



Southampton Stage

Dance Festival

23rd - 31st May 2026

Adjudicator

Maxine Percy

@ The Point,

Leigh Road, Eastleigh

OFFICIAL SYLLABUS

GENERAL ENTRIES OPEN ON 15TH JANUARY

ENTRIES CLOSE ON 15TH FEBRUARY

(or before if maximum dance time is reached)



Organisation

CHAIR	Sule Taylor
VICE-CHAIR	Yasmin Taylor
TREASURER	Hannah Harrison
SECRETARY	Terri Russell
ADMINISTRATOR	Claire Cadman
TROPHY & MEDIA SECRETARY	Vicki Brunink
SAFEGUARDING	Hannah Harrison
TEACHER ADVISORS	Gloria White, Vicki Elliott, Jena Tyler & Liza Carter
ORDINARY MEMBERS	Janice Gough

Enquiries to: Mrs Sule Taylor, 70 Crescent Road, Locks Heath, S031 6PF

Tel: 01489 600863 or e-mail the **Festival Secretary:** southamptondancefestival@gmail.com

Registered Charity Number – 1032283

Affiliated to the **British & International Federation of Festivals** for Music, Dance & Speech

We are an All England nominated festival providing a pathway through to the **All England Dance** competition on alternate years

Festival website: www.southamptonstagedancefestival.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE: TROPHIES

2025 Trophies must be returned by 15th March 2026
at the **latest**

To return trophies please contact Vic Brunink - vickibrunink@gmail.com

Or the festival secretary - southamptondancefestival@gmail.com

Trophies must be returned in good order

If a trophy is lost/damaged or not returned on time, the Committee reserve the right to:

- charge the recipient for repair or replacement and/or
- withhold presentation of further trophies to the recipient and/or school

Thank you

Welcome

As always I look forward to welcoming you to **Southampton Stage Dance Festival, now in our 86th year** and the 28th year at The Point Theatre in Eastleigh on 23rd – 31st May 2026.



We provide an educational dance platform and performance opportunity for young people up to the age of 21. Despite its' competitive nature we recognize that fundamentally festivals are here to support dancers along their own creative path and we are excited to explore how the continued use of the new mark scheme can provide dancers with the kind of high quality, constructive feedback that will inspire them to achieve their goals. We are also excited to announce for 2026 we are introducing a new SEN open section for groups, as we strive to make our festival more accessible and varied.

We know that the cost of living pressures on families have hit hard over the last few years and so we have frozen entry and audience prices for this year. We also pleased to confirm we are continuing to work with the Point Theatre to provide this much loved annual event in the local community. You can find more details on the impact of our charity in the social value report on our website.

Adjudicator

Our adjudicator for 2026 is

Maxine Percy, AISTD,CDE



Maxine trained at Northern Ballet School where she gained her teaching qualifications in ISTD Ballet, Tap, Modern and National, the latter being under the watchful eye of the much loved expert Robert Harold. Whilst at college, Maxine performed on numerous occasions at the Manchester Opera House and Palace Theatre alongside Elaine Paige, Richard Harris and Bernard Cribbins to name but a few.

Maxine went on to perform professionally appearing in the King & I (Topsy), West Side Story (Graziella) both at the Leicester Haymarket. She worked with choreographer Nicola Treherne in Her Benny at the Liverpool Empire Theatre and partnered Andy Serkis as the Gorilla/Lulu in Cabaret at the Sheffield Crucible.

Other credits are Last Night of The Proms, Hyde Park, The Queen's Golden Jubilee at Buckingham Palace, The Big Breakfast on Channel 4 with Soulfish, a 10 piece soul band with whom Maxine still performs as a backing/lead vocalist.

Furthering her teaching career, Maxine gained her CDE in 2009 and holds diplomas in Ballet, Tap and Modern. With the RAD, she gained qualifications in Anatomy and History of Dance. To complete the CDE she completed certificates in Health and Safety and Child Psychology.

