



West Virginia Dance Festival 2025

GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES



MISSION

The West Virginia Dance Festival is an educational and performance program designed to encourage and support young West Virginia dancers. The Festival has four goals:

- To focus on dance as an art form
- To provide in-depth learning experiences for all participants through classes and consultations
- To showcase exceptional West Virginia dancers and dance companies through performances
- To strengthen the West Virginia dance community with opportunities to share ideas and learn from each other

DEFINITION OF SCHOOLS AND COMPANIES

West Virginia Dance Schools

- These are full-time West Virginia dance schools.

West Virginia Performing Companies

- These are West Virginia companies, which are separate from dance schools, and which have a repertoire, a full-time artistic director, and a regular season that includes at least two annual paid public performances. The performances cannot be annual recitals.

Companies must submit legal documentation with the director's application.

Legal documentation includes three of the following:

- 1) Proof of two different paid public performances (no recitals)
- 2) Proof that the company is 501(c)3
- 3) List of the company's current board of directors
- 4) List of current year's budget
- 5) Last year's tax return

Any company which fails to submit at least three of the above documents will not be considered a company. Companies must submit documentation every year **without exception.**

ADJUDICATIONS FOR PERFORMANCES

Adjudication for the West Virginia Dance Festival is required for all schools and companies that wish to be considered for the evening performances. The adjudicators are professional dancers who prefer to see your best completed pieces. **Bring the piece as if it were performance day!!!**

GUIDELINES FOR ADJUDICATING SCHOOLS AND COMPANIES

- All performers must be enrolled to take classes at the festival.
- Six minutes is the maximum allotted time for a performance piece for a dance school. Nine minutes is the maximum allotted time for a performance piece for a dance company.
- Scenery and costumes for each performance piece must be available at adjudication, either completed or in some visual form. If all dancers for a piece are not present, it will not be adjudicated.
- Groups must be ready 30 minutes prior to their scheduled time of adjudication.
- Accepted pieces must be performed as adjudicated.
- There may be no more than 50 percent duplication between dancers in a company and a school or between two companies. Complete duplication of dancers is prohibited; if that occurs, neither program will be accepted for the dance festival.
- Technical requirements, including props, drops, special sound needs, etc., must be presented to the WVDACH stage manager in advance of the festival. You must be able to set up and tear down within your 20-minute rehearsal and performance time. No additional time will be allotted.
- Music must be recorded on a flash drive or CD of the highest quality available. The drive or CD will be used to make a master tape for the performance. If the adjudicator or sound engineer decides the recording is unsuitable for the performance, you will be asked to re-record your music and send it to the Department of Arts, Culture, and History by an established deadline.
- Companies and schools that have studios located more than 2 hours one way, or if you reach out and make prior arrangements, from Charleston can submit a DVD or e-mail their performance pieces and class placement information to Adam.C.Jones@wv.gov. Recordings must be received for adjudication a week prior to adjudication and directors/teachers must contact Adam Jones to be certain these recordings have been received and are viewable. Please remember that recordings are not considered an equitable alternative to live performance, but sometimes are needed.
- The adjudicators will select the pieces for performance. Not all pieces will be accepted.
- The festival is open to all West Virginia schools and companies to participate in the festival classes regardless of whether they perform.

Dance Company Adjudications

- Each company may present two pieces which are different in style and thought for adjudication within the 45-minute adjudication time limit.
- If the piece presented for adjudication is deemed of poor quality or is longer than the allotted time, the adjudicators will not accept the piece. Dancers may still participate in classes and workshops.
- A solo can be no longer than two minutes in any performance piece.
- Company directors may dance with the company, but we prefer they do not perform the solo.

Dance School Adjudications

- Each school may present one piece for adjudication.
- Students must be 12 years of age or older.
- A solo cannot be longer than two minutes in any performance piece.
- A piece must be no more than six minutes long.
- If the piece presented for adjudication is deemed of poor quality or is longer than the allotted time period, the adjudicators will not accept the piece. Dancers may still participate in classes and workshops.
- Teachers may perform with the group, but we prefer they do not perform the solo.
- West Virginia Dance Festival guidelines prefer directors of schools not to duplicate or share dancers, and to choreograph pieces for the dancers they have in their own schools.

DANCE ADJUDICATION AND PERFORMANCE GENERAL INFORMATION

Dance Adjudications

- The feedback sessions are a valuable opportunity for piece choreographers and performers to hear insights about their work. It is an opportunity to receive a kind of feedback that is usually unavailable to the choreographer — student or faculty – and to the student dancers.

