

# Antonio Sabato Jr. Takes Elimination from 'DWTS' in Great Stride: "I'm Sorry I Can't Stay"



By Shannon Seibert

In a sad turn of events, Antonio Sabato Jr. and partner Cheryl Burke were eliminated last Monday night on *Dancing with the Stars*. For their last time on the dance floor, the spicy duo danced a Viennese Waltz, hoping to impress the judges after the prior week's critical Salsa assessment. Though the pair didn't satisfy the judges' tastes, Sabato says he will continue dancing after the show. The former soap opera star's other show *Fix it and Finish It* is also off to new

endeavors as it heads into its 69th show. Don't miss our [exclusive celebrity interview](#) below!

## **Exclusive Celebrity Interview with Antonio Sabato Jr.**

**Halloween week on *DWTS* seemed like so much fun! What was your favorite part of last week's episode?**

**ASJ:** Dancing with the team was great, but what always was my favorite part of any show was having my family there and getting to dance for my wife. I loved being able to do two beautiful dances, but nothing brings me more joy than family.

**We're so sad that we won't get to see you and Cheryl dance again. Anything you want to say to your fans?**

**ASJ:** My love goes out to all of them, and I wish things had gone differently on the show. As someone who has never danced before, I'm really proud of what I accomplished and making it as far as I did.

Having Cheryl take me through seven weeks on the show was amazing. It was a great run, and I'm sorry I can't stay. I had a great time, and I wish I could do it again.

**Related Link:** ['DWTS' Contestant Antonio Sabato Jr. and Partner Cheryl Burke Are "Still Going Strong"](#)

**What will you miss most about being on *DWTS*?**

**ASJ:** Dancing for my wife and kids – that was the best part, along with being able to dance for my fans and supporters. The TV show part was fun, and getting to work with Cheryl was a blast. I really did appreciate the feedback from the judges and the help they were giving me to be a better dancer. All of it was great, but dancing for everyone was the thing I will miss most.

**Do you think you'll continue to dance even though your time on the show is over?**

**ASJ:** Oh yes, I'm going to continue to dance with my wife. When I'm on location, I will practice my dance moves in front of the mirror because it's great exercise. I love to feel the music, and now I'm hooked. You feel good doing it, and I love that it's something that I enjoy so much.

**We have to ask: Who do you think will win the mirror ball trophy this season?**

**ASJ:** I don't know! It's not necessarily a sure thing for anyone at this stage. You have celeb dancers that have danced for a long time who can win it. You have Sadie Robertson, a young teenager who is amazing. You have Janel Parrish. These are people that can break through. Of course, Alfonso Ribeiro has been dancing his whole life and could win it. It's anybody's game. Now that I see the rest of the crowd, it could be anybody. There are a lot of good dancers there. A lot of variables influence something like this.

**Related Link:** [Antonio Sabato Jr. on His 'DWTS' Journey So Far: "I Have a Passion with Everything I Do"](#)

**Shifting gears, what are you currently working on in Cleveland for Fix It and Finish It?**

**ASJ:** We did a den today for two teenagers, and tomorrow, we're doing a back yard for a wonderful family that needs their deck and yard done. We've got six more to do, and then after Thanksgiving, we go to Richmond.

**What can fans expect to see on the upcoming episodes?**

**ASJ:** The ones you're going to see coming up are wonderful projects: We do a few basements, and we turn a garage into a living room. We turn a lot of homes inside and out. We work with wonderful contractors all over the country who do amazing

work. We've already done 69 shows!

*Follow Antonio Sabato Jr. on Twitter @antoniosabatojr. Continue watching Dancing with the Stars on Mondays on ABC at 8/7c!*

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# 'DWTS' Contestant Antonio Sabato Jr. and Partner Cheryl Burke Are "Still Going Strong"



By [Sarah Batcheller](#)

Antonio Sabato Jr. and Cheryl Burke are revving up their engines for Halloween week on *Dancing with the Stars*! Even though last week's Salsa earned Sabato some blunt feedback from the judges, who referred to his dancing as "stiff," the soap opera veteran is taking the constructive criticism in stride and using it to improve as he prepares to do the Viennese Waltz on tonight's show. The saucy duo also promises a group dance that will blow audiences away. As for Sabato's other show *Fix it and Finish It*, the crew is migrating to Cleveland to take on their next task. Check out our [celebrity interview](#) with the actor below!

