

General Information & Guidelines



ACRODANCE · BALLET · BROADWAY · CONTEMPORARY · MODERN · JAZZ
HIP HOP · TAP · LYRICAL · MUSICAL THEATRE · PRODUCTION · VARIETY

May 1 – 5, 2024

A. E. Peacock Technical High School
145 Ross Street East, Moose Jaw, SK

ENTRY FEES:

SOLO	\$50.00 per dancer
DUO/TRIO	\$35.00 per dancer
ALL GROUPS	\$30.00 per dancer

*****ENTRY CLOSING DATE: JANUARY 7, 2024, or when capacity reached*****

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

WEB: www.danceinspirations.ca
EMAIL: mjfestivalofdance@gmail.com
PHONE: (306) 693-6330
MAIL: Entry Secretary – Box 1184
Moose Jaw, SK S6H 4P9

Updated September 11, 2023

Dance Inspirations – Moose Jaw Festival of Dance (MJFD)

About Dance Inspirations

Dance Inspirations is presented by the Moose Jaw Festival of Dance (MJFD), a non-profit organization supported by a volunteer board. Our goal is to offer a fun, friendly competition, and to give all participants and their teachers valuable learning opportunities. At Dance Inspirations, performers of all ages and levels are able to display their talents and use this positive experience to improve their skill and self-confidence. We want to celebrate all achievements and inspire young dancers to realize their full potential.

Our competition is divided into six two-hour sessions per day with on-stage adjudications occurring after each session. During this time, all dancers who performed in the session are invited on stage to learn from our adjudicators and placements in each category are announced.

We end our competition on Sunday with the Dance Challenge. The Dance Challenge is a finale event showcasing each studio's top scoring group performances.

For further information, please refer to the MJFD website: www.danceinspirations.ca

****Please read all of the following rules and regulations carefully as there have been changes and additions. It is the responsibility of the studios to follow all rules and regulations. Parents, dancers, and studio staff should be informed of rules as all in attendance are expected to follow them. Please contact the MJFD Committee if you have any questions.**

General Information

Competitors

- Please do not arrive earlier than 1 hour prior to the morning start times as the building opens at that time.
- Dancers may register and pick up their lanyards at the Registration table in the lobby.
- Competitor lanyards allow access to the auditorium (except the Balcony) only if seats are available.

Studio Packages

- Upon first arrival at Dance Inspirations, studios must register at the MJFD office located behind the concession.
- Only the studio owner or one designated teacher needs to register in the office. We **do not** require each teacher to sign in.
- Lanyards are **required** in order to be backstage. Please let us know in advance how many teachers will be attending so we have enough lanyards prepared.
- Following the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, studio packages will be available for pick up at the MJFD office. These packages will include: adjudication sheets, all group routine pins, and any solo/duo/trio pins not previously picked up. Video adjudications shall be made available at a later time.
- Studio packages will only be distributed to studio owners at the end of the competition. All studio packages **must** be signed for.
- Any studio packages not picked up at the end of competition will be mailed out or delivered by a MJFD Committee member.

Dressing Rooms

- The MJFD Committee is responsible for booking all of the required rooms within Peacock Collegiate for this event. The MJFD Committee will take crowding and dressing room traffic into consideration and will assign extra dressing rooms to studio groups as needed if space is available.
- Individual studios will **not** be allowed to rent private dressing rooms.
- Dressing rooms are subject to change based on availability of space at Peacock Collegiate, assignments will be communicated prior to the event. Please watch for signs when you arrive.
- As dressing room space is often limited, we ask that parents or dancers do not bring pop-up change tents, mirrors, tables, chairs, etc. Garment racks shared amongst several dancers are allowed, as are rack n roll bags, however we ask that everyone be respectful of each other and only bring what is *really* needed for your particular performance time.

- Absolutely **no food or drinks** allowed in any dressing rooms. A bottle of water is permitted. Any food or drinks found in dressing rooms will be confiscated, or the person will be asked to leave the room.
- Please do not leave any belongings, bags, or costumes in the dressing rooms overnight. Anything left in the dressing rooms will be removed.

Auditorium

- **No food or drinks** are permitted in the auditorium at any time.
- Due to Fire Regulations, all spectators must occupy a seat. Sitting in the aisles or front of auditorium is not permitted.
- Adjudicators are recording their comments. Unnecessary noise can be distracting to adjudicators as well as performers.
- Excessive noise from the audience can show up on the video adjudications. We welcome friendly applause but please refrain from screaming and shouting during performances.
- The Balcony is a quiet zone **at all times**.
- **No children or dancers are permitted in the Balcony.**
- Competing dancers, teachers, and parents are asked to demonstrate good sportsmanship and general support of all participants. We are here to have a fun and educational experience!

