

"I can't breathe!" says *Dancing's* reigning champ Julianne Hough (backstage with partner McIntyre, second from right) of a too-tight costume during a June 19 rehearsal in Austin.

# DANCE FEV

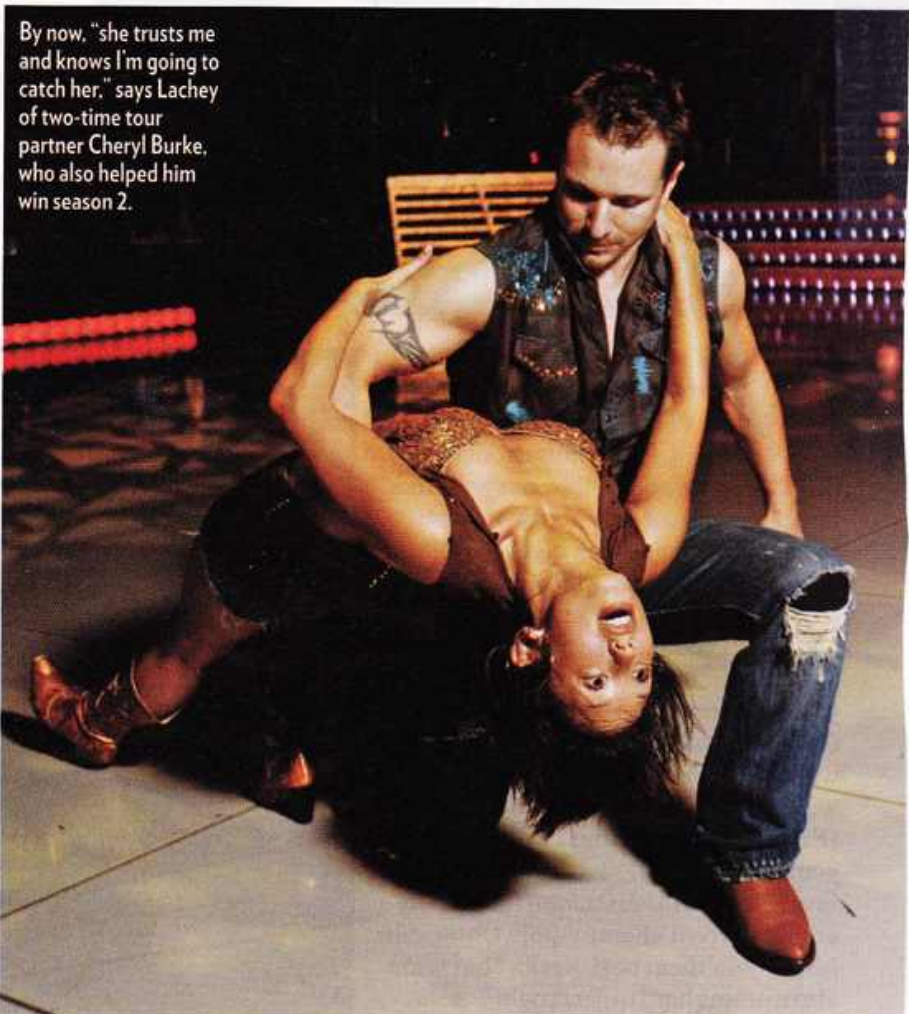
What happens when three Joeys, a Drew and a ton of spangles all hit the road? PEOPLE goes backstage with this summer's sizzling *Dancing with the Stars* tour



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"Joey's an entertainer," says Kym Johnson of Fatone, her partner this past season (they placed second). "Whenever he steps onstage, he just turns it on."



By now, "she trusts me and knows I'm going to catch her," says Lachey of two-time tour partner Cheryl Burke, who also helped him win season 2.



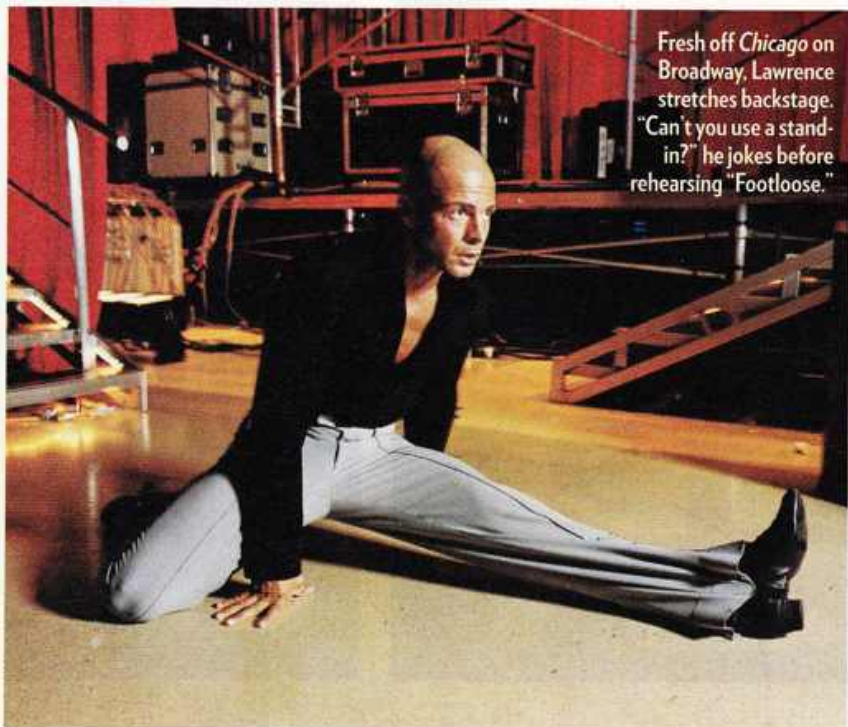
Johnson and Brian Fortuna (Shandi Finnessey's partner last season) rehearse a sexy James Bond number.