Maxine has a love for dance and a passion for the wider arts. Having been an All England competitor herself, performing at the prestigious galas held at Sadler's Wells, Maxine wants to inspire the next generation of young performers to reach their goals. The festival movement is a great platform for this and Maxine wishes all performers the best of luck as she hopes to encourage them all to enjoy their experience both on and off stage.

Entry Process

SYLLABUS AND ENTRY FEES

ARE POSTED ON THE FESTIVAL WEBSITE IN NOVEMBER FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR
ALL EMAIL CONTACTS ON OUR MAILING LIST WILL BE NOTIFIED WHEN THE SYLLABUS (THIS DOCUMENT) IS PUBLISHED

ALL ENTRIES FOR 2026 WILL BE MADE VIA PLAY & PERFORM

PRIVATE ENTRIES MUST BE SUPPORTED BY A NOTE
FROM AN ACCREDITED DANCE TEACHER AT THE TIME OF ENTRY AND WILL BE LIMITED TO A
MAXIMUM OF FOUR DANCES EACH

DATE OF BIRTH MUST BE ENTERED FOR EACH COMPETITOR
CLASS AGE IS AS AT 31st AUGUST OF THE YEAR PRECEDING THE FESTIVAL
IN DUETS, TRIOS, QUARTETS AND GROUPS
THE AGE OF THE OLDEST COMPETITOR DETERMINES THE CLASS AND FEE

**ENTRIES OPEN TO SCHOOLS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 2025 FESTIVAL ON THE 10TH
JANUARY 2026**

**ALL OTHER ENTRIES (INCLUDING PRIVATE ENTRIES) WILL OPEN ON THE 15TH JANUARY
2026 AND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BEFORE THEN**

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS 15th FEBRUARY
OR BEFORE IF MAXIMUM DANCE TIME IS REACHED**

ENTRIES WILL BE CAPPED TO **150 MAXIMUM PER SCHOOL**

**NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED BUT WE MAY HOLD A RESERVE LIST / ACCEPT
INTRA SCHOOL CHANGES WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME PERIOD. PLEASE CONSIDER
ENTRIES CAREFULLY AS THERE MAY BE CLASHES WITH AED REGIONAL SECTIONS**

PAYMENT FOR ENTRY FEES IS BY **INVOICE** PAYABLE VIA
BANK TRANSFER TO ACCOUNT 70854131 AT SORT CODE 20-79-25
(PLEASE INCLUDE REFERENCE TO CLEARLY LINK YOUR PAYMENTS TO ENTRIES)
PLEASE ENSURE PAYMENTS ARE MADE BY 15TH FEBRUARY OR WE WILL REJECT THE ENTRY

SCHOOLS (AND PARENTS IN THE CASE OF PRIVATE ENTRIES) ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR
CHECKING DETAILS (E.G. SPELLING, AGE, CLASSES) ARE CORRECT

NO PROGRAMME CHANGES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 1ST MARCH

Entry fees

Fee per dancer	Solos	Duets	Trios/quartets	Small Groups	Groups
10 & under	£7	£5.50 (each)	£4.50 (each)	£20	£26 (per group)
11 & over	£8	£5.50 (each)	£4.50 (each)	£20	£26 (per group)

- The age of a competitor is taken as of 31st August of the year preceding the Festival
- In Duets/Trios/Quartets/Groups the age of the oldest competitor determines the class and fee

* Note that the age limit for Solos is now 21 years in line with other classes

Privacy Policy

Statement

GDPR stands for General Data Protection Regulation and replaces the previous Data Protection Directives that were in place. It was approved by the EU Parliament in 2016 and came into effect on 25th May 2018.

GDPR states that personal data should be 'processed fairly & lawfully' and 'collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes' and that individuals data is not processed without their knowledge and are only processed with their 'explicit' consent. GDPR covers personal data relating to individuals. Southampton Stage Dance Festival is committed to protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals with respect to the processing of children's, parents, visitors and staff personal data.