Video/Photography

- For dancer safety and to protect choreography, no recording devices of any kind are permitted in the auditorium. A professional photographer/videographer will be on site. Photos and select videos will be available for purchase, pending studio approval.
- The MJFD Committee reserves the right to record events and these recordings may be released for public viewing.
- Photography is permitted during adjudications between sessions and during the Awards Ceremony.

Stage Dimensions & Surface

- Participants are not permitted to use anything that will alter the condition of the stage for the next participants (e.g. liquids, gel, aerosol, glitter, flour, paper, hairspray, fog, smoke, oil, paint, etc.). If this occurs, participants may be disqualified. Rosin may be used in the Ballet section.
- A Rosco floor will be installed over the existing stage surface. This floor provides a safe surface for all dancers. Microphones will be installed in front of the stage to amplify tap sounds for the adjudicators.
- **STAGE DIMENSIONS: 32 feet left to right x 26 feet front to back**

Lost, Stolen, Damaged Property & Injury

- Do not leave valuables unattended anywhere.
- Please report any lost or stolen goods to the MJFD office.
- A lost & found box is located in the MJFD office.
- The MJFD Committee or host facility are not responsible or liable for any damages or loss which may be sustained while participating in any activity connected with this competition, no matter how caused, to either contestant or participants.
- The MJFD Committee or host facility are not responsible or liable for any personal injuries which may be sustained while participating in any activity connected with this competition, no matter how caused, to either contestant or participants.

Complaints, Concerns

- Any complaints with respect to a dance number must be submitted to the Compliance Officer or Office Team Leader within 60 minutes of the posting of marks for that category.
- Any complaints made in an improper or offensive manner or anyone approaching the adjudicator **may** face disqualification at the discretion of the Compliance Officer.
- The Compliance Officer reserves the right to disqualify any competitor infringing on the rules and any person who behaves in an inappropriate manner.

We are always interested in improving and receiving feedback. Please sign all letters so that we have the opportunity to respond to your concerns. Any other concerns or complaints may be received in person, on the phone, or in writing addressed to the Compliance Officer and can be mailed to:

c/o Compliance Officer, Moose Jaw Festival of Dance

Box 1184

Moose Jaw, SK S6H 4P9

Email: mjfdcompliance@gmail.com

Registration Information

Registration

- Age of participant is determined by age as of **December 31st, 2023**
- Pre-Registration will be available to attendees of Dance Inspirations 2023 until July 31, 2023. All pre-registrations must be entered prior to **November 30, 2023** to ensure availability.
- Open registration will begin **December 1st, 2023 and close January 7th, 2024** or once capacity is reached for additional studios and entries. Please enter early to avoid disappointment.

- All entries are to be submitted by online registrations via the Registration page on www.danceinspirations.ca.
- A total of 925 entries will be accepted for Dance Inspirations 2024 and entries will close once capacity has been reached.
- Late entries will not be accepted at the event.
- Each studio is allowed to enter:
 - 5 solo/duo/trios (combined) without any group entries. After that studios will receive:
 - 5 solo/duo/trio entries per 'small group' (4 to 9 dancers) entered.
 - 10 solo/duo/trio entries per 'large group' (10 or more dancers) entered.
- Independent entries will not be accepted, please see your studio for entry forms.
- Competitors may not compete against themselves. If a solo, duo/trio, or group wish to enter more than one routine in the same category, their 2nd routine must be placed in OPEN in that selected category, either in Junior (6-12 years) or Senior (13-18+ years). Open solo marks will not contribute to the dancer's aggregate mark. Entries in Open categories will be eligible for Open scholarships.
- Duos and trios will compete together in the same categories.
- All entries must be given a dance title and include names of participants in that dance. In fairness to all, dance titles that include any part of a dance studio's name or a play on the studio's name are not accepted.
- The MJFD Committee reserves the right to add or subtract days based on entry numbers.

Divisions

- The division refers to the number of dancers: solo, duo, trio, small group, large group, or open group.
 - **SOLO:** 1 dancer
 - **DUO:** 2 dancers
 - **TRIO:** 3 dancers
 - **SMALL GROUP:** 4 to 9 dancers
 - **SMALL GROUP OPEN:** 4 to 9 dancers
 - **LARGE GROUP:** 10 or more dancers
 - **LARGE GROUP OPEN:** 10 or more dancers

Age Groups

- **The MJFD reserves the right to split or combine categories or age groups according to number of entries received.**
- **SOLO:** The age of the participant as of midnight, December 31, 2023.
- **DUO/TRIO:** The age of the oldest participant. **DO NOT AVERAGE.** Age groups for duos/trios are combined: 5-6 years; 7-8 years; 9-10 years; 11-12 years; 13-14 years; 15-17 years; 18 years and over.

