**SPOTLIGHT DANCE RULES**

Dance students who will be attending a dance program away from home and outside of Southern California during the Spotlight year and whose parent(s) still live in Southern California may participate in Spotlight as long as they attend auditions, rehearsal and final performance if advancing to the Grand Finale Performance. Proof of study will be required from dance program. You may not be an apprentice or member of a professional dance company and participate in Spotlight.

**WHAT'S REQUIRED OF ME FOR MY DANCE PRELIMINARY 1 VIDEO AUDITION?**

All students begin with a Preliminary 1 video audition. Those scoring highest will advance to Preliminary 2 live auditions in January or February 2021. Those scoring highest after Preliminary 2 will advance to the Semifinals

- You will perform one solo in the style of your choice; you may perform your own choreography
- For this year, (2020), you may submit a performance video (recital, competition, etc.) as long as it is close enough and of good quality in order for judges to evaluate
- Your solo must not exceed 3 minutes
- For all forms of dancing, your choreography must show a range of movements: turns, jumps, controlled sustained movements, and extensions
- We encourage you to refrain from using too many gymnastic or dance team movements
- Please keep floor work and sustained poses to a minimum. We want to see you dance!! :)
- If you advance to Preliminary 2, you may either perform the same solo or change it

**AUDITION APPAREL**

- Applicants may not wear pointe shoes
- For this year, (2020), costumes are allowed but not required for video audition only
- All dancers must wear a color that is in contrast to the background
- Leotard, unitard or rehearsal/jazz pants and fitted top are fine.

**AUDITION MUSIC**

- Please use original recordings for your music. Do not use mashups or remixes of recorded music. A remix is when an artist (typically a DJ) takes an existing piece of work from another artist and produces a different version of that musical recording. Email us with any questions at spotlight@musiccenter.org
- Please do not lip sync or sing while dancing

**GUIDELINES FOR RECORDING YOUR AUDITION IF YOU ARE NOT SUBMITTING A PERFORMANCE VIDEO**

- Your recording device can be a cell phone, tablet, camera, etc. You do NOT have to rent fancy recording equipment. We will refer to the recording device as "camera"
- Record your audition in a clearly defined interior space with a neutral background that is free of creases and breaks
- Shoot straight on. You may either place the camera in a fixed spot, or it may follow your movements, however, keep the camera far enough away from you in order to see perspective. Do not film so far away that you appear small on screen. Do not get too close to the face during filming. Keep the camera movement simple and clean. You need to remember this is not a music video; it's your dance audition
- The camera should be placed sufficiently close to you so that all parts of the body are clearly visible
- Do not shoot into a mirror
Record with the camera framing your entire body to capture movement in place as well as movement in and through space
Ensure recording captures good quality sound and image
Do not do any editing within the video
Do not use special effects, dissolves, fades or wipes
For 2020, pre-recorded live performances, such as recitals or concerts are fine as long as they are clear and defined images
When recording with a tablet or cellphone, use the landscape/horizontal mode for best results

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR AUDITION VIDEO

- After you have recorded your solo, watch it in playback to make sure you can be seen and the music heard
- When uploading, verify that image is upright (not sideways) and plays smoothly
- Save and name your file and upload into application

Please do not do any of the following as it may disqualify you:
  - Do not edit within the solo
  - Do not use special effects, dissolves, fades or wipes
  - If you are submitting performance video and have questions, email us at spotlight@musiccenter.org

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND WHAT JUDGES ARE LOOKING FOR

You should approach your video filming as though you are performing for an audience. Do not look at the camera, but instead look out as though you are performing on stage, beyond the camera.

Technique - the skill to execute the demands of the choreography with proficiency and apparent ease
Presentation - the presentation of one’s self, physically, at a standard recognized in this dance form
Musicality and phrasing - the ability to physically express the rhythm, melody, nuance, and character of the music through the choreography
Artistry - the creativity and sincerity of the performance, which arouses a response within the viewer. The connection and expression of the dancer to the story of the solo

IMPORTANT!

Please be sure you follow all requirements related to your application. Failure to comply with any of the requirements may result in disqualification during the review process and/or make your application ineligible for an award.

For guideline or requirement questions, email us at spotlight@musiccenter.org.

For technical issues please visit the Acceptd Help Desk at support@getacceptd.com.

To start or complete your Spotlight application, go to: https://app.getacceptd.com/musiccenter. If your application is already open, simply click on the Acceptd tab on your computer to return to it.