The Data Protection Act gives individuals the right to know what information is held about them. It provides a framework to ensure that personal information is handled properly.

GDPR includes 7 rights for individuals

1) The right to be informed

Southampton Stage Dance Festival is a registered Dance Festival with the British & International Federation of Festivals and as so, is required to collect and manage certain data. We need to know parent's names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses. We need to know children's' full names, addresses, date of birth. We are requested to provide some or all of this data to The British and International Federation of Festivals and other external examining boards, competitions for entries into correct categories and Hampshire county council areas for performance licences should they be required.

Southampton Stage Dance Festival is required to hold data on its Teachers; names, addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, date of birth, bank details. This information is also required for Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS) through the DDC.

Southampton Stage Dance Festival uses Cookies on its website to collect data for Google Analytics, this data is anonymous.

2) The right of access

At any point an individual can make a request relating to their data and Southampton Stage Dance Festival will need to provide a response (within 1 month). Southampton Stage Dance Festival can refuse a request, if we have a lawful obligation to retain data but we will inform the individual of the reasons for the rejection. The individual will have the right to complain to the ICO if they are not happy with the decision.

3) The right to erasure

You have the right to request the deletion of your data where there is no compelling reason for its continued use. However Southampton Stage Dance Festival has a legal duty to keep children's, parents and teachers details for a reasonable time, Southampton Stage Dance Festival retain these records for 3 years after leaving the school. At this point, all data will be deleted from our database.

4) The right to restrict processing

Parents and teachers can object to Southampton Stage Dance Festival processing their data. This means that records can be stored but must not be used in any way, for example reports or for communications. In this instance, other plans must be discussed with the individuals for the set up of receiving information about their classes and emergency contact.

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5) The right to data portability

Southampton Stage Dance Festival requires data to be transferred from one IT system to another; such as from Southampton Stage Dance Festival to the Local Authority, for performance BOPA licences, and dance Associations for examinations. These recipients have their own policies and procedures in place in relation to GDPR.

6) The right to object

Parents and staff can object to their data being used for certain activities like marketing or research.

7) The right not to be subject to automated decision-making including profiling.

Automated decisions and profiling are used for marketing based organisations. Southampton Stage Dance Festival does not use personal data for such purposes.

Storage and use of personal information

All previous paper copies of children's and staff records are kept in a locked file along with timetable of the festival, which includes the children's names for use of the staff at the festival. From this point forward all information will be taken electronically.

This software is password protected on all devices.

Processors of data will have a data processing contract with Southampton Stage Dance Festival to protect your data. These include teachers, back stage helpers and workshop leaders as below.

During performances or workshops data may be printed out to create a register with medical information and emergency contact numbers for workshop leaders or back stage helpers. This is for the children's safety and will be shredded after the event has ended.

A published programme will be made available each year which the public can buy. This will only contain the child's full name and no other information.

Southampton Stage Dance Festival collects a large amount of personal data every year including; names and addresses of those on the waiting list. These records are deleted if the child does not attend or added to the child's file and stored appropriately.

GDPR means that Southampton Stage Dance Festival must;

- * Manage and process personal data properly
- * Protect the individual's rights to privacy
- * Provide an individual with access to all personal information held on them

This Policy was reviewed in November 2025

Creating Safer Festivals For Everyone

The Federation and its member Festivals use the following policies and procedures to provide safer festivals for everyone:

