



SYLLABUS

NATIONAL FINALS





NATIONAL FINALS INDEX



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ABOUT OUR FINALS

GET READY FOR THE ULTIMATE DANCE COMPETITION!

THE CARNIVAL DANCE CHALLENGE NATIONAL FINALS ARE LAUNCHING IN 2026! AFTER 28 SPECTACULAR EVENTS HELD ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN 2025, THE NATION'S TOP DANCERS ARE COMING TOGETHER FOR ONE UNFORGETTABLE FINALE.

THIS IS WHERE AUSTRALIA'S BEST TALENT MEETS THE SPOTLIGHT. DON'T MISS THE ENERGY, THE PASSION, AND THE MAGIC AS WE CROWN THE ULTIMATE CHAMPIONS AND COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE DANCE!



EVENT DETAILS



VENUE

BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB

WHO

SOLIST
DUOS/ TRIOS
TROUPES

DATES

19-25TH JANUARY 2026

OUR EVENT WILL BE AGE BLOCKED AND PERFORMERS WILL ONLY BE REQUIRED FOR THEIR DAY UNLESS COMPETING IN THE GRAND FINALE.

TO QUALIFY

TO QUALIFY YOU MUST HAVE ATTENDED A REGIONAL EVENT IN 2025.





ENTRY FEES



ROUTINE FEE

This fee includes:
music uploads, video critiques, live schedule updates.

SOLOS

\$85 PER ROUTINE

DUOS & TRIOS

\$110 PER ROUTINE

TROUPES

\$120 PER ROUTINE



COMPULSORY COMPETITOR PASS

SILVER PASS

\$65

INCLUSIONS:

- Carnival finals gift bag

GOLD PASS

\$130

INCLUSIONS:

- Carnival finals gift bag.
- Carnival finals tee-shirt.
- 2x spectator tickets for sections

DIAMOND PASS

\$250

INCLUSIONS:

- Carnival finals gift bag.
- Carnival finals tee-shirt.
- 3 x Spectator tickets for sections
- Access to 3 Day APEX Intensive workshops



TITLE SECTIONS



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

ONLY A PERFORMER WHO ENTERED FIRST YEAR ON STAGE CAN ENTER A NEW OR REPEAT ROUTINE OF ANY GENRE TO BATTLE IT OUT FOR OUR 2025 RISING STAR OF THE YEAR.

MODELING: FACE OF CARNIVAL

PERFORMERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN A MODELLING WORKSHOP WITH REPUTABLE AGENCY .
WHAT TO EXPECT:

- 1 HOUR RUNWAY & MODELLING WORKSHOP
- PHOTOSHOOT (1 X IMAGE)
- PERFORMERS WILL WALK THE RUNWAY FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOP IN OUTFIT OF CHOICE AND JUDGES WILL SCORE BOTH PHOTOSHOOT AND RUNWAY 50 POINTS EACH TO FIND OUR 2025 FACE OF CARNIVAL.

EMERGING CHOREOGRAPHER

PART 1: MUST BE A SELF CHOREOGRAPHER ROUTINE:
JUDGING CRITERIA WILL PRIORITISE CREATIVITY, STYLE, INDIVIDUALITY, STYLING, AND MUSICALITY.
WITH EXECUTION ALSO CONSIDERED.

PART 2: ALL PERFORMERS WILL BE GIVEN A 1 MINUTE LONG TRACK PRIOR TO THE COMP. THEY WILL BE GIVEN 1 WEEK TO CONCEPTUALISE, CREATE AND PRESENT A SOLO ROUTINE.

TECHNICAL EXCELLENT

PART 1: PERFORMERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN A 1-HOUR TECHNIQUE CLASS AND WILL BE ADJUDICATED OUT OF 50 POINTS.
PART 2: PERFORMERS WILL PRESENT THEIR MOST TECHNICAL ROUTINE IN THIS SECTION AND WILL BE ADJUDICATED OUT OF 50 POINTS.

TOTAL SCORE: THE COMBINED SCORE FROM BOTH PARTS (OUT OF 100) WILL DETERMINE THE WINNER.



TITTLE SECTION FEES



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

\$80

PER PERFORMER

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

\$110

PER PERFORMER
(INCLUDES 1HR TECHNIQUE CLASS)

FACE OF CARNIVAL

\$110

PER PERFORMER
(INCLUDES 1HR WORKSHOP AND HEADSHOT)

EMERGING CHOREOGRAPHER

\$100

PER PERFORMER

AGE GROUPS

MINI TITLE: 4-8 YEARS
JUNIOR TITLE: 9-12 YEARS
SENIOR TITLE: 13 YEARS AND OVER

PRIZES:

SPONSORED AND CASH PRIZES AVAILABLE FOR ALL TITLE SECTIONS.



