

Oct. 3, 2009

Dear Sponsor:

Enclosed are forms and information regarding auditions for the Student Showcase of the Illinois High School Dance Festival. There have been some changes this year, so please review material carefully.

Auditions will take place on Saturday, February 20th 2010 at Buffalo Grove High School in Buffalo Grove.

We are asking that those wanting to audition please **email the application forms to michellecarrison@yahoo.com no later than February 1st!!!** You will receive a return email within 48 hours to confirm that your application was received and time slots will be assigned one week prior to the audition. If you need to request a particular time of the day, please do so at the time of application and we will try to accommodate you.

At this time we ask that all sponsors stress the importance of auditioning only ORIGINAL, STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHED WORKS. It is also necessary for those chosen to perform in the Showcase to make all applicable changes to their piece as recommended by the judges. Any school that fails to adhere to the rules will not be invited to audition the following year.

We hope that students who are not chosen to perform in the Showcase are nevertheless encouraged to register to attend the festival as it is meant to inspire and motivate them in future endeavors.

We hope that by communicating via email we can serve our sponsors in a prompt and efficient manner. Thanks you for participating and good luck at auditions!

Michelle Carrison

Jamie Misius

THE ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL DANCE FESTIVAL **STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY AUDITIONS!!!!**

This year's Illinois' High School Dance Festival will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at Riverside-Brookfield High School. The Student Choreography Showcase is made up of between 9 and 12 dances that perform at the end of the day at the Festival. This annual showcase is a wonderful opportunity for your students, as it features the state's standout high school choreographers and performers.

AUDITION INFORMATION FOR 2010:

- WHEN:** Saturday, February 20, 2010
- WHERE:** Buffalo Grove High School
- TIME:** 20 minute audition time slots per school
(slots begin at 8:30am and go until 4:30pm)
- WHO:** Any Illinois high school can audition up to:
2 STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHED DANCES,
however, only 1 dance per school can be selected
- SELECTION:** 3 Chicago area professional judges will select dances
for the showcase as well as placing these dances in a
show order.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AUDITIONING:

- 1. Your group must submit a deposit of \$100 before or upon auditioning in order to audition. This non-refundable deposit will be deducted from your school's registration fees for the Festival. Because audition time is limited, this deposit is an effort to ensure that schools have good faith intentions of attending the Festival, regardless of showcase selections.**
- 2. Please make checks payable to the ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL DANCE FESTIVAL. They can be mailed to Michelle Carrison at Buffalo Grove High School.**
- 3. Please note: you WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AUDITION if the deposit is not in either before or at the auditions.**
- 4. Please email Michelle Carrison to reserve an audition time slot. Please copy and paste the forms and forward them to me no later than February 1st' You will receive a confirmation form once your email is received.**

Michelle Carrison, Buffalo Grove High School,

Any questions? Call me at or email me at michellecarrison@yahoo.com

Illinois High School Dance Festival Showcase Application

Return by February 1st!!!!

To: Michelle Carrison
Buffalo Grove High School
michellecarrison@yahoo.com
FAX:

Director: _____

Director's school #: _____ School fax: _____

Home #: _____ EMAIL: _____

School name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code _____

Principal's name: _____ Superintendent's name: _____

Audition Information

1st Dance to audition:

Title: _____

Style of Dance:

JAZZ MODERN BALLET TAP HIP HOP OTHER

LENGTH: _____ SONG TITLE: _____

COMPOSER: _____

CHOREOGRAPHER(S): _____

DANCERS: _____

2nd Dance to audition:

Title: _____

Style of Dance:

JAZZ MODERN BALLET TAP HIP HOP OTHER

LENGTH: _____ SONG TITLE: _____

COMPOSER: _____

CHOREOGRAPHER(S): _____

DANCERS: _____

Please check one:

_____ We will attend the auditions on February 20. Please send us a map and audition info..

_____ We will be sending a videotape to audition (*tape must be received by February 19)*

***Performance videos submitted should be without any special stage lighting/cues and must be performed by current high school dancers from the current school year.**

DO NOT CHECK (FOR AUDITION CHAIRS ONLY)

_____ \$100 deposit has been submitted to the Illinois High School Dance Festival.

RULES FOR SHOWCASE SELECTION AND PERFORMANCE

(if chosen)