1. A single, definitive Child Protection Policy adopted by all Federation Festivals.
2. One or more designated Festival Safeguarding Officers (FSO) appointed for each Federation Festival:
The Festival Safeguarding Officer (FSO) of Southampton Stage Dance Festival is Hannah Harrison
3. Best practice advice in the form of Safe Working Practice leaflet, Festival Child Protection leaflet, and any other guidance produced by the Federation. This advice is supported by support and training for all Festival staff and volunteers. Guidance includes clear reporting procedures for anyone with a concern about a child.
4. Appropriate recruitment and induction procedures for all new staff and volunteers responsible for providing safe environments for everyone attending/performing at a Federation Festival.
5. All Festival personnel wear a badge to identify their roles. All teachers/parents/guardians/carers are asked to report all incidents of any nature to anyone wearing a Festival badge. All reported incidents will be handled in accordance with the Safe Working Practice and Festival Child Protection best practice advice. In addition, we will ensure the availability of a quiet area / room where concerns can be expressed in private.
6. For the duration of a Festival all teachers/parents/guardians/carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/pupils. If they are Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone 2 unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibilities to an identified adult and ensure that their children/pupils are aware of the identity and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all Festival venues, practice and changing areas that may be provided. The Festival cannot take any responsibility for property left unattended.
7. We do not permit any unauthorised photography at our Federation Festivals. For further information on what is and is not authorised, please contact the Festival Safeguarding Officer or anyone wearing a festival badge. If any child, young person or parent/carer is concerned about any photography or recording taking place at an event, please contact the Festival Safeguarding Officer, who will be pleased to discuss this matter with you.
8. Some children and adults with support needs may need help in order to take part. If this is the case, we ask the responsible teachers/parents/guardians/carers to contact the Festival Organisers prior to arrival. The Festival aims to meet these needs wherever possible but must know beforehand in order to prepare support – or to advise that help cannot be provided on this occasion.
9. The Festival's Child Protection Policy and its approach to Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone are published explicitly in our Syllabus, Programme and Website.

By completing and submitting the entry form all parents / guardians / carers and teachers of entrants under 18 (or adults of any age who may require additional support) confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the entrants to take part in the Festival. Without consent the entry to the Festival cannot be accepted.

Please note the Festival Committee strongly advise that parental/guardian consent is gained before posting any images of children, participating in the festival, on social media

Child Protection Policy

The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech (BIFF) works for amateur festivals everywhere to help create thousands of educational performance opportunities for children and young people each year. The Federation and our member Festivals are committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind.

We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them. This policy applies to our Board of Trustees, paid staff, Adjudicator members, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of the Federation and our member Festivals.

It has been drawn up on the basis of relevant law and guidance that seeks to protect children and young people, and its purpose is to set out the overarching principles that guide our approach.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- to provide protection for the children and young people who participate in our festivals, including the children of festival members
- to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a Federation Head of Safeguarding and, for each festival, at least one Festival Safeguarding Officer
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers
- working within the legislation and guidance that specifically addresses the needs of young performers (specifically, the Children and Young People Acts 1933 and 1963, and the Children (Performance and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014
- adopting a safe and balanced approach to the issue of creating and using photography and images of children and young people at our festivals and in our communications
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training

Last Reviewed: November 2025

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Class Numbers

Solos	Classical or *modern ballet	Narrative / Character	Global Dance (National)	Classical Greek	Modern / Jazz	Musical Theatre	Tap	Lyrical Modern / Jazz	Contemporary
5 years and under	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
6 years	11	12	13	14	25	16	17		
7 years	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
8 years	31	32	33	34	35	36	37		
9 years	41	42	43	44	45	46	47		
10 years	51	52	53	54	55	56	57		
11 years	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	
12 years	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	
13 years	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
14 years	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
15 years	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
16 years	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119
17-21 years	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129

Narrative/Character classes, Global Dance classes and Greek classes the title/country/region of the dance must be added at the time of entry

*Competitors from Modern Ballet must be 13 years of age or over

Duets	Classical or *Modern Ballet	Narrative / Character	Global Dance (National)	Classical Greek	Modern / Jazz	Musical Theatre	Tap	Lyrical Modern / Jazz	Contemporary
6&under	201	202	203	204	205	206	207		
10&under	211	212	213	214	215	216	217		
14&under	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	
21&under	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239

Trios/quartets	Classical or *Modern Ballet	Narrative / Character	Global Dance (National)	Classical Greek	Modern / Jazz	Musical Theatre	Tap	Lyrical Modern / Jazz	Contemporary
6&under	301	302	303	304	305	306	307		
10&under	311	312	313	314	315	316	317		
14&under	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	
21&under	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339

