

DanceCo Festival Information

What Are They?

The easiest way to explain Dance Festivals is to say that it is a Dance Competition with the competitiveness taken out. Each child receives recognition – typically in the form of a bronze, silver, or gold medal. (In some instances a merit, or a high gold, may be awarded.)

How Do They Work?

The group is placed in a category with dancers of similar age and ability. They perform their dance number on stage and an adjudicator (judge) awards them a percentage based on their performance. This percentage determines what type of medal they will receive. The adjudicator bases their decision on what expectations he (or she) has of dancers at the age and ability level. He (or she) does not base their decision on other groups in that category.

The scheduling is broken down into time slots (or categories) that are usually ½ hour to 1 hour of various performances. At the end of each time slot all the dancers go back up on stage for adjudication. At this time the adjudicator comes up on stage with the dancers and provides them with some feedback on their performance, as well as informing them of what their medal standing was. The festival organizers will distribute the medals at this time.

How Are They Scheduled?

Festivals are run slightly different depending on the company organizing each one. However, they usually operate from 9 am to 9 pm during the designated days. All dance studios are required to have their information (regarding which classes and dancers are going to participate) and all their funds, submitted prior to specific deadlines (typically January 1st of each year). The festival organizers review all the submissions and develop a timeline from that point. In early spring they will send out exact dates and times as to when each class will dance. There is always the chance that your child may end up being scheduled during school hours. Unfortunately we cannot provide any refunds, as the organizers have no other way of processing the information. They have to receive the forms and funds guaranteeing participation from the studios before they can prepare their schedule. For this reason they will not provide refunds as doing so could ultimately change the whole schedule.

How Much Time Does It Take?

We expect our dancers to arrive at the festival location at least one hour prior to their performance time, with hair, make-up, and costuming complete. Most festivals are divided into ½ hour to 1-hour increments. At the end of each section, adjudication takes place. Dancers do not have to stay for adjudication, but it is highly recommended. Depending on who the adjudicator is, this process can take from 10 minutes to 20 minutes. So overall, we suggest to all our families that they allow at least two hours for being at each festival.

Why Do We Participate In Them?

Dance Festivals provide excellent opportunities for dancers to enhance their performing abilities by dancing on stage, in front of an audience.

They also receive feedback from the adjudicator with regards to their strong areas, as well as areas where there is room for improvement. The feedback is always given in a positive manner and often the adjudicator will provide the dancers with some excellent tips and techniques as to how to further develop and improve their performing skills.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- We expect all our parents, dancers, and teachers to be encouraging at all times. Although you may not agree with the adjudicator's decision or comments, we count on good sportsmanship from everyone. We also expect only positive comments regarding all performers. Regardless of the age, level or studio dancers are from, it takes an incredible amount of courage to get up on stage in front of an audience and dance. All performers should be commended for this.
- The festival organizers do not allow any type of photography (video or still) in the theatre. Doing so can result in disqualification of the entire group and/or studio. Some festivals have videos and still photos available for purchase.
- Most festivals/competitions now charge admission. It is usually approx. \$5 per person.

TENTATIVE DATES:

Artist's Emerge	March 12 & 13	Jubilee Auditorium (solos/duets at Royal Alberta Museum)
Group Dress Rehearsal	March 23	Arden Theatre, St. Albert
Standing Ovation	April 10 & 11	Red Deer Arts Centre
Dance Extreme	April 14 to 18	Festival Place, Sherwood Park
Veeteretz	April 26 to 29	Dow Centennial, Fort Saskatchewan
Dance Jam	April 30 to May 2	Dow Centennial, Fort Saskatchewan
Cheremosh	May 6 to 9	Arden Theatre, St. Albert
Standing Ovation	May 14 to May 17	Dow Centennial, Fort Saskatchewan