment, discipline and work ethic.

Two years later, BURN THE FLOOR made its world premiere in the U.K. and quickly became a global smash. Setting out to rediscover and change the long-held perceptions of Ballroom dancing...of a forgotten time when our grandparents danced to meet, impress and fall in love, BURN THE FLOOR began with and then maintained all the wonderful traditions and the social history of the Ballroom dance art form, with a melting pot of styles, energy and excitement of today’s generation of dancers to create a groundbreaking show – Ballroom “supercharged”.

Ever evolving, the 2009 installment of BURN THE FLOOR – bolder and better than ever – comes on the heels of wildly successful tour sweeps of Australia, China and London, with a fresh new look, feel and pace, complimented by captivating new numbers, dancers, sets and costumes.

“It’s like extracting the old gem from your grandmothers jewelry box, polishing it, and placing it in a new and contemporary setting. You totally rediscover its beauty and essence,” artistic director/choreographer Jason Gilkison explains. “When you see BURN THE FLOOR’s performances of the Jive and the Quickstep and the Cha Cha, amplified with today’s attitude, it’s like a revolution, sexier than 50 years ago. Everything you associate with ballroom dancing and could possibly ever imagine being done in a dance hall we re-invent with our own BURN THE FLOOR twist. The passion and energy from our dancers is infectious...throughout the show you are on the edge of your seat.”

BURN THE FLOOR founder Harley Medcalf reflects, “My inspiration still comes from the dancers and their total commitment to dance and love of the art form. Every step they take is pure joy. They are truly the heart and soul of the show. Jason brings out these inner feelings in them, in a spirit and chemistry that can really touch and move the audience.”

Having sold over three million tickets to enthralled audiences in over 30 countries nine years beyond its spectacular Australian debut, BURN THE FLOOR continues to take the world’s stages by storm with a breathtakingly sexy, super-charged Ballroom performance that really turns up the heat.

Critics from around the globe have been raving about BURN THE FLOOR for nearly ten years:

[The New York Post](#): “**A dazzling Ballroom dance spectacle**”

The New York Times: **“Downright terrific”**

USA Today: **“Strictly ballroom with attitude”**

London Independent: **“Extraordinary... will take your breath away”**

New York Daily News: **“Sexy, steamy, sophisticated dance extravaganza”**

The London Evening Standard: **“Don’t think twice—JUST GO”**