Groups Small and large (S & L)	Classical or *Modern Ballet	Narrative / Character	Global Dance (National)	Classical Greek	Modern / Jazz	Musical Theatre	Tap	Lyrical Modern / Jazz	Contemporary
10&under	401S/401L	402S/402L	403S/403L	404S/404L	405S/405L	406S/406L	407S/407L		
14&under	411S/411L	412S/412L	413S/413L	414S/414L	415S/415L	416S/416L	417S/416L	418S/418L	
21&under	421S/421L	422S/422L	423S/423L	424S/424L	425S/425L	426S/426L	427S/427L	428S/428L	429S/429L

Any age / group size	SEN Open category	430
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A small group is defined as at least 5 and a maximum of 10 dancers. A large group is a minimum of 11 and maximum of 30 dancers (AED rules). The number of performers in each group must be notified to the Festival at southamptondancefestival@gmail.com by 1 March prior to the Festival.

Time limits

		10 & Under	11 & Over
SOLOS	All except Musical Theatre	1.5	2.0
	Musical Theatre	2.0	2.5
DUETS / TRIOS / QUARTETS	All except Musical Theatre	2.5	2.5
	Musical Theatre	3.0	3.0
Small GROUPS	All except Musical Theatre	3.0	3.0
	Musical Theatre	3.5	3.5
Large GROUPS	All except Musical Theatre	4.0	4.0
	Musical Theatre	4.5	4.5
Open Group	SEN	4.5	

Marking

We use the BIFF Marking scheme


The aim of the marking scheme is to ensure that the performer is at the centre of everything we do. The new scheme promotes BIFF's core values, Perform | Educate | Inspire, with a greater emphasis on the written and verbal teaching points. The scheme supports the provision of positive and constructive feedback to all performers to build confidence and self-esteem. BIFF strongly recommends the use of the scheme to ensure a measure of uniformity across all member festivals.

Bands	Band Descriptor	Artistic Criteria	Technical Criteria	Communication Criteria
DEVELOPING OPTIONAL MARKS 65 - 69	A performance demonstrating an awareness of technical skills, requiring more consistency & artistry.	A performance with primary skills in the artistic presentation.	A performance with primary skills in technical knowledge.	A performance that demonstrates primary skill with intention or confidence.
PROGRESSING OPTIONAL MARKS 70 - 74	A performance showing development of technique and/or communication and commitment.	A performance showing some underlying artistic skills.	A performance with some demonstration of underlying technical knowledge.	A performance that communicates some intention and increasing confidence.
MERIT OPTIONAL MARKS 75 - 79	A competent performance, showing some artistic awareness and/or technical ability.	A competent performance showing some artistic skills.	A competent performance showing accurate necessary technique.	A competent performance that communicates intention with some confidence.
COMMENDED OPTIONAL MARKS 80 - 84	A convincing performance technically & artistically, with increasing stylistic & communication skills.	A competent performance showing appropriate artistic skills.	A competent performance showing accurate technique.	A competent performance that communicates intention with confidence.
HONOURS OPTIONAL MARKS 85 - 89	An excellent performance, demonstrating fluent technical and artistic skills with emerging individuality.	A consistent performance showing very good understanding and exploration of expression.	A consistent performance showing appropriate understanding and clear application of technique with confidence.	A consistent presentation that communicates confident intention using projection throughout the delivery and is convincing in performance.