## Antonio Sabato Jr. Talks Group Dance in Celebrity Interview

**We were so happy to see you back with Cheryl last week, and your Salsa was our favorite dance yet! How did it compare to your previous dances for you?**

**ASJ:** Well, being back with my partner and working with her was great. Being away from her made me miss her and reminded me of how great a teacher she is. Getting back together made it better after being apart. Now, we just want to keep dancing stronger and better. Every week, we put a lot of time and effort into the show and our dancing. It's been almost two months of hard work, but we're still going strong.

**Related Link:** [Antonio Sabato Jr. on His 'DWTS' Journey So Far: "I Have a Passion with Everything I Do"](#)

**How did Cheryl's dad's health scare bring the two of you closer?**

**ASJ:** My family and I are behind her and will support her whenever she needs it. No show is more important than family, so I was willing to do whatever it took to make sure she got whatever she needed.

**We'd love to talk a bit about your storytelling process. Do you help Cheryl come up with the concept for each dance?**

**ASJ:** No, it's all Cheryl. I'm not much involved in that. I get the routine from her, and we go step-by-step. It's all on Cheryl.

**What about the costumes? Do you have any say in what you wear?**

**ASJ:** That's all Cheryl again! She comes up with the costume, and we work with a designer. She lets me add in my opinion, but all the creative is Cheryl and the designer.

**Related Link:** ['DWTS' Pro Tony Dovolani on Betsey Johnson: "She's Never Felt Pretty in Her Life"](#)

**Julianne Hough commented that it's obvious you take to heart the judges' comments and apply them the following week. So how will you keep in mind their feedback as you rehearse this week?**

**ASJ:** I'm focusing on improving my lines, footwork, and posture. There are so many notes to keep track of and to improve on each week. I have no background in dance, so it's important for me to take what the judges and Cheryl give me and apply it to the dance. It's extremely difficult work but very rewarding at the end!

**Tonight is the group dance, and you have an awesome team! What have rehearsals been like so far? Anything you can reveal about your dance?**

**ASJ:** They've been good. We work really well together and have the whole routine down. It's tough because we all have to be in sync and have our own dance to do as well. Plus, it's a complicated routine. We don't have a lot of hours to work on it as a team, so when we do, we have to focus and get down to business as soon as possible.

**And finally, what's next with the *Fix It and Finish It* crew?**



**ASJ:** We get to Cleveland this week to start production, and I'm looking forward to it!

*Follow Antonio Sabato Jr. on Twitter @antoniosabatojr. Watch him on Dancing with the Stars on Mondays on ABC at 8/7c!*

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# Antonio Sabato Jr. on His 'DWTS' Journey So Far: "I Have a Passion with Everything I Do"



By [Sarah Batcheller](#)

Impressed doesn't even begin to sum up the fan's opinion of Antonio Sabato Jr.'s Bollywood performance during partner switch-up week on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*. While viewers missed his dynamic dancing with partner Cheryl Burke, he and Allison Holker really turned up the heat with kicks, jumps, and stunts. Much to Sabato's pleasure, judge Julianne Hough noted his passion and said he was "most improved." Find out more from the *Fix It and Finish It* host in our [exclusive celebrity interview](#) below!

## **Exclusive Celebrity Interview with Antonio Sabato Jr. About 'DWTS**

**What was running through your mind when you found out you were dancing Bollywood?**

**ASJ:** Excitement! I was very excited because I love Bollywood. I knew it would be fun and was very happy to get to do it.

**Allison mentioned how high energy this dance is. Was it harder to learn than past dances because of the quick pace?**

**ASJ:** In some ways, it was, and in some ways, it wasn't. The good thing is that I felt really comfortable in it from the beginning. Actually, I'm feeling more comfortable with dancing as a whole. Some weeks, it's hard, and some weeks are easier, but I love all the challenges. I think I had more fun learning Bollywood because it's a happy kind of dance, and that made it a fun challenge.