- **GROUPS:** Determined by the average age of all participants in the group to the nearest year. OPEN groups may include dancers of any age; however average age will be determined for placement in Junior or Senior.

5-6 years	11-12 years	18 years and over
7-8 years	13-14 years	OPEN Junior 6-12 years
9-10 years	15-17 years	OPEN Senior 13-18+ years

Entry Fees

SOLO	\$50.00 per dancer
DUO/TRIO	\$35.00 per dancer
ALL GROUPS	\$30.00 per dancer

- Payment by cheque or money order to be made to: **MOOSE JAW FESTIVAL OF DANCE**
- Payments of 50% must be postmarked by **February 1, 2024**.
- **Moose Jaw Festival of Dance will confirm final invoice amounts on or before March 15, 2024 with each studio. Final payment of entry fees is due March 31, 2024.** Late payments will incur a 5% late fee.
- If payment for entry fees is not received by **April 15, 2024**, the respective entries may be cancelled. The MJFD Treasurer will contact studios in arrears prior to April 15, 2024 to ensure fees are paid.
- **Late entries are subject to MJFD Committee approval and a 20% surcharge.**
- No cash payments will be accepted for entries.

Corrections, & Changes

Please pay close attention to the following dates to avoid disappointment.

- A Studio Entry Summary will be emailed to studios by **January 15, 2024**. Studio owners/teachers are asked to carefully review this summary to ensure your dancers/groups are in the correct age group, discipline, and that spelling is correct. **Corrections** must be submitted in writing by **January 31, 2024**.
- **Competition Schedules** will be emailed to studios by **March 11, 2024**. Changes and corrections, which are not on the error of the MJFD, must be submitted in writing by **March 18, 2024**. All requests must be approved by the MJFD committee.
- Any changes received after **March 18, 2024** will dance for **adjudication only** and will not receive a mark. These changes may not be printed in the program and may be announced only. Changes include moving categories, age groups or additional entries.
- Examples of allowed changes include changing the entry name of the group, or a change that adds/removes a dancer as long as the category, group size and age range remains the same.

Refund Policy

- There are no refunds for cancellation of entries **except** in the case of a medical reason.
- Refunds will be granted for medical reasons with a doctor's note only. Any requests for refunds, along with any doctor's notes, must be received no later than one week following competition.
- **Refunds will be issued to the studio only.** Studios will be responsible for ensuring refunds are credited to the respective family.

Competition Information

Changes & Cancellations During Dance Inspirations

- All routines will be performed in their scheduled order unless approved by the Compliance Officer. Routines performed outside of their scheduled time may receive a **5-point deduction** at the discretion of the Compliance Officer.
- Changes and cancellations during Dance Inspirations must be submitted to the Backstage Manager immediately so music and marking sheets can be changed. No email submissions accepted during Dance Inspirations.
- Any category changes or routines performed in an incorrect category, which are not on the error of the MJFD Committee, will receive a **5-point deduction**.

Missing Dancers & Substitutions

- Substitutions and missing dancers in groups are permitted but must not affect the age or division of the original entry. Substitutions must be communicated to the Backstage Manager prior to the beginning of the session.
- Missing dancers that affect the group's division (large to small, small to trio, duo/trio to solo) will dance in the original category as entered.
- When submitting changes for groups, please include the entry number, age group, and the dancer's names that are missing/substituted.

Re-Dances, Mark Infractions & Disqualifications

- If a competitor 10 years or younger runs off stage before the performance is completed, they may re-dance with no penalty.
- If a competitor 11 years and older runs off stage before the performance is completed, they may re-dance **but** will receive a **5-point deduction**.
- Re-dances for technical difficulties will not be penalized.
- There may be a **5-point deduction** from the original mark for each overtime infraction.
- There may be a **5-point deduction or disqualification** at the sole discretion of the adjudicators for the following: **inappropriate language in songs, suitability of the music, gestures in routines, or inappropriate costuming.**

- Props requiring lengthy setup time (over 3 minutes) or excessive lead-ins may result in a **5-point timing infraction**.

