

# hottotrot

A feature documentary film about the fascinating world of **same-sex competitive ballroom dance**



AUDIENCE AWARD  
**NewFest**  
NEW YORK'S LGBT FILM FESTIVAL  
2017

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
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2017

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**Frameline41**  
San Francisco International LGBTQ Film Festival

2017  
OFFICIAL SELECTION  
Fringe! Queer Film & Arts Fest

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**OUT ON FILM FESTIVAL**  
2017

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**GARDEN STATE FILM FESTIVAL**  
2018

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**WICKEDQUEER**  
BOSTON LGBT FILM FESTIVAL  
2018

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**DOCedge**  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2018

Directed & Produced by **Gail Freedman**

Run time 88 minutes

Using the storytelling techniques of dramatic cinema, **HOT TO TROT** is an intimate account of a captivating, little-known phenomenon: same-sex competitive ballroom dance, a world where expressions of personal passion become a political statement. Away from their graceful turns on the dance floor, the characters' backstories frame their struggles. The film chronicles charismatic Ernesto, a former meth addict from Costa Rica who strives for success and love; Emily, a lifelong type 1 diabetic, who has to wear an insulin pump 24/7 to manage her disease; Nikolai, a dazzling dance champ who came out only a few years ago and longs for his Russian family's acceptance; and Kieren, who grew up in a

conservative New Zealand military environment and wrestles with how to balance career and commitment to dance.

The film follows these dancers over several years, as their relationships develop and deepen, and the spectacle of the Gay Games, the pinnacle of same-sex competitive ballroom dance, approaches. They are emblems of LGBTQ politics, writ small—but they are *living* the issues, rather than *working* them. As they evolve, they demonstrate, vividly and personally, the dimensions of the LGBTQ politics we all read about.

gfreedman@hvc.rr.com  
646-522-6159  
[hottotrotfilm.com](http://hottotrotfilm.com)

For festivals and screening dates, please check our website: [hottotrotfilm.com](http://hottotrotfilm.com)