**Related Link:** ['DWTS' Star Antontio Sabato Jr. on Switch-Up Partner Allison Holker: "I Couldn't Ask For Anyone Better!"](#)

**How did your chemistry with Allison compare to it with Cheryl? Did you agree with the judges when they noted the disconnect between the two of you?**



**ASJ:** It's about the dance and what we tried to do. There's a chemistry when you dance with a great partner, and it worked with Allison as well as Cheryl. They're both amazing dancers, and I'm fortunate to dance with Cheryl and to work with Allison. I've never danced before, so I'm learning as a student and come in with no expertise.

No, I didn't agree with the judges. That was their opinion as judges. I know that I had a great time in the dance. They are supposed to judge, and it didn't take away from what we did on the floor.

**We love that Julianne commented on how passionate you are each week – that had to feel good! Where does that passion come from?**

**ASJ:** I have a passion with everything I do. When I do something, I want to do it the best I can. I take pride in the life I have and the choices I make. I'm blessed to be on a show like *DWTS*. I guess the passion is in my blood – the passion to work hard on something. I'm Italian, and we are a very passionate people.

**Julianne also called you “most improved” on *Good Morning America* last week. We'd love to know your thoughts on this sweet comment!**

**ASJ:** HUGE compliment coming from her. I totally respect her as a dancer, a performer, and now a judge. As soon as I see her, I will thank her and let her know how grateful I am for what she said.

**What was it like watching Cheryl dance with Alfonso Ribeiro? Any jealousy?**

**ASJ:** Nah, I was happy for both of them. They were so good. Alfonso has been dancing his entire life, and I've been looking forward to watching people that know how to dance get to dance. It's so fun to watch. I was very supportive of both

of them, especially Cheryl.

**Is there anything you learned from Allison that you'll be using during training this week?**

**ASJ:** I'm learning so much from every dance I do, and I enjoy every different move and song. I learned with Bollywood to relax even more and to have more fun. I've learned to pay attention to every step and to loosen up. That's what I'm going to take with me this week as I do the Salsa with Cheryl.

**Related Link:** ['DWTS' Pro Tony Dovolani on Betsey Johnson: "She's Never Felt Pretty in Her Life"](#)

**When we first spoke with you, you mentioned your family would be in the audience each week. What sort of feedback have they been giving you?**

**ASJ:** My family is being very supportive of me. They love the show; they love to dance; and they love to get to see me dance. We're always there together, and it's a blessing. They love it. All my friends come and see me and support me, and it makes it so special.

**Lastly, you're still shooting *Fix It and Finish It* while you're competing. How is Louisville?**

**ASJ:** We had our last shoot there on Friday, and now, our crew moves to Cleveland. I really love the city a lot, and hopefully, I can run into LeBron!

*Follow Antonio Sabato Jr. on Twitter @antoniosabatojr. Watch him on Dancing with the Stars on Mondays on ABC at 8/7c!*

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# 'DWTS' Star Antonio Sabato Jr. on Dancing with His Wife: "It Will Be So Special For Us Both"



By [Sarah Batcheller](#)

*Dancing with the Stars* duo Antonio Sabato Jr. and Cheryl Burke have stopped at nothing to climb to the top tier of dancers on this season of the hit ABC show. The former soap opera star attributes their success so far to his partner's excellent teaching ability. Although they ended up in jeopardy at the start of last week's show, their performance during week three – a flirty Foxtrot – solidified their status as worthy competition to the other pairs. Meanwhile, Sabato's

DIY show, *Fix It and Finish It*, has brought the two to Louisville, Kentucky, to rehearse for this week's sultry Samba. Luckily, in this week's celebrity interview, we were still able to catch up with the star and get the lowdown on last week's episode and his hectic schedule! Plus, we asked him about his [celebrity marriage](#) to wife Cheryl.

## Celebrity Interview with 'DWTS' Pro

**What was your first thought when you found out you were in jeopardy on last Monday night? Was it harder to focus on the Foxtrot knowing it might be your final dance?**

**ASJ:** No, my mind was actually just focused on the dance, and I didn't let it affect me. When I get put in that position, I take it as I go in order to be positive for the dance. I concentrate on what's coming up and don't worry about anything else.

**During training last week, you said the most important thing to you is having fun. So tell us: What's been the most fun part of this experience so far?**

**ASJ:** Having a trainer like Cheryl teaching me all kinds of new dances and just *how* to dance. She's so great at explaining everything to me. I've never danced before and never as much as I do now. She's great at teaching me about different music and different styles of dance.

