



#### NEW YORK

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This is a letter of introduction and invitation to participate in the 24th annual Dance Championships, the competition industry's premier local dance competition. Since 1988, we have been featuring quality, competitive dance throughout upstate New York.

Today's economic recession has had a debilitating effect on family budgets and may have compromised your ability to meet the high-priced demands of our national competitors. We, at the Dance Championships, believe that you shouldn't have to compromise the quality you've come to expect for your investment. Since we are a family-owned and operated business, we can afford to satisfy your high expectations while saving you 37 to 55 percent off the national averages. Furthermore, while other competitions continue to increase the cost of their entry fees, we have decided to freeze our fees for the fourth year in a row for those who register on or before the early registration deadline of March 30th. We understand the major impact that a minor increase can have on your continued participation in competitive dance.

#### NEW for 2012

**Performance Divisions:** We are always striving to keep every dancer's competition experience positive and inspirational. We have listened to your feedback and we've decided to add performance divisions based upon dance and competitive experience. Refer to the Rules and Regulations for further details:

- **Professional Division:** Dancers with competitive experience, dancing more than five (5) hours per week. Age Divisions will remain the same (i.e. 6 & Under, 7-8, 9-10, etc.)
- **Apprentice Division:** Dancers with little or no competitive experience, dancing equal to or less than five (5) hours per week. In a mixed Professional and Apprentice group routine, at least 75% of the dancers must be from the Apprentice Division. For duets/trios, 100% of the dancers must be from the Apprentice Division. There will be no Production categories in this division; they must be entered in the Professional Division. All dancers shall receive a medal or ribbon regardless of age. There will be NO cash prizes in this division.
- **Apprentice Age Divisions:**
  - Junior (10 & Under)
  - Teen (11-14 Years)
  - Senior (15 & Over)

**Age Determination:** The average age of all dancers on the first day of competition determines the appropriate age division for each routine. We changed the calculation to require the average age to round up when the decimal is .5 or greater.

**Late Registration and Entry Changes:** In an effort to efficiently complete and finalize the competition schedule and minimize the number of late entries and changes received, we've added an additional pricing tier for entries received after the standard entry deadline date. Additionally, a fee may be assessed for changes received less than 14 days prior to the 1st day of competition. The Dance Championships reserves the right to reject entries received after the deadline date.

**Online Registration:** We implemented our new online registration system last year and we encourage everyone to register their studio if they have not already done so. If you utilized our online registration system last year, you will not have to re-enter all of the dancers and their birthdates this year, saving you a great deal of time! You will only have to enter "new" dancers competing in 2012.

**Scholarship Opportunities:** The Dance Championships continues its unique partnership with Dancers Give Back, a local charity. Last year, a convention scholarship was awarded to "The PULSE on Tour." Similar awards and opportunities are being evaluated for the 2012 season.

## BUFFALO, NY COMPETITION

West Seneca East Elementary School  
May 18, 19, and 20, 2012

**EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**  
MAR. 30, 2012

**STANDARD REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**  
APR. 20, 2012

## History

The Dance Championships is a family-owned and operated business that has been entertaining children and families in upstate New York since 1988. The Dance Championships continues to deliver on its core principle of family convenience and affordability while providing dancers valuable performing experience in an organized, energetic and fun environment. "Dance competitions were becoming increasingly cost prohibitive and most ran behind schedule," says parent and competition co-founder, Gary Kilborn, "In response, we constructed this competition with special attention to the sacrifices made by parents and their children."

## Affordability

The Dance Championships continues to provide the most affordable experience within the dance competition industry. For a comparative analysis, please visit our website. There you will find a complete list of national dance competitions along with their published entry fees and the significant savings offered by The Dance Championships. Furthermore, there are no pre-qualifying workshops or obligation to attend future regional or national finals.

## Considerate Planning

The Dance Championships is renowned for its ability to stay on time. This very important, but often ignored, virtue is a signature of our careful and considerate scheduling for each event. We begin with a weekend program that schedules adequate time for each routine. We also evaluate the age of the children competing and adjust the schedule accordingly; young children generally do not compete late in the evening and especially late on Sunday when out-of-town families need to return home. The names of competitors are also carefully scrutinized to reasonably accommodate costume changes. Finally, judges are scheduled a break no more than three hours apart, keeping them mentally fresh and engaged.

## Simplicity

Dance competitions used to thrill competitors and the audience alike with difficult routines in crowded dance categories and suspense regarding final placement. In recent years, such thrill has been tempered by a dizzying number of new dance categories, skill levels and placement options. These depleted dance categories offer little competition and predictable results. The Dance Championships preserves the intensity of competition and the glory of victory by organizing into traditional dance categories with 1st, 2nd, 3rd and honorable mention placement.

## Accessibility

The Dance Championships is owned and operated by individuals who live in the local dance community, thereby allowing all studio directors, teachers, dancers, parents and friends direct and immediate access to the competition organizers. This level of accessibility highlights an unrelenting commitment to providing the most personal and responsive customer service in the dance competition industry.

## Informed Improvements

By listening carefully to the concerns and comments of participating studio directors, teachers, dancers, parents and friends, The Dance Championships has satisfactorily adapted to the evolving preferences of our loyal customers.

## Studio Recognition

Each city has its own unique personality; The Dance Championships compliment these differences by localizing our efforts to improve and strengthen the local dance community. To celebrate the diversity in local offerings and to encourage the support of local dance studios, our website and competition programs identify participating studios and indicate recital dates and locations as well as a link to your studio website, where available.

Throughout the year, we will be updating our website with helpful information, including competition forms and other documentation, results and photographs from each of our events, stage dimensions and layout, driving directions, participating studios and recital dates and locations and other multimedia. Please register online to receive the most up-to-date information as it becomes available. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to starting new friendships and working with you soon.

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**Natalie Andrzejewski**

## OUR BENEFITS:

- Reasonable entry fees, priced below the national average;
- Attractive Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals with neck ribbons presented to each dancer in a qualifying routine in each dance category. Honorable Mention ribbons are awarded to each dancer not qualifying for a medal in the 12 & Under age division in the Professional Division and to all dancers in the Apprentice Division, regardless of age. Each dancer in a routine achieving an average score equal to or more than 95 will receive an additional honor signifying "Elite" achievement;
- Professional Division: A \$200 cash scholarship and trophy is presented to the highest scoring routine in each age division with a minimum of 10 routines. Nine (9) additional trophies are awarded in each age division containing a minimum of 15 routines;
- Professional Division: A \$100 cash scholarship and Grand Champion trophy is presented to the highest scoring routine in the 12 & Under and the 13 & Over age divisions. Each dancer in a Grand Champion routine, other than solos, will receive a Grand Champion ribbon;
- Professional Division: A 'Choreographer' award is presented in solo/duet/trio and group categories in each age division. A teacher award is also presented to the teacher of each Grand Champion;
- A \$100 Studio Spirit Award and plaque is presented to the studio director entering the highest no. of dancers;
- Professional Division: A trophy will be presented to the highest scoring production routine. Where there are three (3) or more routines, a \$100 prize will also be included. We now offer one (1) age for all production routines.
- A panel of three (3) highly qualified judges. The Dance Championships does not hire models, celebrities or any other person not qualified to judge dance.
- Judges' critiques are recorded on a flash drive or CD and distributed to each studio director;
- Detailed competition schedules are mailed at least 10 days in advance of competition dates;
- Studio directors and teachers entering routines will receive a program book FREE of charge;
- Admission to view the competition is FREE of charge.