



FILMS

Mad Hot Ballroom

Directed by **Marilyn Agrelo**

The refined world of ballroom foxtrots collides with the chaos of New York City school kids in this documentary cross between **Spellbound** and **Strictly Ballroom**. "We're making little ladies and gentlemen here," says a teacher, but it's far more fun than that, as the film follows several groups of ten- and eleven-year-old boys and girls as they're set free in a world they never knew existed and discover talents in themselves they never could have imagined. A citywide ballroom dancing competition unites the school kids: the PS 150 kids from Tribeca are a seemingly typical cross-section of youngsters: some attentive and aware, others who don't care. The predominantly Dominican kids of PS 115 out of Washington Heights may have fewer resources than the downtown group, but they're just as talented. From Bensonhurst comes PS 112, dancing less out of a desire to win and more out of sheer joy. "It's more than learning steps . . . it's life," notes their principal, summing up both the value of dancing and the lesson of this entertaining film. Brilliantly capturing the infectious energy of teachers and pupils, **Mad Hot Ballroom** is at its best with the kids themselves: laughing, clowning around and learning not only how to dance like ladies and gentlemen, but how to take pride in their lives.

Additional Notes

Presented in association with Metronome Dance Center.

Show Times

Sun, Apr 24 • 1:15 pm • Kabuki • MAD24K
 Thu, May 5 • 10:00 am • Kabuki • MAD05K
 Thu, May 5 • 8:30 pm • Kabuki • MADH05K



Country

USA

Year

2005

Run Time

110 minutes

Cast

Producer

Marilyn Agrelo, Amy Sewell, Brian David Cange

Editor

Sabine Kraysenbühl

Music

Steven Lutvak

Cinematographer

Claudia Raschke

Screenwriter

Amy Sewell