

SPOTLIGHT BALLET RULES

Ballet students who attend a year-round dance academy, like School of American Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, etc., and whose parent(s) live in Southern California, may participate in Spotlight as long as they attend the rehearsal and final performance if advancing to the Grand Finale Performance. Proof of both online high school study and dance program will be required. You may not be an apprentice or member of a professional ballet company, where you receive a salary.

WHAT'S REQUIRED OF ME FOR MY BALLET 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 2026. Those scoring highest after Preliminary 2 will advance to the Semifinals.

Please record yourself: one solo from the required list below. If selected to advance to Preliminary 2, you will perform two contrasting solos for your live audition: one which will show your adagio/strength abilities and another which will show your petit/grand allegro abilities. You may change your variation if you advance to Preliminary 2. The goal is balance; the judges are looking for well-rounded dancers. You are allowed to submit a performance or competition video taken between November 2024 – October 2025.

In choosing a variation for your video recording, we encourage you to choose a solo that best reflects your current stage of technical and artistic abilities. It is not necessary to perform an Etoile or Principal variation if you are not quite ready to tackle it. Choose a solo variation that best fits where you are in your studies and allows you to shine! Some examples of soloist variations that might be good choices are: Princess Florine from *The Sleeping Beauty* Act III or any of *The Sleeping Beauty* fairies, the Peasant pas de deux from *Giselle* (Act I) or Cupid from *Paquita*, Friends of Kitri from *Don Quixote* (Act I), Fairy Doll, Harlequinade, Odalisques from *Le Corsaire* (Act I), *Flames of Paris* or the pas de trois from *Swan Lake* (Act I).

For the Preliminary 1 round of Spotlight, we ask that you submit one prepared solo from the required list below:

- Coppelia | all variations
- Diana & Acteon | all variations
- Don Quixote | all variations
- Fairy Doll | variation
- Flames of Paris | all variations
- Flower Festival | all variations
- Giselle | Giselle, Albrecht, Act I Peasant variations; variations, Act II
- Graduation Ball | all variations
- Grand Pas Classique | all variations
- Harlequinade | all variations
- La Bayadere | all variations, excluding Nikiya's Death and Gamzatti Temple Variation (Choreography: N. Makarova)
- Laurencia | variation
- Le Corsaire | all variations
- La Esmeralda | all variations
- La Fille Mal Gardee | all variations
- La Sylphide | all variations
- Les Sylphides/Chopiniana | all variations
- Napoli | all variations
- Nutcracker | all variations
- Paquita | all variations
- Pas de Quatre | all variations
- Pharaoh's Daughter | all variations

- Raymonda | all variations
- Satanella | all variations
- Sylvia | all variations
- Swan Lake | Pas de Trois variations, Odette, Odile, Siegfried variations
- The Awakening of Flora | all variations
- The Flames of Paris | all variations
- The Nutcracker | all variations
- The Sleeping Beauty | all variations
- The Cavalry Halt | all variations
- The Talisman | all variations
- Walpurgis Nacht | all variations

The variations listed below may only be performed with express written permission from the individual rights holders of these choreographers or managing trusts or foundations, granting permission for variations to be performed at the Spotlight Grand Finale:

- Etudes (H. Lander)
- All choreography by George Balanchine
- All choreography by Fredrick Ashton

AUDITION APPAREL

All dancers must wear a color that contrasts with the background.

Tights/leotard

Costumes are allowed but not necessary

Short and mid-length skirts are allowed

Pointe shoes must be worn for female variations

Hair must be up and out of your face (e.g., bun)

GUIDELINES FOR RECORDING YOUR AUDITION IF YOU ARE NOT SUBMITTING 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 devices as "cameras"
- 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. The camera should be placed sufficiently close to you so that all parts of the body are clearly visible
- Do not shoot into the 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
- 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 the image is upright (not sideways) and plays smoothly
- Save and name your file and upload it into the application

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 oneself, 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

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 **guidelines 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.