NATIONAL CHAMPION

NATIONAL CHAMPION

**WIN AN INTERNATIONAL TRIP TO DANCE ON THE WORLD
STAGE!
INCLUDES ENTRIES INTO A TOP CONVENTION AND DANCE
COMPETITION!**



AGE GROUPS

4/U, 6&U, 8&U, 10&U, 12&U, 14&U, 15/O

QUALIFYING

YOU MUST ENTER:
MINIMUM OF 2 ELITE SOLO CATEGORIES AND NATIONAL CHAMPION
SECTION TO QUALIFY.
(THIS CANNOT BE A REPEAT DANCE)

WHEN?

DANCERS WILL COMPETE INITIALLY IN THEIR AGE GROUP-
TOP 5 FROM EACH AGE GROUP WILL COMPETE ON GRAND FINALE NIGHT.

PRICE

\$100 PER PERFORMER



AGES

AS OF THE 1ST OF JANUARY 2025

SOLOS

- 4 YEARS
- 5 YEARS
- 6 YEARS
- 7 YEARS
- 8 YEARS
- 9 YEARS
- 10 YEARS
- 11 YEARS
- 12 YEARS
- 13 YEARS
- 14 YEARS
- 15 YEARS
- 16 YEARS
- 17 YEARS
- 18 YEARS/O

TROUPEES

- 6 & UNDER
- 8 & UNDER
- 10 & UNDER
- 12 & UNDER
- 14 & UNDER
- 16 & UNDER
- 18 & OVER





DIVISION

NOISIMID



ELITE

PROTÈGÈ



OPEN
PERFORMER HAS WON 1ST
PLACE IN THE LAST 2
YEARS.



RESTRICTED
DANCE HAS NOT WON 1ST PLACE IN THE
PAST 2 YEARS.



LEVELS FOR PROTÈGÈ AND ELITE ARE SPECIFIC TO GENRE.
E.G. YOU COULD BE A 'PROTÈGÈ' FOR CLASSICAL BUT 'ELITE'
FOR HIPHOP.



GENRES



ALL ABILITIES
This category is for Performers with Special Needs.

ANY STYLE
Can perform any style of dance (cannot repeat dance from another category).

ACRO
Acro dance is a style of dance that combines classical dance technique with precision acrobatic elements.

STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY
Can perform any style. Needs to be choreographed by the entrant only.

SLOW/ STRAIGHT TAP
Quick, rhythmic foot movements performed at a rapid tempo. This form of tap dancing emphasizes speed, agility, and intricate footwork

LYRICAL
A free, expressive style of dancing. It inspires expression of strong emotions from the lyrics of the song.

BROADWAY
A jazz-based performance filled with Broadway style dancing and music.

FAST TAP
Quick, rhythmic foot movements performed at a rapid tempo. This form of tap dancing emphasizes speed, agility, and intricate footwork

DEMI CHARACTER
Demi character must involve or resemble a character dance that uses classical technique as a basis for interpretation.

COMMERCIAL CONTEMPORARY
Choreography containing interpretive dance using balance and control.ballet.

SONG ON DANCE
A theatrical performance (such as a vaudeville performance) combining singing and dancing

HIP HOP
A range of street dance styles primarily performed to hip hop music or that have evolved as part of hip hop culture.

BALLET
A routine comprised of classical steps & ballet technique. Ballet shoes must be worn.

NEO CLASSICAL
Choreography with emphasis on ballet movement with minimal costume design and stage scenery.

TRADITIONAL CONTEMPORARY
A routine where the movements have arisen from the tradition of this dance style.

MUSICAL THEATRE
A Musical Theatre song choice with both dance and theatric elements with a strong focus on characterisation.

JAZZ
Choreography containing movements based on Jazz Technique.