**Related Link:** ['DWTS' Star Antonio Sabato Jr. on His First Week: "I Do Everything Cheryl Tells Me To!"](#)

**We agree with Erin – we thought this was your best dance yet! How did you feel about the judges' comments and scores?**

**ASJ:** I take the judges' comments back to the training and use it to motivate me to do better next week. They know what they are doing, and I don't let it ruin my night. I take it as

advice and move on.

**Anything you can reveal about this week's dance? Have you changed anything about your approach during rehearsals?**

**ASJ:** There's nothing I can say about this week, but be sure to watch! My approach has been to work as hard as I can doing my two jobs at the same time: *Fix It and Finish It* and *DWTS*. I only get a limited amount of time to rehearse, which has allowed me to focus. I'm used to getting into the hectic schedule of traveling from Los Angeles to cities like Louisville, where I am now, along with the daily schedule of hours of training.

## **Antonio Sabato Jr. Opens Up About Celebrity Marriage**

**In our first interview, you mentioned using your newly acquired dancing skills with your wife Cheryl. Have you practiced any of your moves with her yet?**

**ASJ:** Not yet, because I haven't been home. As soon as we're done each Monday, I'm off to shoot *Fix It and Finish It*. When we have the time, we will have our dance, and it will be so special for us both.

**Related Link:** ['DWTS' Contestant Antonio Sabato Jr. Reveals His First Dance: The Cha-Cha!](#)

**As always, we want to check-in and see how *Fix It and Finish It* is going. Do you have a favorite episode or moment during this season so far?**

**ASJ:** There are just so many to mention because we've done 61 shows and not one is better than another. All the people and families we help are so giving and happy when the job is done. I have to say that all 61 episodes thus far are my favorite!

*Follow Antonio Sabato Jr. on Twitter @antoniosabatojr. Watch him on Dancing with the Stars on Mondays on ABC at 8/7c!*

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# **‘DWTS’ Star Antonio Sabato Jr. on His First Week: “I Do Everything Cheryl Tells Me To!”**



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by Shannon Seibert.

It looks like Jagger has some moves! Last Monday, Antonio Sabato Jr. captivated the audience with his first dance on



ABC's hit show *Dancing With the Stars*. The former *General Hospital* star kicked off season 19 with a fiery Cha-Cha. Sabato and partner Cheryl Burke were criticized by the judges for his lack of "hip action" and scored a lackluster 25 out of 40. In our [celebrity interview](#), we asked him a few questions about his first week on the dance floor as well as his new home improvement series *Fix It or Finish It*.

**Related Link:** ['DWTS' Contestant Antonio Sabato Jr. Reveals His First Dance: The Cha-Cha!](#)

## **Celebrity Interview: Antonio Sabato Jr. Opens Up About His First Dance on *DWTS***

**How did you feel about your Cha-Cha and about being the first one to go out on the floor?**

**ASJ:** I thought it went well. When you're out there in front of an audience, the energy is amazing. You can't help but turn the performance up a notch. Going first is challenging – it's all over before you know it!

**We hear you are doing the Rumba on tonight's show. What techniques or strategies are you and Cheryl working on to help you loosen up a little more? The chemistry is great, so that's an amazing start!**

**ASJ:** I'm just trying to relax and be in the moment and let the steps come naturally. I do everything that Cheryl tells me to!

**Related Link:** ['DWTS' Pro Tony Dovolani on His Marriage: "My Wife is My Queen"](#)

**We see that you visited Mario Lopez the other day. Did he give you any tips or secrets based on his experience on DWTS?**

**ASJ:** No secrets – he just told me to have fun.



Antonio Sabato Jr. filming for 'Fix It or Finish It.' Photo: Bellum Entertainment / Andrew Doyle

**Lastly, how are things going with *Fix It and Finish It*?**

**ASJ:** Fantastically! The ratings have been really good, and we just found out that Rive Gauche has picked up the show to sell it internationally. It's a great experience, and I love that I get to help people every single day.

