

32nd Canberra Dance Festival 2026

Read the 2026 syllabus carefully, as there are major changes,
new sections, and a new scholarship structure.

Website: canberradancefestival.com

Over \$30,000+ in Cash and Prizes

Adjudicators

Pete Evans

Dates

4-8 June 2026

11-14 June 2026

Group Dates

6-7 June 2026

Venue

Erindale Theatre, McBride Cres, Wanniassa ACT

*Dates and venues are subject to change

Online registration via: canberradancefestival.com

(Entries will not be accepted without payment)

ENTRIES CLOSE 19TH APRIL OR WHEN FULL

LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Correspondence

If you have questions, check the syllabus first, then ask your studio manager, as they may have the answer.

Only studio managers are to contact the CDF Committee.

All information regarding scheduling and the competition will be either on the website or will be sent to you by email with the subject line 'CDF Important Information' Ensure to check your Junk/Spam folder.

We look forward to seeing you at the Festival

Rules and Conditions

All correspondence with the Canberra Dance Festival (CDF) Committee must come from your studio manager.

1. General Information:

- CDF Management can overrule any of the below rules at any time. CDF shall decide on any matter not covered by these rules, and its decision on any questions or disputes shall be final
- Competitors enter at their own risk. CDF accepts no responsibility for loss of property, accident or injury to any persons associated with the event, either as a competitor, volunteer, or a member of the general public, at any time
- No prompting during any performance to 'coach' the entrant, except by the adjudicator
- No competitor over 10 can re-attempt a routine unless at the request of the adjudicator
- Sections with less than 3 entries will be combined with similar styles, categories or ages
- No repertoire in any section is permitted except for the Ballet Variation.
- As requested by Erindale Management, rosin is not to be used during CDF.
- As requested by Erindale Management, there is to be no rehearsing in any hallways or foyers in the college.
- CDF reserves the right to change competition days and locations due to unforeseen circumstances, and entries will not be refunded.

2. Adjudicator:

- The adjudicator's decision is final
- No one is to approach or speak to the adjudicator or adjudicator table staff
- If an adjudicator is unable to perform their duties, CDF will appoint a new adjudicator.

3. Entries:

- ENTRIES CLOSE 19TH APRIL 2026 OR when competition is full
- Entries can only be made via the online portal, payment is by credit card. Please note, a small surcharge will be applied upon checkout.
- Unpaid and partially paid entries will not be accepted until fully paid.
- Entry fees:
 - \$25 Administration fee per competitor
 - \$27 per solo routine
 - \$40 per duo/trio routine ([how to enter Duo/Trios in MyCompsHQ](#))
 - \$45 per group routine
 - \$150 per Classical, Contemporary and Theatrical Scholarship entry (includes class). See rule number 8 for more information on scholarships.
- All competitor Administration fees include the following items: digital program, audio critique, door entry for Solos Sessions Only (does not include group sessions).

4. Refund Policy:

- Refunds will not be given unless the Committee cancels a section completely, or you qualify for a medical refund. Medical refunds require a doctor's certificate. A \$25 administration fee will be held, and the balance refunded.

5. Age Groups:

- Solo, Duo/Trios and Scholarships Age is the first day of the competition: 4 June 2026
- Group age is based on ages as of 1 January 2026 and is determined by the oldest competitor in the group. Up to two competitors may be one year above the age division
- Duos/trios must dance at the age of the oldest competitor
- Solo competitors may compete one age division higher if the section is not offered in their age division.
- Proof of age must be available for each competitor if requested by CDF.

6. Categories:

- **Solos:** Soloists may compete once per section and once per category. Dancers may not enter both Open and Restricted divisions of the same style (e.g. Open Jazz and Restricted Jazz), but may enter different styles (e.g. Open Jazz and Restricted Tap)
- **Restricted:** Competitors who have never won a first prize in that section at any age (except 6 & under and 18 & over) at any competition, Festival or Eisteddfod up to the closing date of the entries. The restriction applies to the section title, not to the competitor's routine.
- **Open:** Competitors who have won first prize in that section in any age group (except 6/u and 18/o) at any competition up to the closing date of the entries. Competitors may enter the open category if they have not won a restricted section in that section.
- **Additional Needs:** A supportive section for performers with additional needs or disabilities.
- **Duos/Trios:** Competitors may dance up to 2 times with different partners per section. Competitors must enter at the age of the eldest competitor. [Important information on how to enter Duo/Trios into MyCompHQ.](#)
- **Groups:**
 - Minimum of four dancers
 - Maximum of three groups per studio per section
 - All dancers must be amateur performers - (exception adult groups)
 - Each group receives recordings of the adjudicator's comments and a trophy
 - Presentations will be onstage at the conclusion of each session
 - You do not need to enter each dancer's name into MyCompHQ for group sections
 - Group marking scheme:
 - Highly Commended (up to 65 points)
 - Excellence (66 to 80 points)
 - Outstanding (81 to 90 points)
 - Superior (91 points and up).