WORKSHOPS

DANCE WORKSHOP

HELD BY INDUSTRY LEADING CHOREOGRAPHERS IN ALL GENRES

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

ALL THE FUNDAMENTALS A DANCER NEEDS TO IMPROVE THEIR OVERALL PERFORMANCE & TECHNIQUE

Q&A'S

WITH INFLUENTIAL ARTISTS, DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS

WORKING TO CAMERA

WORKSHOPS ON PERFORMING TO CAMERA, FILMING SELF TAPES AND SHOWREELS

TEACHING & CHOREO

FOR YOUNG ASPIRING CHOREOGRAPHERS & TEACHERS

CARNIVAL NATIONALS PRESENTS

APEX

19 JAN - 22 JAN 2026

3 DAY INTENSIVE

LEAD BY INDUSTRY ICONS



APEX INTENSIVE IS OPEN TO EVERYONE, NOT JUST COMPETITORS.

HOW DO I ACCESS APEX TICKETS AS A COMPETITOR?

IF YOU ARE COMPETING IN CARNIVAL NATIONAL FINALS AND WANT TO ACCESS APEX TICKETS - PURCHASE A DIAMOND PASS WHEN REGISTERING. THIS GIVES YOU ACCESS TO ALL 3 DAYS OF THE WORKSHOPS.

HOW DO I ACCESS APEX TICKETS IF I'M NOT COMPETING?

HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE ACCESS THE TRYBOOKING LINK:

WWW.CARNIVALDANCE.COM.AU

MORE CHOREOGRAPHERS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON...



GALA NIGHT

FRIDAY
23RD JANUARY

WANT TO BE A PART OF THE

GALA OPENING ACT?

WHAT IS THE GALA NIGHT?

WHAT BETTER WAY TO FINISH OFF FINALS WEEK THAN WITH A GALA NIGHT!
THIS WILL BE HELD ON THE EVENING OF FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY AT
BANKSTOWN SPORTS.

WHO WILL BE PERFORMING AT GALA NIGHT?

TOP 5 DANCERS IN EACH AGE GROUP

MAJOR AWARD WINNERS IN EACH AGE GROUP

GALA SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE (ALL COMPETITORS ARE INVITED TO BE A
PART OF THIS)

A SURPRISE GUEST ACT...

HOW CAN I WATCH THE GALA NIGHT?

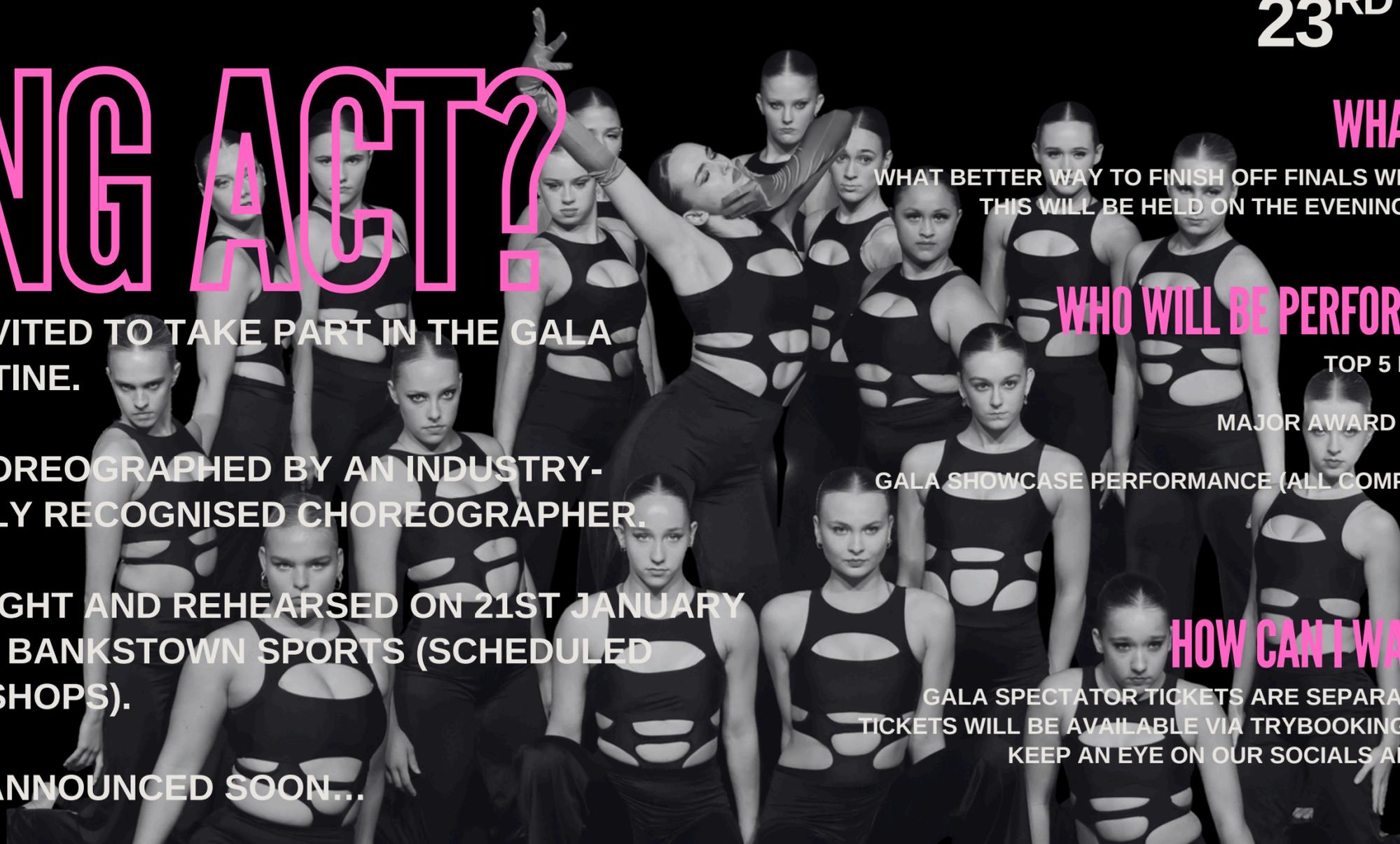
GALA SPECTATOR TICKETS ARE SEPARATE FROM THE FINALS TICKETS.
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE VIA TRYBOOKING CLOSER TO THE EVENT DATE.
KEEP AN EYE ON OUR SOCIALS AND YOUR INBOX FOR UPDATES.