Dance Performances

- Performances are meant to showcase the talents of dancers from around the state. These performances give dancers the opportunity to perform outside of their own academic setting in front of their peers.
- Performances also allow dancers to see different types of dance and technique that they may not be accustomed to, allowing for new ideas and creativity.

ADJUDICATIONS FOR CLASS PLACEMENT

- All dancers must exhibit an understanding of terminology, proper dress and decorum.
- Directors must rate dancers in ballet, modern and jazz prior to adjudications using the following rating: A = Advanced, I = Intermediate, B = Basic
- Directors should pay close attention to each dancer when providing the rating. Rating a dancer higher than their skill level and training not only hurts the dancer, but also others in the class if the instructor must provide constant correction and direction.

Please note: Beginners are welcome to observe classes but should not be registered for the festival.

BASIC: Minimum Age: 12. The dancer must have one to two years of training in classical ballet and take two lessons per week.

Ballet, Jazz: General knowledge of movements and technique.

Modern: Body movement and some idea of positions.

INTERMEDIATE: Minimum Age: 14. The dancer must have two to three years of dance training with two to three lessons per week.

Ballet, Jazz: Must have fundamental knowledge of the barre.

Modern: Must have fundamental knowledge of dance positions and alignment concepts.

ADVANCED: Minimum Age: 16. The dancer must have four to five years of concentrated study.

Ballet, Jazz: Must have fluent knowledge of the elements of allegro and adagio with proficient strength and technique.

Ballet: Must exhibit proficiency in pointe work.

Modern: Must have fluent knowledge of dance elements such as position, shape, weight and motion.

The West Virginia Dance Festival cannot accommodate add-on or walk-in registrations the day of the start of the festival.

GENERAL DANCE FESTIVAL INFORMATION

- Each company or school must attend the festival and take all assigned classes.
- Classes are scheduled after adjudications are completed.

APPLICATIONS

- To participate in the West Virginia State Dance Festival, directors of schools and companies must complete the directors' and dancers' applications.

Dancers may not fill out the dancers' applications.

If you are submitting for multiple groups, please fill out separate applications for each.

(Applications will be returned if incorrectly filled out.)

- **Late applications will not be accepted.**
- Applications are accepted online and by mail.
- Scheduling adjudication times by phone or e-mail is prohibited. Preferred adjudication times will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Company applications must be accompanied by legal documentation. (See definition of West Virginia Performing Companies.)

FEES

All deposits and fees are nonrefundable.

Registration for dancers:

- Registration fee for each dancer is \$100. A \$50 nonrefundable deposit is required at adjudication. Final nonrefundable payment is due on the first day of the festival.

Registration for directors:

- Registration fee for directors (company or school) with a performance piece is \$100. A \$50 nonrefundable deposit is required by adjudication. Final nonrefundable payment is due on the first day of the festival. Directors receive a DVD of their performance at the festival as part of their registration.
- Registration fee for directors (company or school) attending the festival without a performance piece is \$60. A \$30 nonrefundable deposit is required by adjudication. Final nonrefundable payment is due on the first day of the festival.
- Registration fee for assistant directors and teachers (company or school) is \$70. A \$35 nonrefundable deposit is required by adjudication. We will accept up to 2 assistants or extra teachers per group. All others must pay dancers' fees.

Chaperones and Observers:

- Chaperones and observers registration fee is \$20 each for admittance to the non-public areas of the building. They will receive a dance festival booklet and security pass. They are prohibited from taking classes. They must not interfere with classes in any way!

CLASSES

- Each dancer will be scheduled for 1 ballet class, 1 jazz class, 1 modern class, and 1 additional class.

- The schedule is color-coded. Each dancer receives a colored badge or wristband in their festival registration packet. All dancers must follow the assigned schedule. Badges or bands will be checked by class monitors.

- While the Dance Festival does not accommodate "walk-ins" or beginners, the public is welcome to observe classes.

- All qualified ballet, modern, and jazz students are placed in classes based on the criteria discussed in class adjudications above.

- Sunday Master classes can only be signed up for by a director and will only allow 4 (four) students from each company or school, per class. Open classes are open!

DRESS CODE

- The WV Dance Festival accepts gender-neutral dance attire in our classes. Dancers may select which option is most comfortable. Dancers should wear clothing that is form-fitting for instructors to see alignment and allows movement without restriction. Attire should provide proper coverage, including through movement. Attire for classes should not be flashy or distracting. Neutral colors please!

DECORUM

- To ensure that proper etiquette is observed in classes, instructors will check for the proper color badge or band for each class and for proper classroom attire. Please avoid loud and lengthy conversations in the classroom area. All conversation should stop as soon as classes have begun. Failure to do so may result in removal from the class.