THE DANCE Awards

ORLANDO 2026

BEST DANCER INFO

Welcome Best Dancers!

The Dance Awards team is excited to welcome to Orlando some of the most talented young dancers in the world—the 2026 Best Dancers! Please read through this packet carefully and if you have any questions, ask your Studio or email us at info@thedanceawards.com. Have a great week in Orlando!

A FEW THINGS...

- Please see the attached Best Dancer schedules. These times may change. An updated schedule will be available on-site.
- Be sure to download the General Info packet for all other Dance Awards event information.
- All Best Dancers will check-in individually during Orientation. During the check-in process, each Best Dancer will receive their Best Dancer bag, jacket & audition number. If attending with a studio representative, dancers will not need to check-in at The Dance Awards Desk. If NOT attending with a studio representative, dancers will also need to check-in at The Dance Awards Desk to receive their workshop wristband, etc.
- **Mini & Junior Best Dancer Finalists** will take part in two exclusive Best Dancer classes.
- **Teen Best Dancer Finalists** will be performing the closing number in The Dance Awards Closing Show. Throughout the week, the Teen Best Dancer Finalists will be working in rehearsals with TDA Artists, Kayla Radomski & Tucker Barkley! Costumes will be distributed during the week. Males: please bring a white t-shirt, black t-shirt, black pants, black socks, a black belt & black jazz shoes. This experience is only available to the Teens who are competing and who have paid the Best Dancer fee.
- **Senior Best Dancer Finalists** will be performing the opening number in The Dance Awards Closing Show. Throughout the week, the Senior Best Dancer Finalists will be working in rehearsals with TDA Artist, Peter Chu! Costumes will be distributed during the week. Males: please bring a black tank top, a black t-shirt, black pants, black socks & a black belt. This experience is only available to the Seniors who are competing and who have paid the Best Dancer fee.
- Best Dancers WILL need a ticket to the Closing show in order to be in the audience to watch the show at any time, even if they are performing.
- All Best Dancer music should be uploaded to your or your Studio's Dance360 account no later than Friday, July 3rd. Please make sure to bring back-up music on a back-up device (ie. iphone, ipod, computer).

BEST DANCER COMPETITION

The criteria for the Best Dancer Competition puts equal weight on both the Jazz & Ballet Audition and the Best Dancer Solo.

All competing Best Dancers will perform their solos on July 11th & 12th. The solo schedule can be viewed at www.thedanceawards.com.

During the Best Dancer Audition Class, all competing Best Dancers will learn one Jazz and one Ballet combo. After learning the combo, the Best Dancers will audition in small groups for the judging panel. Parents are not permitted to observe the Audition Class - only registered Teachers and Studio Owners.

Each Audition Class score (50%) will be combined with the Solo score (50%) to determine the Top 20 and Top 10 Best Dancers in each age division. The announcement of the Top 20 and Top 10 Best Dancers will take place at the start of the *Best Dancer Dance-Off.*

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BEST DANCER COMPETITION CONT.

During the *Best Dancer Dance-Off*, the Top 10 Best Dancers in each age division will participate in a LIVE improvisational Dance-Off on The Dance Awards stage. Each Dance-Off score (33%) will then be combined with the Solo score (33%) and Audition Class score (33%) from earlier in the week. After the scores are combined, the Top 3 Best Dancers will be announced and will move on to re-compete their solo later in the Dance-Off. The panel of judges will then rank those dancers 1-3. These rankings will determine the 2026 Best Dancer Winners which will be announced during The Dance Awards Closing Show on Sunday, July 18th.

All Top 10 Best Dancers from each age division will be presented with an award onstage during The Dance Awards Closing Show on July 18th . The Top 3 dancers from each age division will then step forward followed immediately by the announcement of the 2026 Best Dancer Winner and Runners-Up. The Senior Best Dancer Winners will then be asked to perform their solo later in the show.

Please review all Best Dancer Rules & Fine Print on our website: www.thedanceawards.com

Please feel free to contact us at info@thedanceawards.com if you have any questions. We can't wait to see you in Orlando!!!

