

## Romeo: The 'Dancing with the Stars' and 'Jumping the Broom' Interview

By Kam Williams  
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Born in New Orleans on Aug. 19, 1989, Percy Romeo Miller, Jr., aka Romeo, is an entertainer, actor, entrepreneur and philanthropist. The son of businessman and music mogul Percy Miller, he has sold over 10 million records as a multi-platinum music artist.

Romeo has also been awarded A Grammy and an American Music Award, and was named one of the 5 Sexiest Men in the World in 2010. He's the CEO of the multi-million dollar record company No Limit Forever, and became the youngest entertainer to top the Billboard charts at the age of 10. A humanitarian and philanthropist, Romeo has dedicated his life to giving back to the communities and helping at-risk youth with his foundation Urban Born.

His acting credits include his #1 television show Romeo! on Nickelodeon, The Defenders, The Cape, and he starred in the movie Honey with Jessica Alba. Romeo is not only a Hollywood superstar but he's also majoring in Business and Film at the University of Southern California.

As a freshman, he helped the school's basketball team made USC history by winning their first PAC 10 Championship.

Romeo appreciates the importance of education, which is why he remains at USC while pursuing his entertainment and business career opportunities.

Here, he talks about recently co-starring in the romantic comedy "Jumping the Broom" and about capturing the hearts of young and old as a contestant on the hit ABC reality series "Dancing

with the Stars" this past season.

**Kam Williams:** Hi Romeo, thanks for another interview.

**Romeo:** Thank you, Kam.

**KW:** What interested you in doing Dancing with the Stars, especially after your father fared so poorly on the program during the 2nd season?

**R:** I wanted to do this show to show our future generation not to be afraid to fail. More and more kids are dropping out of high school and letting their dreams slip away because of failure. I felt that this show was the perfect opportunity for me to step outside of my comfort zone and take an unknown journey with my fans. I did Dancing with the Stars for the kids and my charity "URBANBORN" [UrbanBorn.org]. And FYI, my dad taught me all of my dance moves. [LOL]

**KW:** Did you have to get in shape

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for the show, and how challenging did you find learning the choreography?

**R:** Coming straight from playing Division 1 Basketball at USC, I was in terrific shape. But after doing the show, I was in even better shape! My vertical jump went from 39 inches to 42 inches, and my cardio and footwork was better than ever. Being a perfec-

tionist, I made the choreography a lot tougher because I wanted every dance to be perfect. I'm a very fast learner, but becoming a ballroom dancer was definitely the most difficult task in my life yet. I definitely respect dancers a whole lot more now.

**KW:** Tell me a little about the charity you played for.

**R:** People may not know that I've gone to regular school through my whole career. Education has always been the rock in my life, and I think that every kid should have the proper education and that experience. School for me has been like the real world in a bubble. Everything about school and education has built me to be the man that I am today, and I wanted to share that with our future. With UrbanBorn.org I do a lot of "Read to Achieve" events and I go to a lot of underprivileged schools to express the importance of education. The kids are the future and I just want to let them know that somebody cares.

**KW:** Speaking of school, how have you enjoyed USC?

**R:** College is some of the best times a kid can have. You're able to make mistakes and learn from them without being babied by your parents. USC was the perfect school for me because I was able to be a regular student on campus. I visited a couple other schools before I made my decision to become a Trojan and it was mayhem! Plus us TROJANS have the best alumni, we stick together. [LOL] Fight on!

**KW:** Tell me a little about Jumping the Broom?

**R:** Jumping the Broom is magic in a movie. It's kind of like watching a real life fairy-tale. This movie will make you laugh, cry, and love. All star cast, great acting, great movie!

**KW:** How would you describe your character, Sebastian?

**R:** Sebastian in one word. Hmmmm... A cougar hunter? [Laughs] Actually, he's the youngest in the movie but he's the most mature and he's trying to teach the other fellas how to find and how to treat a real woman. He definitely watched too much Hitch!

**KW:** What's more fun, making movies or being a contestant on a reality show?

**R:** I would definitely have to say making movies! [Laughs some more] Although I loved the Dancing with the Stars journey, I must admit I have never been sooooo nervous in my life. When I'm making movies, I'm a lot more comfortable and relaxed. I feel reality is more fun for the viewers because you get to see the celebrity in a different light. But for me, learning a new dance in a few days to perform in front of 20 million people equals nervous breakdown. [Chuckles]

**KW:** Editor/Legist Patricia Turnier asks: What message do you think people will take away from Jumping the Broom and what did you learn from appearing on Dancing with the Stars?

**R:** Jumping the Broom teaches that anything is possible with true love. From Dancing with the Stars, people will learn that in order to succeed you'll sometimes have to fail and that, at the end of the day, all that matters is you doing your best. Life has no limits if you just try.

**KW:** Patricia also wants to know what message do you have for young people who believe in instantaneous success without hard work or sacrifice?

**R:** That's a myth. Anybody who you see that's successful has a story. You just may not know it. The key to success is hard work. And when it's your time, you have to make the best of it.



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