

Deaf to Dancing – Breaking Barriers One Step at a Time

¹Nyle DiMarco, an American model and actor, showed the public that a deaf person could not only dance, but win the infamous Dancing with the Stars Mirror Ball. He was paired with professional dancer Peta Murgatroyd, who had no experience whatsoever with working alongside a deaf person, nor did she have any training in sign language. Interestingly, as the show progressed viewers saw the couple peel away stereotypes one week at a time by showing America that yes ... a deaf person *can* dance and dance well! During the ninth week of competition, the couple decided to show viewers exactly what it was like for DiMarco to dance without sound. During a powerful Paso Doble dance series, DiMarco performed 1/3 of a minute to this lively style of dance modeled after the drama and movement of the Spanish and Portuguese bullfight. These few moments replicated the way DiMarco experiences dance; with no sound, yet high energy and passionate emotion. His success on the show broke barriers and brought us one step closer to breaking the many misconceptions the deaf community faces on a daily basis.



¹ Nyle DiMarco and Peta Murgatroyd, DWTS Season 22. Retrieved from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-3609242/Peta-Murgatroyd-celebrates-DWTS-win-Nyle-DiMarco-GMA-Erin-Andrews-let-pregnancy-news-slip.html>