

What are the Judges looking for in my audition?

Technique - Think about your skill level and choose a solo which shows you off to your best advantage. Everything begins with clean technique and beautiful lines, no matter what skill level you are at. Keep in mind that one or two beautifully placed turns are much better than quadruple turns that are sloppy.

Presentation – We want your dancing to show confidence and a strong stage presence. In your audition, dance as if you are on stage and not in your dance studio! Don't look down; but rather out at your audience.

Musicality and Phrasing - Are you expressing the ability to listen and physically express the rhythm, melody, nuance, and character of the music through the choreography? Take your time to listen to the subtleties in the music. Find the dynamics in the music, along with the choreography.

Artistry - Is the audience feeling the connection, and sincerity of your performance? There needs to be an emotional connection between yourself, as the dancer, and your audience.

Straight from the Judges' mouths!

"Students need to remember that this is their time to sparkle and shine! Don't be afraid to show your personality."

"Please don't feel like you need to show everything you can do in one solo. It can make your choreography look over-choreographed and frantic. Sometimes less is more; clean technique, beautiful lines, and spaces to breathe within the choreography."

"While clean technique is important, we want to see a real emotional connection come through in the dancing. The emotion can be joyful, painful, confidence, fear or any combination, but it must be authentic."

Jazz, Lyrical, Modern, Contemporary:

All solos should include:

- Movement demonstrating rhythm, musical phrasing and body isolations.
- Combinations demonstrating controlled turns and jumps.
- Movement demonstrating fluidity and command; skill/balance in change of direction.
- Please avoid cheerleading/dance team moves: cartwheels, circular fouettés, etc.

If dancing Adagio (slow dance) - controlled extensions in centered and off centered positions; controlled and sustained movements

If dancing Allegro (fast dance) - demonstrating command of rhythmic complexity and speed; small and large jumps; attention to detail

If utilizing Floor work - Controlled falls from standing, turning or jumping. Keep floor work to a minimum

Tap

The presentation of technique should be designed to display:

- Clarity of taps and clean technique
- Syncopation skills
- Speed and dexterity
- Stylish use of upper body, head, arms and hands
- Connection between upper and lower body
- Slaps (flaps), shuffle (doubles), time step (doubles and triples), buck and wing, soft shoe, clog, cramp rolls and grab-offs (shuffle, pull back, alternating)

World Dance

Your technique should present:

- Clarity and precision in footwork
- Strong stage presence
- Complex combinations of movement without excessive repetition
- Rhythmic dance phrases appropriate to the dance
- Emotional connection to the audience; facial connection
- Connection between lower and upper body, appropriate to dance form
- Relationship to costume and/or props, if using them

Street Dance

The presentation should present:

- Clean technique and varied dance vocabulary
- Style and Charisma; facial expression is important!
- Confidence
- Stage presence - Connection to audience
- Musicality and Rhythm