

Welcome Best Dancers!

The Dance Awards team is excited to welcome to Orlando some of the most talented young dancers in the world—the 2023 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 provided at Orientation!
- 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, personalized 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 dance classes. They are also invited to audition to be in the Closing Show. Information on those auditions can be found in the General Info packet.
- **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 Director, Danny Lawn. Costumes will be distributed during the week. He's also asked the teen male best dancers to bring the following, if possible: black pants and any black shirt (can be black t-shirt, black dress shirt, etc) and black socks or 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 the incredible Al Blackstone. Costumes will be distributed during the week. We ask that dancers bring some basic items, if possible: black dress socks, white dress socks & black jazz shoes. This experience is only available to the Seniors who are competing and who have paid the Best Dancer fee.
- The Dance Awards Closing Show ticket info can be found in the Dance Awards General Info packet. Best Dancers WILL need a ticket 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 Wednesday, June 28th. Please make sure to bring back-up music on an iPod or USB drive.

COLLEGE AUDITION EXPERIENCE

We are proud to announce a new initiative for attendees pursuing higher education in dance - The College Audition Experience! Launching this summer at both TDA locations, this is our first step toward building a new college scholarship program. We've gathered a distinguished and diverse array of college and university dance programs to participate in our first event. Dancers will have the opportunity to go through a simulated college audition, have a Q&A with dance department representatives, learn about how to prepare a competitive college application package and more!

- **Open to all Best Dancer Finalists from the graduating classes of 2023, 2024, 2025 & 2026.**
- **Friday, July 7th**
 - 5:30-6:00p - Studio Owners & Teachers Only - College Discussion (Held In Junior Ballroom)
 - 5:30p - The College Audition Experience Dancer Check-In (Held In Regency Foyer)
 - 6:00-9:00p - The College Audition Experience (Held In Junior Ballroom)
- **Colleges at TDA Orlando 2023:** The Juilliard School, USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, PACE University, Marymount Manhattan College, Ohio State University, University of Minnesota & Arts Umbrella.



BEST DANCER INFO

ORLANDO

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 8th & 9th. The solo schedule can be viewed at 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*.

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 2023 Best Dancer Winners which will be announced during The Dance Awards Closing Show on Saturday, July 15th.

All Top 10 Best Dancers from each age division will be presented with an award onstage during The Dance Awards Closing Show on July 15th . The Top 3 dancers from each age division will then step forward followed immediately by the announcement of the 2023 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: 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!!!



MINI / JUNIOR

BEST DANCER SCHEDULE

ORLANDO

SUNDAY, July 9th

8:00am-11:00am	MINI Best Dancer Check-In, Orientation & Audition <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
12:00pm-3:00pm	JUNIOR Best Dancer Check-In, Orientation & Audition <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
3:30pm-4:30pm	JUNIOR Best Dancer Class w/ Dana (Contemp. Jazz Fusion)! <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
4:30pm-5:30pm	JUNIOR Best Dancer Class w/ Jess (Contemp.)! <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>

TUESDAY, July 11th

6:00pm-7:00pm	MINI Best Dancer Class w/ Hannahlei (Jazz)! <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
7:00pm-8:00pm	MINI Best Dancer Class w/ Kirsten (Contemp.)! <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>

THURSDAY, July 13th

4:00pm-8:30pm	BEST DANCER Dance-Off! <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i>
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FRIDAY, July 14th

7:00pm-8:00pm	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! <i>(Held in Mini Ballroom)</i>
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SATURDAY, July 15th

7:00am-7:45am	BEST DANCER TOP 10 Rehearsal ON STAGE <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i>
6:00pm-10:30pm	THE CLOSING AWARDS SHOW! <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i>