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Bands	Band Descriptor	Artistic Criteria	Technical Criteria	Communication Criteria
OUTSTANDING OPTIONAL MARKS 90 - 94	An impressive performance technically and artistically, displaying spontaneity & clear individuality.	The performance shows confident technical and artistic skills. The overall presentation communicates intention using projection throughout.	The performance shows very confident technical skills. The overall presentation demonstrates a sophisticated use of technical attributes which enhance projection.	The overall presentation communicates very engaging and convincing intention using projection throughout the delivery of the performance with confidence and flair.
EXCEPTIONAL OPTIONAL MARKS 95 - 100	A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic individuality.	The performance is exceptional showing an in depth understanding and imaginative use of artistic skills. The overall presentation demonstrates exceptional communication throughout the performance. There is a sense of individuality and autonomy throughout.	The performance shows exceptional technical skills. The overall presentation demonstrates a sophisticated use of technical attributes which are in harmony with the projection of the piece.	The overall presentation communicates effortlessly with conviction and intent. The delivery of the piece is sophisticated, captivating and exceptional throughout.

LSC Scholarship

	<p>Dancers entering solos at the Southampton Stage Dance Festival will have a wonderful opportunity as our adjudicator is able to award one dancer aged 16yrs+ a 5-day Summer Course <i>at the LONDON STUDIO CENTRE.</i></p> <p>These courses are designed for students who are thinking of entering full-time dance training</p>
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<p>The 2026 programme is as follows: (for dates see LSC website) www.londonstudiocentre.org/course/summer-programme/</p>	<p>Ballet/Contemporary Jazz Dance Music Theatre</p>
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All courses require a minimum of 3 years dance training including at least 2 years of ballet. The Festival will make a contribution towards travel and accommodation costs.

For 2026 we will once again hold a dance off competition for the final 5 dancers, chosen by the adjudicator, in order to find our winner and there will be a runner up prize. Interested/qualified dancers must register their names with the festival secretary before the start of the festival southamptondancefestival@gmail.com

Venue

The Point Theatre, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DE

For information on The Point Theatre and parking in Eastleigh please see these websites:

www.thepointeastleigh.co.uk www.eastleigh.gov.uk

Theatre admission charges 2026

	1 session	2 sessions	All day	Whole Festival
Adult	£5.00	£8.00	£11.00	£60.00
Concessions	£3.00	£5.00	£7.00	£45.00

Concessions = OAPs and children 14 & under

Performers and children 2 years & under free. No student discounts

Programme - £4.50 available April 2026

Festival Rules

1. The competition is for amateurs and students who do not derive the main part of their income from the teaching or performance of dance
2. Competitors attending full time vocational dance school are not eligible to enter the Festival.
3. The age of competitors is taken as on 31st August of the previous year of the Festival. Duets, Trios, Quartets and Groups the age of the oldest competitor determines the class and fee.
4. The Committee reserves the right to return any entry without assigning a reason
5. All Private Entries must be accompanied by a supporting e-mail from their Teacher / Dance school Principal
6. We will be closely monitoring last minute withdrawals and may consider limiting entries for performers or schools where there are persistent no shows. Our festival relies not only on entrance fees but also audiences so please be sensible with entries including considering whether a dancer has other commitments that may clash (e.g. other festivals or performances, exams, AED regionals etc.)
7. The Committee may combine Sections or Classes when entries are small, divide when large and make other regulations or interpret or qualify any rules as occasion may arise.
8. The competition does not accept liability for the infringement of copyright, recording or performing rights arising out of any competitor's accompaniment or performance. It contributes to a Group License to cover payment of fees for the use of recorded music at its events. Teachers and choreographers using music created from commercial