Burke gets dolled up for opening night in Austin. Among her routines with Lachey: their perfect-30 dance to "Thriller."

**“You get on a luxury bus and stay at the best hotels. It’s traveling in style!”** —JOEY MCINTYRE

**S**ure, six-hour-a-day pretour rehearsals are tough, but on the *Dancing with the Stars* tour—which will shimmy from Miami to Vancouver this summer—sore muscles aren’t the only perils. On June 19, the day before opening night in Austin, Texas, tour vets Joey McIntyre, 34, Joey Lawrence, 31, and season 2 champ Drew Lachey, 30, couldn’t resist hazing new guy Joey Fatone, 30: Mid-rehearsal, McIntyre yanked Fatone’s sweatpants to his ankles. (Ever the pro, Fatone pulled them back up without missing a beat.) But that’s about as wild as it gets. With their families in tow (Fatone, Lawrence and Lachey all have young daughters), “we do joke around,” says Fatone of the cast (John Ratzenberger and current champ Apolo Ohno will briefly join them next week), “but we’re also working hard to get it right.” ▶



Fresh off *Chicago* on Broadway, Lawrence stretches backstage. “Can’t you use a stand-in?” he jokes before rehearsing “Footloose.”

By Jennifer Wulff. With Anne Lang in Austin

## BY THE NUMBERS

**6,000** TICKETS SOLD FOR THE OPENING NIGHT IN AUSTIN

**200** TOTAL COSTUME CHANGES IN EACH TWO-HOUR SHOW

**28** TINS OF EYE SHADOW APPLIED PER WEEK

**6** CANS OF HAIRSPRAY USED PER WEEK

**3** WEEKS OFF BETWEEN TOUR'S END AND THE START OF DWTS SEASON 5

**3** DANCERS NURSING INJURIES ON OPENING NIGHT

**2** WEEKLY TRIPS TO LOCAL SPRAY-TAN SALONS PER DANCER

**2** WEEKS OF SIX-HOUR-A-DAY PRETOUR REHEARSALS

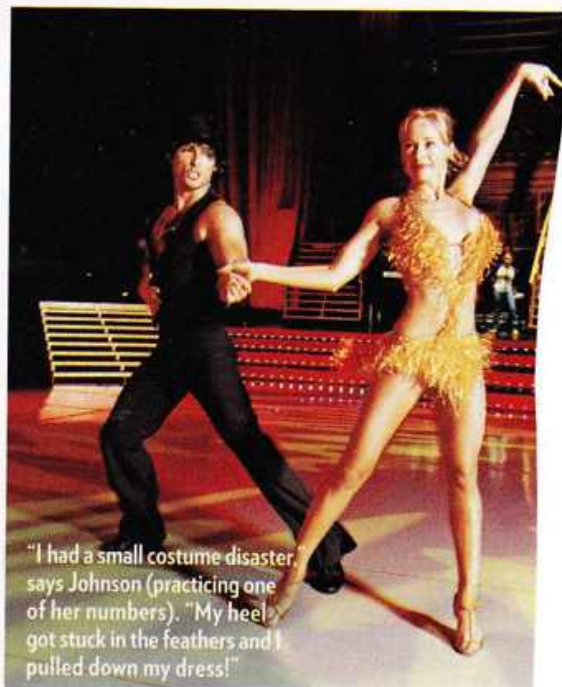
**1** DAY THAT JOEY LAWRENCE HAD TO REHEARSE BEFORE OPENING NIGHT



"It's awesome—my daughter's getting a full-on history and geography lesson," says Fatone, relaxing on the bus he shares with wife Kelly and 6-year-old Briahna.



"Backstage is definitely not a G, PG or even PG-13 atmosphere," says Lachey of the banter with Fatone, Lawrence and McIntyre. "It's straight locker-room humor all the time."



"I had a small costume disaster," says Johnson (practicing one of her numbers). "My heel got stuck in the feathers and I pulled down my dress!"



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