7. Prizes and Awards:

- Solo, duo/trio sections will be awarded as follows:
 - 1 - 3 competitors - 1 prize
 - 4 - 5 competitors - 2 prizes
 - 6 - 10 competitors - 3 prizes
 - 11 - 14 competitors - 4 prizes
 - 15+ competitors - 5 prizes
- Prizes may be adjusted if withdrawals occur
- Prizes will include cash, gift cards, scholarships, gifts, medals, ribbons or trophies
- Scholarship - Cash and trophy for winner and runner-up
- Groups will receive a trophy and report with a ranking and score
- The Adjudicator may withhold any placing if they feel a suitable standard has not been met.
- Perpetual awards must be returned before the commencement of the next competition:
 - Audrey Callanan Theatrical Award (Encouragement Award for a Theatrical Dancer)
 - Betsy Sawers Classical Award (Encouragement Award for a Classical Dancer)
 - Sandra Griffin Junior Dancer Award (Encouragement Award for a 12/u Dancer).

8. Styles (no Repertoire in any dance permitted, except Ballet Variation sections):

- **Acrobatic** - combines dance technique with precision acrobatic elements
- **Ballet** - choreography must contain ballet technique and steps
- **Ballet Variation** - a repertoire solo, for example, Sugar Plum Fairy or Siegfried
- **Broadway Jazz** - should contain jazz techniques in a cabaret style song
- **Commercial Contemporary** - a fusion of contemporary technique with commercial dance elements, featuring dynamic movement, sharp accents, and strong performance quality.
- **Demi Character** - must involve or resemble a character dance that uses classical technique as a basis for interpretation
- **Hip Hop** - choreography containing the foundations of hip hop
- **Jazz** - choreography containing movements based on Jazz Technique
- **Lyrical** - choreography containing expressive movements interpretation via a song's lyrics
- **Musical Theatre** - a live presentation from a stage or film musical. Can include singing, dialogue and dance
- **National Character** - may also include Dutch Clog, Irish, Highland and Scottish
- **Song & Dance** - The routine must contain both singing and dancing. Vocal backing is not allowed in the 'vocal' portion of the routine. However, vocals may be included when dancing
- **Tap** - any style or tempo of tap (No pre-recorded tapping sound routines)
- **Traditional Contemporary** - classical and modern techniques, with emphasis on fluidity, control, strength and seamless movement
- **Vocal** - can be a song from any piece, performer may or may not choose to use a microphone.

9. Scholarships

Competitors:

- Must attend a 1-hour class and perform a solo in the style of their scholarship.
- Must appear at their scheduled times and cannot perform out of order
- Are permitted to repeat their Scholarship solo in the solo sections
- Are not required to qualify in a solo section to enter the scholarship.

Classical Scholarship details:

- Classical Ballet, Variation or Demi Character.

Classical Class

- Female competitors must wear:
 - Ballet Flats, Pink tights, Black leotard
 - Skirts and shorts are not permitted.
- Male Competitors must wear:
 - White ballet flats, white mid length socks, white Leotard/shirt, black tights.

Contemporary Scholarship details:

- Contemporary.

Contemporary Class

- Competitors must wear:
 - Black leotard or singlet top with black leggings or footless black tights
 - Bare feet, nude or black socks, foot thongs, turners or ballet flats.

Theatrical Scholarship details:

- Tap, Jazz, Broadway Jazz, Musical Theatre, Lyrical, Hip Hop, Song and Dance.

Theatrical Jazz Class

- Competitors must wear:
 - Jazz Shoes, black leotard, singlet top or crop top with Tan or black stocking, black shorts or black leggings.