ALL COMPETITORS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE GALA
SHOWCASE OPENING ROUTINE.

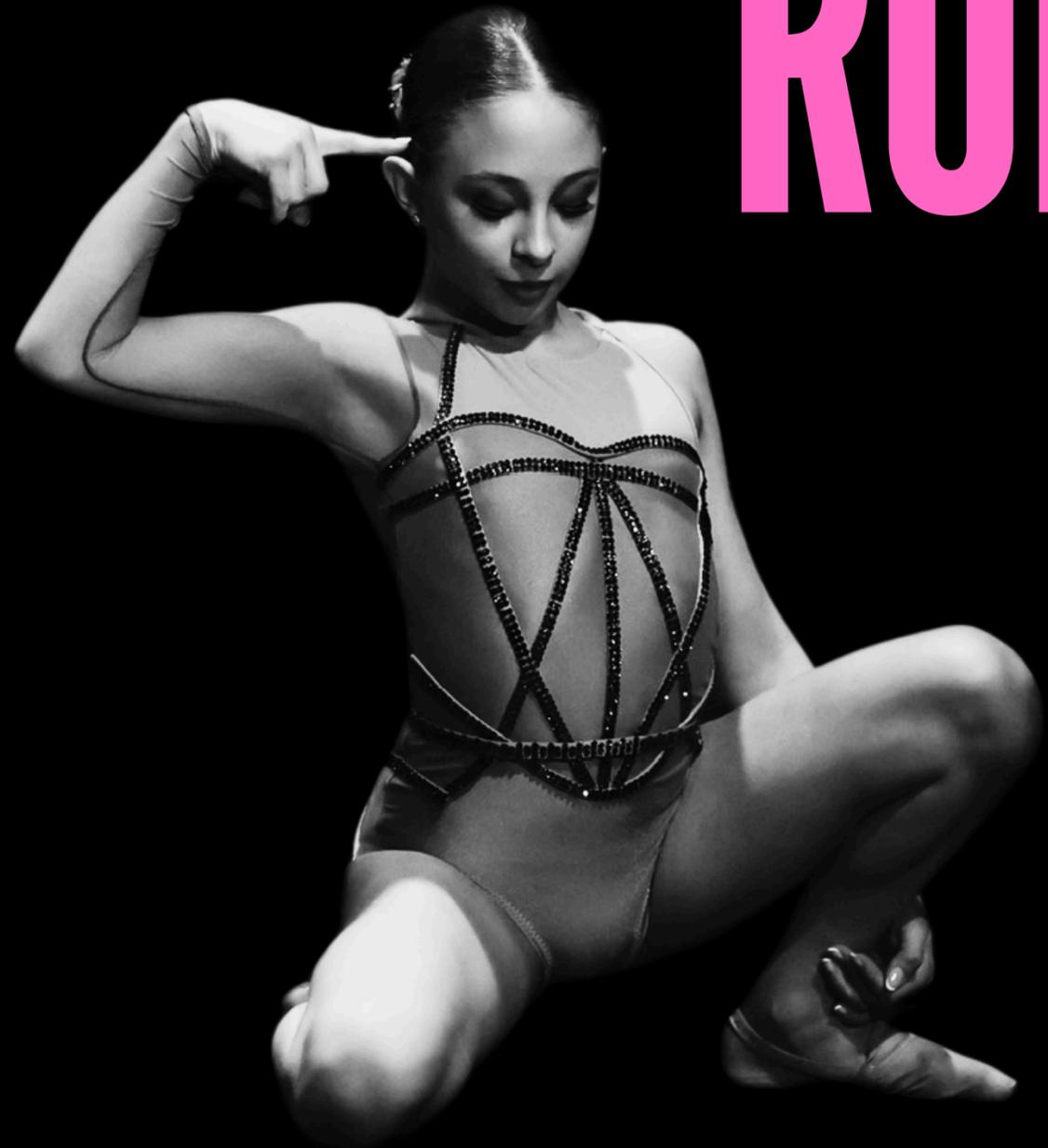
THIS ROUTINE WILL BE CHOREOGRAPHED BY AN INDUSTRY-
LEADING, INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED CHOREOGRAPHER.