Props & Costumes

- Set up and take down of props should be done within a reasonable amount of time (under 3 minutes).
- Please be considerate of other dancers, teachers, and studios and be mindful of the limited space in the backstage area. Props cannot be stored backstage or interfere with any other performances.
- If you require the curtains to be closed to allow for a quicker set up of props, please let the Backstage Manager know as soon as possible.
- Props are **not** permitted in the Classical Ballet category with the exception of Nursery Rhymes and Repertoire Ballet.
- For Repertoire Ballet, props must be part of the choreography and handheld only.
- Elaborate props are welcome in the Production category. Please inform the MJFD committee of required set up and take down times when registering so that the committee may properly schedule any Production entries.
- Set examination dances are not permitted.
- Oral explanations of a dance are not permitted.
- Costuming is optional.

Adjudication

- The MJFD Committee hires adjudicators who specialize in different dance styles. Each adjudicator will judge a set of categories that best fit their training and expertise. Each session will have two adjudicators judging their respective categories.
- Each entry will receive written and video adjudications along with their percentage mark, unless entry is for adjudication only.
- Video adjudications will be sent with studios at the end of competition.
- Participants are asked to attend the on-stage adjudications and awards presentations held at the end of each session.

Scoring

- Dance Inspirations participants will be adjudicated and receive a score out of 100 based on the following criteria:
 - **60% Technique:** Execution of dance steps at appropriate skill level with proper posture and control
 - **30% Stage Presence, Artistry, and Musicality:** Good projection and visual appeal, flow of movement with music and appropriate timing
 - **10% Overall Impression:** Quality of performance

- Using this formula, adjudicators will give a percentage mark and all participants in each routine will be presented with an award for their achievement.
- Within a category, no ties are permitted for highest mark (first place), however, ties in second and third places may result.

Achievement System

96% and over: Diamond Plus

90 to 95.99%: Diamond

85 to 89.99%: Ruby

80 to 84.99%: Sapphire

70 to 79.99%: Emerald

- At the end of each session, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placements will be announced in all categories. Solos/duos/trios placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in their categories will receive a medal. These can be picked up at the Awards Table during competition or will be sent in studio packages at the end of the event.
- All solos, duos, and trios will receive a pin representing their award level. These can be picked up at the Awards Table during competition or will be sent in studio packages at the end of the event.
- Groups will also receive pins; these are sent in studio packages at the end of the event.
- All Diamond Plus awards will be announced and presented on-stage, even if the participant has not placed in the top 3 of their category. Groups winning a Diamond Plus award will receive a plaque and solos/duos/trios will receive a trophy.

Scholarships & Awards

- Some solo scholarships require group participation or multiple solos for eligibility.
- The scholarship list will be printed in the back of the Dance Inspirations program book.
- Special awards and some scholarships will be presented at an awards ceremony following the Dance Challenge on Sunday.
- The final scholarship winners list will be posted on our website www.danceinspirations.ca as soon as possible following the event.
- Scholarships are intended for furthering dance education.
- Age divisions for scholarships and awards are as follows:
 - **Junior:** 6-10 years
 - **Intermediate:** 11-14 years
 - **Senior:** 15-18 years
 - **19 and over**

Time Limits

- Timing is critical and time limits are strictly enforced. Routines are timed from the first choreographed movement until the participant leaves the stage. There may be a **5-point deduction** from the original mark for an overtime infraction. Maximum time limits for routines are as follows:
 - **Solos:** 3 minutes
 - **Duos/Trios:** 3 minutes
 - **Small Groups:** 5 minutes
 - **Large/Open Groups:** 7 minutes
 - **Productions:** 8-15 minutes

Dance Challenge

- The Dance Challenge will be held after regular competition is finished, typically on Sunday afternoon (Time TBA). There is no additional cost to enter.
- Dance Challenge rules and entry requirements will be posted on the website and sent to studios. Please watch for more information!

Music

- Music instructions will be sent out at a later date.

Backstage Information

Only dancers, teachers, and authorized personnel/volunteers are allowed backstage. All non-competitors must be wearing a lanyard authorizing them to be backstage. No competitors are permitted in Teacher only areas. If any parents are helping to move/set up props, please notify the Backstage Manager.

Backstage Registration

- Studios are responsible to ensure their solo/duo/trio dancers report backstage 30 minutes before their session begins and be in place come time to dance. It is not the Backstage Manager's nor the volunteer's job to find competitors.
- Studios are responsible to ensure groups report to the Line-up Coordinator downstairs.
- Groups will be gathered in the Choral Room when their entry number is displayed on the whiteboard.
- It is not the Line-up Coordinator's job to find groups. Groups will be sent backstage from the Choral Room.

Dancer Supervision

- Groups aged 12 & under must have either an adult or a capable student supervisor who is responsible for their conduct in the school building, backstage, and having the group prepared when called. Groups cannot be in the wing area until they are called.

