



A lifelong dancer and musician, Emmy-nominated **Mark Ballas** has wowed over 20 million viewers on ABC's number one show, *Dancing with the Stars*, for 11 seasons. No stranger to the coveted Mirror Ball Trophy, he is a two-time champion (Season 6 with Kristi Yamaguchi and Season 8 with Shawn Johnson) and caused a media frenzy when he took performance newcomer Bristol Palin all the way to the finals in Season 11 and re-partnered with her in Season 14. Ballas garnered a 2011 Creative Arts Emmy nomination for Outstanding Choreography for his creative pieces during Season 12, where he and his partner, Disney star Chelsea Kane, made it to the finals, finishing in third place. In season 13, he and his partner, Welsh singing sensation Katherine Jenkins, made it to the finals, finishing in second place. Recently, they reunited for a final dance together on the UK sensation *Strictly Come Dancing*.

Last April, Ballas's debut solo album, *HurtLoveBox*, was released by Hit Play Records—Sony Red. His first single, "Hotwire," was the winner of MTV's Freshman Five for 2011 and was put in rotation on the network. It has received over 100 million documented views and appeared on feature reels in over 100,000 retail and business locations worldwide. Ballas was named the Clear Channel "Artist to Watch" in July 2011.

When Mark Ballas isn't performing, he is passionate about speaking to children about acceptance. Six years ago, he and his family were forever altered by the suicide of his uncle, David. Ballas and his mother, Shirley (David's sister), formed The Ballas Foundation in the fall of 2010, which is committed to removing the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide by raising money, awareness, and volunteerism in support of suicide awareness. Whil...

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### Speech Topics

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