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- recordings are advised that they are responsible for seeking permission to re-record from the recording companies concerned.
9. Photography, film, video, or tape recording by members of the public is prohibited in the theatre. Filming of any kind backstage is also prohibited.
 10. The Adjudicator's decision is final, no discussion or correspondence concerning any decision may ensue. The adjudicator may not award a place when it is his/her opinion that the standard is not sufficiently high or when individuals infringe the rules.
 11. Communication with the adjudicator concerning any matters relating to the competition by competitors, teachers, and other interested parties prior to or during the competition is prohibited and may lead to disqualification.
 12. The stage and wings are out of bounds to all except authorised personnel and competitors about to perform. Competitors who have danced must leave and only return to the wings three numbers before the end of their class. Authorised persons include one assistant from each school who may accompany children under 8 years or where a child may need to be accompanied for access reasons and others for the purpose of wardrobe or props.
 13. Competitors must dance in the correct programme order unless informed otherwise, report to the ATRIUM at least 15 minutes before their class is due to start and be ready in the wings before their number is announced. Absentees may risk disqualification. We may run sections up to 30 minutes early so please check social media or the front desk for any early running or delays
 14. Dancers under the age of 14 must be signed in and out of the atrium for any section they are performing in. Please can all dancers have all necessary props, drinks bottles and appropriate footwear with them when they check in to the atrium.
 15. Music must be uploaded to our online platform which will be Play and Perform. This should be uploaded by 15th April at the latest. Competitors/teachers/parents will be asked to check all music on check-in at the festival but please ensure there is a back-up available, for example on memory stick or phone, in case of technical difficulties. We have no CD playing facilities.
 16. Competitors may perform not more than once in their own age group for each solo section and for each technique in a Duet , Trio or Quartet Section. Younger competitors may perform out of their age group not more than once in each technique for a more senior Duet, Trio, Quartet or Group Section. A minimum of FIVE and a maximum of TEN dancers constitutes a Small Group and between ELEVEN and THIRTY dancers for a large group. Schools are only permitted to dance a maximum of 2 numbers in any group section.
 17. Time limits for dances must not be exceeded.
 18. When requested in advance the official will announce the title of a dance and when obscure a short synopsis, not longer than 30 words, can be provided.
 19. The sound box is out of bounds to all except authorised personnel.
 20. The quality of recordings and suitability of recorded vocals may be taken into account by the adjudicator
 21. Pre recorded music used in Musical Theatre sections must not contain any singing or chanting. Pre-recorded music used in Tap Sections must not include any recorded Tap or similar sound effect.
 22. Pointe work is not allowed for any competitor under 13 years of age.
 23. Additional information will be required for some sections prior to the festival:
 - a. Titles for Narrative/Character, Global and Greek sections and Contemporary if appropriate
 - b. The numbers of dancers in groups
 24. No food or drink and no smoking (including the use of vapes) is allowed in the auditorium

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25. Audience entry to the auditorium must not occur during a performance or adjudication and is at the discretion of the stewards. Please take your seats quickly and quietly when entering the auditorium between performances.
26. Audiences should show their appreciation via applause only – cheering and whooping is not encouraged
27. There will be no re-dances except in the case of technical failure or at the adjudicators discretion
28. Not all classes carry a trophy and are awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator and Committee
29. Trophies or other awards will not normally be awarded unless a band of Commended or above is achieved. The awarding of a trophy or other award is solely at the discretion of the Adjudicator and where there is a tie the adjudicator will select the performer to receive the trophy. There will be no shared awards.
30. Trophy winners may have their name and the Festival year inscribed on the trophy at their own expense as long as the style is consistent with the existing engravings.
31. All trophies awarded at the festival should be returned by no later than the 15th March in the following year and should be in good, clean condition.
32. If a trophy is lost, damaged or not returned on time the Committee reserves the right to:
 - a. Charge the recipient for repair or replacement
 - b. Withhold presentation of further trophies to the recipient and/or school
33. The Festival Committee would encourage teachers to ensure the choreography, costume and music are appropriate for the dancer, age group and genre of dance. Adjudicators and/or the Festival Committee will provide feedback direct to teachers/schools if these conditions are not met as required.
34. We aim to provide an inclusive environment for all students and would request that any specific requirements or additional needs are made known at the time of entry or at the latest in the month preceding the festival so that any reasonable adjustments can be planned for and made

Notes to teachers

ALL ENTRIES TO THE 2026 FESTIVAL, INCLUDING MUSIC UPLOAD, WILL BE MADE VIA THE ONLINE PLATFORM

Due to the likely demand on places for 2026 will open entries only to schools who participated in the previous 2 years on the 10th January 2025. All other entries (including private entries) will be accepted from the 15th January and not before. Entries will close on the 15th February 2025 or before if our maximum run time is reached.