THE ROUTINE WILL BE TAUGHT AND REHEARSED ON 21ST JANUARY
IN A 2-4 HOUR SESSION AT BANKSTOWN SPORTS (SCHEDULED
AROUND THE APEX WORKSHOPS).

CHOREOGRAPHER TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON...



NATIONAL FINALS



RULES AND REGULATIONS

WWW.CARNIVALDANCE.COM.AU

CREDIT AND REFUNDS: If a performer needs to withdraw from a regional event, the performer or their parents must inform Carnival Dance Challenge at least two weeks before the event. If we can substitute the withdrawn routine with a performer from the waitlist, we will transfer your entry to a future competition. Please be aware that no refunds will be provided for change of mind, whether for partial or full payments.

In the case of an injury (not due to illness), Carnival Director may use their discretion for a transfer to future event; however, proof of the injury is required, and a \$30 administration fee will be charged.

PERSONAL ITEMS: CARNIVAL DANCE CHALLENGE, its directors, staff and associates shall in no way assume responsibility for lost possessions or theft of any kind at any venue. Please be safe and keep any personal items of value safe at home.

PROPS: Props must be carried on stage by the performer or your own staff (instructor, parent, coach, etc.). The placement of props, mats, etc. must be completed within 2 minutes of the end of the preceding act. The timing of the act will begin after the 2 - minute prep time. Please contact our National Headquarters if you need further clarification of prop guidelines.

• NO DANGEROUS PROPS ARE ALLOWED ON STAGE. NO FORM OF PAINT, CHALK, LIQUID, POWDER, SAND, OR GEL MAY BE USED. ANYTHING THAT WOULD AFFECT OR DAMAGE THE DANCING SURFACE WILL BE SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION. Performers must be prepared to completely clear the stage of any loose items or litter (feathers, streamers, petals, etc.)

ADJUDICATION: Adjudicators will be announced prior to the event. In the event an announced adjudicator can not make it for any reason, Carnival Dance Challenge reserves the right to engage a different adjudicator for the event. The Adjudicator's decision is final. Any Competitor who has been regularly taught by the Adjudicator within the preceding six months must declare this prior to the commencement of a competition. These performer will not be eligible to place and will be marked as critique only. Where possible we will find an alternative adjudicator. This excludes workshop classes and/or substitutes.

- The Adjudicator has the right to withhold a prize if he/she does not feel a sufficient standard has been reached. The Adjudicator must not be approached by any Competitor/Parent/Dance Teacher for any reason or that competitor will be disqualified. The Adjudicator may apply a penalty if the time limit is exceeded.

PERFORMERS: No Performer is allowed to perform in the front stage area surrounding the Judges and Audit tables, which includes no projecting or jumping on or off the front of the stage. Any performer who begins offstage must move to the stage at some point during the performance. No lifts, tumbling, or tricks of any kind and or props are permitted offstage. Nothing, which may cause any harm or damage to a person or object, may be intentionally thrown or shot from the stage.

ARRIVAL: Doors will open approximately 30 minutes before the competition's scheduled start time.

FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTS: The companies of Carnival Dance Challenge understand the broad range of styles and appropriateness that dancers are exposed to in our country; however, we expect each and every routine to be in good taste for viewing by a “family-friendly” audience. Inappropriate routines are not acceptable and, at minimum, will have points deducted to not being eligible for finale awards and/or at most be disqualified.

PAYMENT: Accounts that are not paid in full at least 15 days prior to the competition date will not be included in the prepared competition schedule and may not be accepted. Please note that registration alone does not guarantee placement in an event as payment must be received to confirm placement in the event. Please note that a studio will not be allowed to perform until all entries are paid in full. Entries will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

DRESSING ROOMS: CDC does attempt to be fair in assigning dressing rooms; however, when space is limited, it may be necessary for studios to share a dressing space. Please honor these placements and share the space. Entrants are expected to change costumes quickly (three numbers should be adequate in most cases). Valuables and personal property left in dressing areas is left at the risk of the owner. Carnival is not responsible for any items in the dressing rooms. Any damages incurred will be the responsibility of the studio(s) dressing in that space.

THEATRE: No eating, drinking or smoking is permitted in the theatre. Fire exits must always be kept clear. No entry/exit is allowed in to/out of the theatre auditorium when an act is on stage.

TEACHER ENTRY: Each studio may have free entry for 2 teachers per session. Teachers will be required to notify 1 week in advance via studio email of who will be attending, and names will be at the door. Appropriate ID will be required. Teachers will be given a wristband on arrival. Only the LISTED principal & teachers of participating studios will be allowed free admission.

PHOTO/VIDEO: THE USE OF ANY TYPE OF EQUIPMENT WITH THE ABILITY TO CAPTURE PHOTO OR VIDEO IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. FOR THE PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF THOSE PARTICIPATING AT OUR EVENTS, ABSOLUTELY NO EQUIPMENT WITH THE ABILITY TO CAPTURE PHOTO OR VIDEO ARE ALLOWED DURING A PERFORMANCE ON STAGE.

RE-PERFORMANCE: Re-Performance is at the discretion of the Director. A performer will be allowed to re-perform any number without penalty if it is interrupted by a technical error on the part of Carnival. prompting from the sides of the stage is not allowed whilst a competitor is performing - with the exception of the babies dance sections. This will lead to disqualification.

SECTIONS: If insufficient entrants in a section, the committee reserves the right to amend or combine a section at their discretion. We will not cancel any sections unless absolutely necessary, rather we will combine into another section. Changes to the running order of the program will be left to the discretion of Carnival Dance challenge committee.

ATTENDEES: ALL attendees, participating teachers, dancers, parents and friends are expected to display good sportsmanship. Persons not complying with this rule will be immediately disqualified and will lose future privileges to compete at a Carnival event. Our focus is always on the dancers' best performance and a safe and supportive atmosphere.

TAP SHOES: Tap covers are required at all times when inside the building. This rule will be strictly enforced.

AWARDS: Awards will be announced at the end of each session. All performers will be asked to come back onto the stage for the award ceremony.

REGULATIONS: Carnival reserves the right to cancel, move or extend any competition in accordance with the response to the number of entries or unforeseen circumstances. In case of cancellation, all funds will be returned promptly one to two weeks out of the event. Carnival will not release scores from all participating studios/entities to any one studio.

LIABILITY: CARNIVAL, its staff, and the site of the convention or competition will not be responsible for any accident or injury. All competitors and spectators enter at their own risk. No responsibility will be taken for any accident, injury, or loss of property. This also applies to cars parked in the grounds of the venue.

PUBLIC RIGHTS: All participants in our competitions at the Preliminary or National level give their permission for any photograph or video that is taken of them to be used in the promotion of Carnival, including the rights of newspapers, brochures, websites, social media, cable and tv advertising. If you do not wish for your child to be included in above promotional material please email carnivaldancechallenge@gmail.com

Carnival Dance Challenge shall decide on any matter not covered in these rules. It's decision in any question or dispute will be final. Any rules may be amended at the discretion of the committee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By registering online for any Carnival event, the studio and its teachers acknowledge that they have read and understand the rules and regulations of the event, and that they in turn have informed all parents as to the same requirements. Once a studio submits its entries to Carnival, the company acknowledges your understanding of the rules and the liability clause put in place at all events.

CARNIVAL

DANCE CHALLENGE

THANK YOU



SEE YOU AT FINALS!

www.carnivaldance.com.au