10. Time Limits:

- Competitors exceeding these limits (including taking on and off props) will be penalised
- Solos and Duos/Trios - 3 minutes
- Song and dance (solos/duo/trios) - 3.5 minutes
- Groups - 5 minutes. Production Groups - 10 minutes.

11. Props:

- Props can be used. It is the entrant's responsibility to bring them on/off the stage
- CDF takes no responsibility for any props left at the theatre.

12. Music:

- Music is only to be uploaded to MyCompHQ
- No backup vocals permitted during a singing section of the song and dance
- CDF will not be held responsible for any infringement of copyright, royalty or privacy laws by individual performers or persons associated with the performance
- Performers are responsible for having backup music (backup on a USB, phone or laptop).

13. Critiques:

- Audio critiques will be uploaded to the performer's portal on MyCompHQ.

14. Backstage:

- Check-in at the front desk upon arrival
- Check in backstage before your section
- All performers must always follow the direction of backstage crew members
- During scholarship sections, only scholarship participants will be allowed backstage.

15. Admittance:

- Studios are eligible for 5 teacher passes, to be collected at the venue
- Competitors admitted free of charge on days they are competing (EXCLUDING GROUP DAYS)
- General admission prices are listed below (all entry prices are per session):
 - Adults per Session \$20.00
 - Concession per session \$15.00
 - Adult Day pass excluding Group days \$50
 - Concession Day pass excluding Group days \$35.

16. Photography & Video:

- Professional Photography and Video services will be available for purchase in the foyer
- The theatre prohibits the use of photography, videography or any recording device within the theatre, including the dressing rooms. Failure to comply with this regulation contravenes copyright and privacy regulations and will result in immediate disqualification.

17. Protests

- The Adjudicator's decision is final.
- The Committee reserves the right to adjudicate in any conflict and its decision is final
- Protests must be lodged within thirty minutes of the section's adjudication. The protest must be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee, which is non-refundable if the protest is not upheld.

Canberra Dance Festival

2026 Sponsorship

This year marks the 32nd Canberra Dance Festival, proudly continuing as Canberra's longest-running and most beloved dance competition. Known for its friendly and inclusive atmosphere, the festival prioritises celebrating the love of dance, bringing together over 2,000 competitors and 6,000 spectators from across Canberra and interstate.

The festival offers a wonderful opportunity for your business to engage with a vibrant community of dancers, families, teachers, and dance enthusiasts.

Ways You Can Support the Festival

- Monetary contributions
- Vouchers for dancewear or dance workshops
- Dancewear or costume items for prizes and scholarships

Scholarship Sponsorship- If there is a particular scholarship section you would like to sponsor, we would love to discuss this with you.

Sponsorship Tiers

We have designed several sponsorship packages to provide businesses with valuable promotional opportunities throughout the festival.

Platinum Sponsor – \$800+

- Two full-page advertisements in our live program
- Link to your website on the CDF website
- Logo featured on the CDF website and social media
- Live announcements throughout the event

Gold Sponsor – \$400+

- One full-page advertisement in our live program
- Link to your website on the CDF website
- Logo featured on the CDF website and social media
- Live announcements throughout the event

Silver Sponsor – \$200+

- Half-page advertisement in our live program
- Link to your website on the CDF website
- Logo featured on the CDF website and social media
- Live announcements throughout the event

Bronze Sponsor – \$100+

- Quarter-page advertisement in our live program
- Link to your website on the CDF website
- Logo featured on the CDF website and social media
- Live announcements throughout the event

Additional Opportunities

Sponsors are also invited to set up a stall during the event, particularly on Group Days (June 7–8), which attract high foot traffic and provide an excellent opportunity to engage directly with dancers and families.

Stall holders must be a Silver Tier sponsor or above.

Why Sponsor the Canberra Dance Festival?

Your support plays an important role in the success of the festival while helping to support and celebrate dance within our community. Sponsorship also provides your business with valuable exposure and the opportunity to be associated with a cherished local event that has supported young performers for over three decades.

We are also happy to discuss bespoke sponsorship packages to suit your specific advertising or marketing goals.

Next Steps

If you would like to sponsor the festival, please send through your advertising artwork, social media tiles, and logo at your earliest convenience so we can begin promoting your business ahead of the event.

We would love the opportunity to work together to make the 2026 Canberra Dance Festival a memorable success for everyone involved.