- Solo, duo, and trio competitors under age 10 must be chaperoned backstage by a teacher, teacher assistant, or designated person with lanyard.

Practicing

- Practicing is not permitted on stage or behind the backstage curtains at any time.
- No practicing in the corridors during regular school hours 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday thru Friday.
- Ground floor corridors and the student lounge are generally available for practicing during evenings and the weekend, providing no other events are taking place within the school.
- Please be respectful of all practice space and let other studios have a turn to practice.

Tap Shoes

- Tap shoes are allowed in Tap, Broadway, Musical Theatre, Variety, and Production categories. **Due to Schoolboard regulations, we ask that tap shoes be worn on stage only.**
- Please carry tap shoes or keep taps covered at all other times.

Categories

Acrodance

This category is for a dance routine that demonstrates controlled movements and acrobatic tricks along with dance. The majority of the routine must consist of acrobatic moves and tricks.

Broadway

This category is for a performance that includes **live voice only (no lip syncing)** to the instrumental music. Routines must contain at least 30% dance steps in their presentation. Microphones will not be available.

Musical Theatre

Any dance medium portraying a theme through acting, lip syncing, dramatization, and/or mime. Live voice is allowed in this category provided it is not the main focus of the routine. Routines must contain at least 30% dance steps.

Classical Ballet: Soft Slipper & Pointe

This category is for a dance that uses any recognized classical technique and is interpretive of the music. Classical Ballet is choreographed to **instrumental music with no lyrics** and has two categories, Soft Slipper and Pointe. Pointe shoes must be worn in the Classical Pointe category. A minimum age of 11 years old is required for dancers to compete in the Classical Pointe category. **For Repertoire Ballet**, props must be part of the choreography and handheld only.

Classical Ballet: Nursery Rhyme

This category is for a dance that portrays a character from a Nursery Rhyme and is choreographed to **instrumental music with no lyrics**. The Nursery Rhyme category is only for dancers who are 5 years old. Props are permitted.

Character Ballet

Character dance is a term used to describe the various national and folk dances from around the world, which often form part of ballet. Character dances have a strong rhythm which reflects their folk origins. This style of dance often uses different steps in classical ballet, expanding the student's dancing ability and reinforcing basic techniques. Anyone wishing to enter ethnic-national dances such as Mazurka, Kalinka, Flamenco, etc., must enter in this category.

Demi-Character Ballet

A dance that portrays a character or tells a story and develops the character through dance in the classical form. Dancers must use classical ballet technique from the waist down and portray the character with upper body only. Repertoire Ballet may also fall under this category. Props are permitted. May be performed on Demi-Pointe or Pointe.

Hip Hop

This category is for dance that consists of street style dancing using styles like hip-hop, street, funk, house, breaking, popping, locking, krumping, stepping, social dancing, etc. **Music and choreography must be appropriate for a family audience. Inappropriate language in songs or gestures in routines may result in a 5-point deduction at the adjudicator's discretion.**

Jazz

Modern or classical jazz dance. A maximum of 3 acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category. Anything else may result in a 5-point deduction at the adjudicator's discretion. When more than one dancer completes a trick at the same time, that is counted as one trick. Partner lifts do not count as an acrobatic trick.

Lyrical

A dance that uses primarily jazz technique and incorporates a sense of balance and control to express emotion. Special attention is given to the song lyrics, the choreography interprets the music. **A minimum age of 11 years old is required for dancers to compete.**

Contemporary

A routine that draws on newer philosophies of movement that depart from classical technique, omitting structured form and movement. This style demonstrates fluidity, balance, floor work, fall/recovery, improvisation, and expresses emotion. **A minimum age of 11 years is required for dancers to compete.**

Modern

A dance using Modern technique developed under the influences of Graham, Limon, Horton, etc. This style shows specific body movements, use of contraction/release, and abstract movement. **A minimum age of 11 years is required for dancers to compete.**

Tap

This category is for a dance that produces varying rhythmic patterns. Emphasis in this category is on tap technique and not character, jazz, and acrobatics. Dance must contain at least 80% tap steps. No pre-recorded tap sounds or jingle taps are permitted.

Variety

Any routines that do not fit into a defined category, typically containing dance steps from two or more categories.

Productions

Productions are restricted to one entry per studio. Production numbers are typically large choreographies that tell a story or are built around a theme. If using elaborate props or scenery, please inform the MJFD committee of required set up and take down times when registering so that the committee may properly schedule any Production entries.

THE DECISION OF THE MOOSE JAW FESTIVAL OF DANCE IN ALL MATTERS ARISING OUT OF AND NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THESE POLICIES AND GUIDELINES SHALL BE FINAL