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This is a letter of introduction and invitation to participate in the 22nd Annual Dance Championships, the competition industry's premiere local dance competition. Since 1988, we have been featuring quality, competitive dance throughout upstate New York.

Today's tough economy has had a devastating effect on family budgets, but it does not mean that your studio has to compromise the quality you have come to expect from the nation's elite dance competitions. Since we are a family-owned and operated business, we can afford to meet your high expectations while saving you 37 to 55 percent off the national averages. Furthermore, we have frozen prices at last year's level because we understand the major impact that even a minor increase can have in this economy.

NEW for 2010

- Judges' critiques will continue to be digitally produced and transferred to a flash drive, free of charge, for timeliness and convenience. Studios entering 10 routines or less will receive their critiques on compact disc (CD).

Rules

- For the first time this year, all photography (including digital cameras and cell phones) and video cameras will be prohibited during the performance of any routine. Due to the advancement of technology, coupled with the studios' continued request to protect a choreographer's intellectual property, we will be adopting this industry-standard prohibition to improve enforcement. Consequently, we are no longer offering the option to videotape your studio's routines for a fee.
- All production routines will compete for a trophy. Where there are three (3) or more routines, a \$100 prize will also be included.

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.

BUFFALO, NY COMPETITION

West Seneca East Elementary School
May 14, 15 and 16, 2010

ENTRY DEADLINE: Apr. 9, 2010

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

There was a time when dance competitions thrilled competitors and the audience alike with difficult routines in crowded dance categories and suspense regarding final placement. This thrill has been muted in recent years by a dizzying number of dance categories, skill levels and placement options. These depleted dance categories qualify nearly every routine for national finals but virtually guarantee little competition within any specific dance category. The Dance Championships preserves the glory of winning 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.

Sincerely,
Derek Kilborn,
Jennifer Gargiulo,
& Natalie Andrzejewski
DIRECTORS

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;
- 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;
- 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;
- A 'Teacher Choreography' 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;
- 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. We have also added an extended production category. See the rules for an explanation;
- 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 FREE of charge;
- 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.