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MINI/JUNIOR

BEST DANCER SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, July 11th	
4:00pm-8:00pm	**JUNIOR Best Dancer Check-In, Orientation & Audition** *(Held in Windermere Z)*
SUNDAY, July 12th	
9:00am-1:00pm	**MINI Best Dancer Check-In, Orientation & Audition** *(Held in Windermere Z)*
MONDAY, July 13th	
6:30pm-7:30pm	**MINI & JUNIOR Best Dancer Class w/ Ronnie (Musical Theatre)!** *(Held in Windermere Z)*
7:30pm-8:30pm	**MINI & JUNIOR Best Dancer Class w/ Tony (Hip Hop)!** *(Held in Windermere Z)*
WEDNESDAY, July 15th	
8:00pm-9:00pm	**MINI & JUNIOR ELECTRIC DANCE PARTY - Mini & Juniors ONLY!** **Come dressed in your best Glow Attire/Light Up/Colorful Costume and be ready for a night full of dancing & games!** *(Held in Windermere Y)*
THURSDAY, July 16th	
3:45pm-8:30pm	**BEST DANCER Dance-Off!** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)*
SATURDAY, July 18th	
7:00am-7:45am	**BEST DANCER TOP 10** Rehearsal **ON STAGE** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)*
6:00pm-10:30pm	**THE CLOSING AWARDS SHOW!** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)*

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TEEN
BEST DANCER SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, July 11th	
8:00am-12:00pm	**TEEN Best Dancer Check-In, Orientation & Audition** *(Held in Windermere Z)*
3:00pm-9:00pm	**TEEN Best Dancer Rehearsal** *(Held in Windermere Y)*
SUNDAY, July 12th	
7:00pm-10:00pm	**TEEN Best Dancer Rehearsal** *(Held in Windermere Y)*
MONDAY, July 13th	
8:00am-2:00pm	**TEEN Best Dancer Rehearsal** *(Held in Windermere Y)*
TUESDAY, July 14th	
10:00am-12:00pm	**TEEN Best Dancer Rehearsal** *(Held in Windermere Y)*
THURSDAY, July 16th	
3:45pm-8:30pm	**BEST DANCER Dance-Off!** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)*
9:00pm-11:00pm	**TDA PROM!! (All Teen & Senior Dancers Only!)** *(Held in Mini Ballroom)*
FRIDAY, July 17th	
5:00pm-6:30pm	**TEEN Best Dancer Dress Rehearsal ON STAGE** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)* **Please come dressed in your costume for this rehearsal!*
SATURDAY, July 18th	
7:00am-7:45am	**BEST DANCER TOP 10 Rehearsal ON STAGE** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)*
1:30pm-2:30pm	**TEEN Best Dancer Dress Rehearsal ON STAGE** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)* **Please come dressed in your costume for this rehearsal!*
6:00pm-10:30pm	**THE CLOSING AWARDS SHOW!** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)*
9:00pm	**CLOSING AWARDS SHOW CALL TIME!**

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SENIOR
BEST DANCER SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, July 11th	
8:00am-2:00pm	**SENIOR Best Dancer Rehearsal** *(Held in Windermere Y)*
SUNDAY, July 12th	
10:00am-1:00pm	**SENIOR Best Dancer Rehearsal** *(Held in Windermere Y)*
2:00pm-6:00pm	**SENIOR Best Dancer Check-In, Orientation & Audition** *(Held in Windermere Z)*
MONDAY, July 13th	
3:00pm-4:00pm	**SENIOR ROYAL CARIBBEAN WORKSHOP!** *(Held in Windermere Z)*
4:00pm-8:00pm	**SENIOR Best Dancer Rehearsal** *(Held in Windermere Y)*
TUESDAY, July 14th	
9:00am-12:00pm	**SENIOR ROYAL CARIBBEAN OPEN AUDITIONS!** *(Held in Windermere Z)*
12:00pm-4:00pm	**SENIOR Best Dancer Rehearsal** *(Held in Windermere Y)*
THURSDAY, July 16th	
3:45pm-8:30pm	**BEST DANCER Dance-Off!** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)*
9:00pm-11:00pm	**TDA PROM!! (All Teen & Senior Dancers Only!)** *(Held in Mini Ballroom)*
FRIDAY, July 17th	
8:00am-2:30pm	**THE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP & AUDITION EXPERIENCE** **(Exclusively for SENIOR WORKSHOP DANCERS only! Must be 16+ as of 1/1/26)** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)*
3:00pm-4:00pm	**SENIOR COLLEGE FAIR!** *(Held in Barrel Springs)*
6:30pm-8:00pm	**SENIOR Best Dancer Dress Rehearsal ON STAGE** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)* **Please come dressed in your costume for this rehearsal!*
SATURDAY, July 18th	
7:00am-7:45am	**BEST DANCER TOP 10 Rehearsal ON STAGE** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)*
12:45pm-1:30pm	**SENIOR Scholarship Announcements including all scholarships from THE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP & AUDITION EXPERIENCE!** *(Held in OCCC W414)*
2:30pm-3:30pm	**SENIOR Best Dancer Dress Rehearsal ON STAGE** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)* **Please come dressed in your costume for this rehearsal!*
5:30pm	**CLOSING AWARDS SHOW CALL TIME!** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)*
6:00pm-10:30pm	**THE CLOSING AWARDS SHOW!** *(Held in Senior Ballroom)*