TEEN

BEST DANCER SCHEDULE

ORLANDO

FRIDAY, July 7th	
5:30pm	COLLEGE AUDITION EXPERIENCE DANCER CHECK-IN (All Best Dancers Finalists from the graduating classes of 2023, 2024, 2025, & 2026!) <i>(Held in Regency Foyer)</i>
6:00pm-9:00pm	COLLEGE AUDITION EXPERIENCE (All Best Dancers Finalists from the graduating classes of 2023, 2024, 2025, & 2026!) <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
SATURDAY, July 8th	
8:00am-1:00pm	TEEN Best Dancer Rehearsal <i>(Held in Regency R Ballroom)</i>
5:00pm-8:30pm	TEEN Best Dancer Check-In, Orientation & Audition <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
SUNDAY, July 9th	
9:45pm-11:00pm	OPTIONAL Tap, Ballet & Hip-Hop Auditions for the Opening and/or Closing Number of the Closing Show! <i>(See Special Events Info Sheet for Details & Location)</i>
MONDAY, July 10th	
7:30pm-9:30pm	TEEN Best Dancer Rehearsal <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
9:30pm-11:00pm	OPTIONAL Ballroom Audition for the Closing Number of the Closing Show! <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
TUESDAY, July 11th	
8:00am-10:00am	TEEN Best Dancer Rehearsal <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
THURSDAY, July 13th	
4:00pm-8:30pm	BEST DANCER Dance-Off! <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i>
9:00pm-11:00pm	TDA PROM!! (All Teen & Senior Dancers Only!) <i>(Held in Mini Ballroom)</i>
FRIDAY, July 14th	
5:00pm-6:30pm	TEEN Best Dancer Rehearsal ON STAGE <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i>
SATURDAY, July 15th	
7:00am-7:45am	BEST DANCER TOP 10 Rehearsal ON STAGE <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i>
1:15pm-3:15pm	TEEN & SENIOR Best Dancer Rehearsal ON STAGE <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i> <i>*Please come dressed in your costume for this rehearsal!</i>
6:00pm-10:30pm	THE CLOSING AWARDS SHOW! <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i>



SENIOR

BEST DANCER SCHEDULE

ORLANDO

FRIDAY, July 7th	
5:30pm	COLLEGE AUDITION EXPERIENCE DANCER CHECK-IN (All Best Dancers Finalists from the graduating classes of 2023, 2024, 2025, & 2026!) <i>(Held in Regency Foyer)</i>
6:00pm-9:00pm	COLLEGE AUDITION EXPERIENCE (All Best Dancers Finalists from the graduating classes of 2023, 2024, 2025, & 2026!) <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
SATURDAY, July 8th	
8:30am-11:30am	SENIOR Best Dancer Check-In, Orientation & Audition <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
1:00pm-7:30pm	SENIOR Best Dancer <u>Rehearsal</u> <i>(Held in Regency R)</i>
SUNDAY, July 9th	
5:30pm-7:30pm	SENIOR Best Dancer <u>Rehearsal</u> <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
9:45pm-11:00pm	OPTIONAL Tap, Ballet & Hip-Hop Auditions for the Opening and/or Closing Number of the Closing Show! <i>(See Special Events Info Sheet for Details & Location)</i>
MONDAY, July 10th	
8:00am-11:00am	SENIOR Best Dancer <u>Rehearsal</u> <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
9:30pm-11:00pm	OPTIONAL Ballroom Audition for the Closing Number of the Closing Show! <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
TUESDAY, July 11th	
10:00am-12:00pm	SENIOR Best Dancer <u>Rehearsal</u> <i>(Held in Junior Ballroom)</i>
THURSDAY, July 13th	
4:00pm-8:30pm	BEST DANCER Dance-Off! <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i>
9:00pm-11:00pm	TDA PROM!! (All Teen & Senior Dancers Only!) <i>(Held in Mini Ballroom)</i>
FRIDAY, July 14th	
6:30pm-8:00pm	SENIOR Best Dancer <u>Rehearsal</u> ON STAGE <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i>
SATURDAY, July 15th	
7:00am-7:45am	BEST DANCER TOP 10 Rehearsal ON STAGE <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i>
1:15pm-3:15pm	TEEN & SENIOR Best Dancer Rehearsal ON STAGE <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i> <i>*Please come dressed in your costume for this rehearsal!</i>
5:30pm	CLOSING AWARDS SHOW CALL TIME! <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i>
6:00pm-10:30pm	THE CLOSING AWARDS SHOW! <i>(Held in Senior Ballroom)</i>