Approved by Illinois State Dance Festival Steering Committee

1. ALL PIECES MUST BE STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHED, WITH ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY.
2. **A \$100 deposit has been submitted prior to audition. This will be deducted from registration total.**
3. Only one dance per school may be selected.
4. No special lighting is allowed at the auditions; **this rule also applies to videotape submissions.**
5. All schools must set and strike their own props and set pieces. (if applicable-you will be held responsible for any damage to the stage).
6. You will have a total of 20 minutes to stage and perform both your dances.
7. All schools must arrive at Buffalo Grove at least 30 minutes ahead of their audition time. It is possible that the pace of the auditions can change throughout the day so all schools should be prepared and flexible.
8. All schools will be judged anonymously by 3 professional judges from the Chicago area. All schools will receive their judging forms within a week of the auditions.
9. As each school takes the stage, they should briefly space their dance and then the choreographers should come forward and introduce themselves and their piece to the judges. (DO NOT SAY YOUR SCHOOL'S NAME.).
10. The Music must be on a CD. Please bring a CD back up as well. All sponsors are responsible for operating their own sound at the auditions.
11. All schools selected for the showcase will be notified on Saturday, February 20, no later than 10:00PM. Schools selected will receive corrections from the judges and are EXPECTED to make them prior to the festival.
12. The dance selected by the judges cannot be altered in any way for the performance other than what the judges suggested.
13. All schools selected will be expected to attend a staging rehearsal the day of the festival to confirm lights and rehearse their pieces.
14. Schools may audition live or via video tape. ***Performance videos submitted should be without any special stage lighting/cues and must be performed by current high school dancers from the current school year.** Although the committee understands that conflicts do arise, it is beneficial to the total educational experience that schools make every effort to attend the auditions at Buffalo Grove High School.
15. Schools selected will be expected to act professionally both backstage and onstage.
16. Judges will be instructed to prioritize their selections based on quality first, variety second. Aside from making the showcase selections, judges will also place the showcase dances in the show.
17. **IF SELECTED FOR THE SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE, ALL DANCERS MUST BE REGISTERED AND ATTEND THE FESTIVAL AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DANCE CLASSES PRIOR TO THE SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE.**

ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL DANCE FESTIVAL SHOWCASE SELECTION CRITERIA

To provide a positive educational experience for all who attend the festival, the following factors will govern the selection of the Showcase dances:

- 1. Original student choreography.** All dances must be choreographed by a CURRENT high school student.
- 2. Technique of the dancers.** Extension, placement, control, rhythm, energy and focus.
- 3. Presentation.** Dancers' appearance, costumes, and clarity of performance.
- 4. Quality of the choreography.** Development of a theme or idea; body design, combinations, floor patterns, originality, creativity, and accompaniment.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE STATED CRITERIA WILL RESULT IN NO LONGER BEING ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE SHOWCASE AUDITIONS. PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ABOVE CRITERIA IS DETRIMENTAL IN THE JUDGES DECISIONS FOR SHOWCASE.

*****Judges will select dances based on quality first, variety second.*****

The showcase judges will be faced with very difficult decisions. In order to provide a positive educational experience for all who audition, we encourage schools to audition live; however, we understand that conflicts do arise and we do allow schools to send in a videotape. ***Performance videos submitted should be without any special stage lighting/cues and must be performed by current high school dancers from the current school year.** We realize that many of the judgments made are highly subjective and are therefore open to question and criticism. The judges will try to select dances that are of the highest quality, as well as those which will add variety to the performance. We wish to remind all applicants that the Showcase is NOT A COMPETITION-there are no BEST dances, no first or second place. Such a competition would be against the spirit and the educational philosophy of the Festival. The Showcase is simply a means of exposing dance students to the trends in dance education across the state. While being chosen for the Showcase will undoubtedly bring a sense of school pride, priority should be given to being receptive to new ideas presented in the dance classes and to return home with experiences to share and nurture. It is hoped that those groups who audition but are not chosen for the Showcase performance will still receive feedback from the judge's critique sheets that they will find useful. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us.

Sincerely,

Michelle Carrison
Showcase Co-Chair

Jamie Misius
Showcase Co-Chair