

# Elena Samodanova

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## Professional Summary

Dedicated international multi-award winning dancer, producer, judge and choreographer who can work with dancers of all ages and experience levels. Specializes in both television and theater productions.

## Core Qualifications

- Able to lead large and small groups
- Excellent at one-on-one instruction
- Proficient in ballroom and Latin dance
- Dedicated to the art of dance
- Mentor to dancers all over the world
- Exceptional ability to be creative
- Television and theatre experience
- Capability to produce all aspects of various size stage shows

## Education and Honors

- Drama and Theatre, Moscow Theatre Arts University, MA
- World Dance Championship, Australian Representative
- Top 10 World Ranking, Latin America
- International Champion: Australia, Asia, Japan, Singapore and England
- 4-time Title Holder, Australia
- Russian Professional Top Dancer
- Member of Hong Kong Ballroom Dancing Council, Associate of the Latin American Branch recognized as a qualified Teacher of Dancing
- Member of National Association of Teachers of Dancing, Associate of Professional Latin American Branch

## Experience

### Dance Choreographer

2019

#### “The Other Side” Music Video, Los Angeles, CA

- Developed choreography and worked with the team for country artist Lauren Alaina’s music video “The Other Side” to express the emotions of the song.

### Owner & Head Instructor

2018 – Current

#### Pro Dance LA, Los Angeles, CA

- Responsible for hiring dance teachers and staff, creating dance classes and developing special events.
- Teach all levels of ballroom and Latin dance for kids and adults.
- Prepare students to reach their full potential through proper guidance, technique and confidence.
- Give students the opportunity to attend local, national and international dance competitions as well as special dance events.
- Partner with local organizations and schools to foster community relations.

### Dance Choreographer

2018

#### *How to Get Away with Murder*

- Developed choreography for club dance scene for season 5, episode 4 to express feel of salsa dancing.

### Choreographer

2018

#### *So You Think You Can Dance*, Los Angeles, CA

- Responsible for teaching and working with top 10 dance couple to learn ballroom dancing.
- Developed choreography for cha cha dance for academy week and samba for grand finale.

### Producer

2018

#### Pro Dance Camp, Palm Springs, CA

- Developed concept to give fans of dance shows and dance students opportunity to learn from top dancers from *Dancing with the Stars*.
- Designed daily schedule (classes, reception, private lessons & dance show) for those in attendance to get the most of the weekend.
- Managed elements from location/hotel, website booking, hiring talent/teachers and staff so weekend dance experience event was a success.
- Created, choreographed and performed in professional dance show.

- Producer and Choreographer** **2016**  
**One More Dance, London**
- Developed all aspects of stage show from concept, script, staging, design, performances, marketing and more to bring the vision of this special show to the London audience.
  - Provided dance direction and all choreography for show.
  - Worked with a cast of 20 professional dancers and singers.
- Producer and Choreographer** **2016**  
**Ballroom Superstars, Sydney, Australia**
- Developed all elements of stage show from concept, script, staging, design performances, marketing and more to bring the vision of this show to the Australian audience.
  - Handled the dance direction and choreography for the show.
  - Worked with a cast of 20 professional dancers and singers.
- Producer and Choreographer** **2015**  
**Dancing Stars, Russia**
- Created this unique stage musical for the Russian audience.
  - As producer, oversaw all elements of the production including script, staging, design and working with a cast of over 25 musicians and dancers.
  - As choreographer, created all dance numbers to bring a variety of dance numbers to the stage.
- Head Judge** **2015**  
**Dancing with the Stars, Russia**
- Scored and gave feedback to pro dancers and celebrities during the show in order to provide constructive advice to help with their dance journey.
  - As head judge, had final decision for competition show contestants.
- Choreographer** **2015**  
**Dancing with the Stars, Russia**
- Provided choreography for to enhance the dance performances including technique and creativity.
- Pro Dancer and Choreographer** **2014**  
**Dancing with the Stars – Bollywood, India**
- Taught dance, created choreography and performed with actor Karan Tacker who made it to the finals.
  - Created choreography for dancers on the show to elevate the dance performances.
- Choreographer** **2014**  
**So You Think You Can Dance, Australia**
- Choreographed and taught ballroom and Latin dances including paso doble and samba for couples to develop proper technique and develop unique show performances.
- Choreographer/Professional Dancer** **2013**  
**The Voice, Australia**
- Worked on choreography and danced in Ricky Martin performance to enhance the show number.
- Professional Dancer** **2013**  
**Everybody Dance Now, Australia**
- Danced on reality television dance competition show as part of the cast.
- Choreographer and Pro Dancer** **2012**  
**Dancing with the Stars, Australia**
- As choreographer and pro dancer created and danced in numbers for show with singer Shannon Noll.