*Follow Antonio Sabato Jr. on Twitter @antoniosabatojr. Watch the actor on Dancing with the Stars on Mondays on ABC at 8/7c!*

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## **Celebrity Interview: 'DWTS'**

# Contestant Antonio Sabato Jr. Says His First Dance is The Cha-Cha!



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by [Sarah Batcheller](#).

Hailing from Rome, Italy, Antonio Sabato Jr. first grabbed America's attention as an underwear model for Calvin Klein before playing Jagger Cates on the popular soap opera *General Hospital*. Now, he's impressing us with even more talent, as he takes on two new roles: DIY expert on *Fix It and Finish It* and contestant on season 19 of *Dancing With the Stars (DWTS)*. The busy father of two found some time to chat with us as he enthusiastically tackles both endeavors while on the road!

# Antonio Sabato Jr. Talks Current Projects in Celebrity Interview

In our celebrity interview, the TV host says that taking on two projects at once is something he can definitely handle, and he clearly intends to succeed at both, stating, “Challenges are something that I love confronting face on – and *Fix It and Finish It* is a huge challenge! We’re doing 150 shows in a year across the country; it’s a lot of renovations, demolitions, and things like that.” His wife Cheryl will be helping with the building projects as well.



Antonio Sabato Jr. on ‘Fix It and Finish It.’ Photo courtesy of Bellum Entertainment / Photographer: Andrew Doyle

Then, Sabato got the call to do *DWTS*, which he describes as a “blessing.” The family man didn’t originally intend to put his dancing shoes on though. “My first thought was that I couldn’t do it. It’s up to my producers and my team because *Fix It and Finish It* was my main priority. They all worked it out, and now, we have a busy, seven-day schedule each week,” he explains. “*DWTS* is something that I considered for a long time. My fans and my family are so happy that I’m doing it.” His daughter, who will be in the audience each week with his wife and other kids, is especially excited about the show, being that she is the real dancer of the celebrity family.

**Related Link:** [Brooke Burke-Charvet Says ‘Dancing With the Stars’ is “Unpredictable and Evenly-Matched”](#)

## Reality TV Star Opens Up About *DWTS* and Celebrity Marriage

Sabato says that his greatest sources of support are his “two Cheryls,” one being his wife and the other being his *DWTS* partner, Cheryl Burke. Of his [celebrity marriage](#), he says, “I can’t wait to dance with my wife! I’m definitely picking up some stuff, and hopefully, I’ll be somewhat of a dancer relatively soon. Then, I can take those moves and have a nice time with her.” We can’t wait to see more of this celebrity relationship on both of Sabato’s shows!

When it comes to Burke, he shares, “When they asked me who I wanted to dance with, I said Cheryl – and I got her! She’s everything that I need and then some. She’s tough and kind. I like to push myself, and she just pushes me to another level.”





Antonio Sabato Jr. on 'Fix It and Finish It.' Photo courtesy of Bellum Entertainment / Photographer: Andrew Doyle

It's clear that the actor believes life is about embracing new experiences. "It's about taking chances, trying new things. I don't like to follow the herd. I do whatever I feel like doing," the reality TV star says in our celebrity interview. "I feel like doing things that come my way, and I just take it one day at a time. *DWTS* is another opportunity to do something that is quite amazing, actually, in such short amount of time. You can't refuse that!"

**Related Link:** ['DWTS' Pro Tony Dovolani on His Marriage: "My Wife is My Queen"](#)

As for his first dance, he reveals that he'll be doing the Cha-Cha on tonight's episode. "I'm looking forward to learning



*any* dance since I don't have any dancing background. We've been rehearsing for about a week and a half now," he explains. "What a challenge – it's mental, physical, and emotional. But you have to make life interesting!"

It's no surprise that his longtime fans are a great source of encouragement. He knows that he's "still Jagger to them" and gushes, "It's incredible. They keep everything going. They supported me from day one. They're still supporting me now. Doing *DWTS* is for them as well. I have the best fans in the world."

*You can keep up with Antonio on [www.facebook.com/Antonio-Sabato-Jr-38146293272/](http://www.facebook.com/Antonio-Sabato-Jr-38146293272/). Don't forget to tune in to Fix It and Finish It each weekday – check local listings for times and stations in your area. You can also catch him on Dancing With the Stars, which premieres on ABC on Monday, September 15th at 8/7c!*