To ensure fair access to our festival, we are asking schools to limit entries to no more than 150 per school (inclusive of entries from faculties linked or aligned to the main school). We will also place a cap on private entries of 4 dances per dancer. This is to ensure fair access to all (and many of our schools have to limit dancers to 4 entries within the cap)

We ask schools to please be realistic with your entries as there is a significant chance of timetable clashes with All England Dance regionals. We will be monitoring no shows and may look to limit entries for schools or performers in the future, where this is persistent.

Please check your entries carefully including the accuracy of name spellings, classes entered and D.O.B. This is easy to do in the online portal but please ask if you are unsure. Programme changes will not be possible after the 1st March and we aim to have a draft schedule out to you by mid-March and the completed programme, early April.

The class timetable will depend on the number and types of entries but will look something like:

Juniors, first half of the week and seniors second half with inters over the 9 days
Morning starts at 9.30am and evening sessions finish by 6.30/7pm

Music must be uploaded to the online platform by the 15th April – any entry missing music will be considered a withdrawal unless otherwise indicated. Please ensure there is a digital back-up available at the festival. We will have no CD playing facility.

Please note the following recommendations from the Federation:

In all dance categories costume, movement, music and words must be appropriate to the age of the performers. Bad language will not be accepted in any class .

The song/dance content of an entry in the Musical Theatre class does not necessarily have to be a 50/50 split but must be a balanced performance combining song and movement to create a good characterisation.

For further guidance the All England Syllabus and Class descriptions can be found here: [AED Dance Competition - All England Dance \(all-england-dance.org.uk\)](https://www.all-england-dance.org.uk)

The following must be submitted at the time of entry:

- For all **Groups** the number of performers (note that we are unable to accept more than two groups from each school in each class due to limitation in changing space)
- For all **Global** dance, the Country/Region of the dance
- For all **Narrative/Character** sections the title of the dance
- For all **Greek** sections the title of the dance
- **Contemporary** titles are recommended but not required

SOUTAMPTON STAGE DANCE FESTIVAL 2025

At the Festival:

Teachers are asked to the attention of parents/guardians to our [Child Protection Policy](#) (in the Syllabus) and to remind them that they are responsible for the safety of their children and should accompany them throughout the Festival.

We strongly advise that dancers do not wear revealing costumes in the foyer/café area as these spaces are open to the public.

A maximum of **two teacher's tickets** will be issued to each recognised school and can only be used by teachers. Eligible teacher names must be provided to southamptondancefestival@gmail.com **prior to the Festival.**

We will be using card machine for audience entry tickets and lanyard purchases and would like to discourage the use of cash as far as possible. If absolutely necessary will be able to accept cash where contactless/card purchases aren't possible.

Please keep the **Foyer and Café** areas clear - these are open to members of the general public and must not be used for make-up, rehearsals or picnics. Food and drink (except bottled water) are not allowed in the Auditorium.

The stage will NOT be available for **rehearsals** during breaks.

Please ensure that all competitors check in at the main desk on arrival and report to the atrium **at least 15 minutes** before their section is due to start. Please also check if sections are running on time when you check in – please note we may run sections up to 30 minutes early.

For **Narrative/Character and Greek** entries a short synopsis **not exceeding 30 words** may be submitted at the check-in desk to be announced prior to the performance.

There will be no re-dances except in the case of technical failure or at the adjudicators discretion.

Our festival is dependent on volunteers for its continued existence. Some of you already assist in many ways but it would be most helpful if schools could put forward volunteers for ushering duties in the auditorium. Commitment to a complete session (morning, afternoon or evening) will entitle the individual to free admission to the whole festival. Contact the festival secretary at southamptondancefestival@gmail.com or you can speak to us on the ticket desk during the Festival.

Thank you.

All persons participating in the Festival do so at their own risk. The Festival will not be liable for personal injury, theft or loss of personal possessions or damage thereto.