

# Cutting Edge Dance Studio 2022-23 Season Handbook

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# Welcome!

We're so excited for our 2022-23 dance season! We hope you and your dancers have a great experience!

Our classes are broken up into six categories:

1. Company A
2. Company B
3. Company C
4. Recreational
5. Technique
6. Creative Movements

We place every dancer in their appropriate class(es) based on their age, and ability level. By joining which ever class your dancer is placed in, your dancer is agreeing to the terms of that class explained in "Class Categories/Expectations."

Our season runs September through April. Everyone takes December off and Creative Movements also takes January off. We have a winter recital at the beginning of December and a spring recital at the end of April/beginning of May.

Our regular season begins with two "Welcome Back Weeks" September 6<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. These two weeks of classes serve a few purposes: gives dancers chances to try different classes/styles, gives the opportunity to move up a class, and Company A/B tryouts are during these weeks. (Creative Movements will have their regular schedule.)

Classes will run 45 minutes per week and will always be on the same day and time for the year. Example: if your dancer has tap on Tuesday's 4:00-4:45, then every Tuesday your dancer will have that same tap class at 4:00.

Tuition is due the first class of each month. See prices in the "Approximate Season Cost" section. Your dancer will also be required to purchase 1-2 costumes (depending on the class and excluding Creative Movements) and a pair of shoes for each class. All costumes, accessories, and shoes are provided by the studio. Dancewear is not provided by the studio.

We accept cash, check, and credit cards. Credit cards are accepted through PayPal and Venmo.

Please don't ever hesitate to ask us any questions or address any concerns. We know that this can be quite confusing for newcomers and still a lot to absorb for veteran parents! Our website is a great resource: [cuttingedgedancestudio.com](http://cuttingedgedancestudio.com). We are very excited for this year and, as always, we greatly appreciate your business and continued support.

Cheers to our new season!

Jennifer Carlile and Nicole Monsen

[cuttingedgedancestudio@gmail.com](mailto:cuttingedgedancestudio@gmail.com)

## General Guidelines

The most important thing we want our dancers to get from their dance experience is confidence. This is a healthy way for these kids to express themselves. There are so many elements to being part of a dance studio. Below I've listed some important bullets:

- Please don't ever be afraid to come straight to us for any questions you may have. Often, it's easier to discuss issues with other dance parents but we ask that you come to us first. We want to keep negative feelings/experiences isolated so the issue can be resolved between you and us without unnecessarily involving other people. Sometimes it becomes easy to get wrapped up in negative situations.
- Parents are asked to stay in the waiting area and not to enter the studio during any classes, **including solo classes**. There are cameras in each class that stream into a monitor in the lobby. Kids act differently when they are being watched by someone besides the instructor and especially when someone (often a parent) enters the space to observe during class. This rule is simply to give the dancers a safe space to dance and express themselves.
- We know that this dance experience can be confusing, and we want you to ask questions. If you have a question during class hours, please send an email so we can respond after classes instead of breaking focus during class or between classes. We like to keep classes rolling without stopping in between.
- Since there are two of us as directors, we encourage all matters that do not require immediate attention to be addressed via email. Both Nicole and I have access to the email and will promptly respond to all emails.
- Dancers may add or drop classes without consequence during the winter break. We encourage dancers to adjust class loads at the break if they're having troubles, so they can finish the season strong and be thorough in each class.
- We have personalized studio jackets for sale. They are not required. If you are interested in purchasing a studio jacket, please email. They are \$90 each.
- Dancers must use the restroom before class to avoid potty breaks during class.
- Any time there is no school for Sidney there will be no classes whether it was scheduled in advance or because of weather. All these predetermined dates (excluding weather days) will be posted on the home page of our studio website.
- We accept cash, check, and credit cards. Credit cards are accepted through PayPal and Venmo.

## Class Categories/Expectations

Classes are labeled as follows: Company A, Company B, Company C, recreational, technique, or Creative Movements. Below explains the requirements and expectations of each class. By joining the class that we place your dancer in, your dancer is agreeing to the below listed stipulations.

Our end goal is to give each dancer every option they could possibly want. We want more competitive dancers to be able to take more challenging classes if they'd like. We want more recreational dancers to be able to come to classes and not worry about producing a top-notch routine and just have fun. If there is a dancer who wants to try harder classes without stressing about being on stage with more advanced choreography, there is an understudy option for them as well.

Company A and Company B auditions are during the Welcome Back Weeks in September. All dancers interested in being in Company A or Company B will be judged during this time on dedication, multi-class commitment, and improvement which will all be used for placements. After "audition weeks," we will put all auditioning dancers in their appropriate classes.

### Company A

- Costumes
  - Two costumes will be required per class
- Attendance
  - See "Attendance" page for more details.
  - The class prior to a competition must be attended (exceptions may be made for illnesses.)
- Workshops
  - Must attend a total of at least two workshops during the season (August-May)
- Try Outs
  - Must attend January 7<sup>th</sup> group performance scored by judges (exceptions may be made at instructor's discretion)
- Competitions
  - Must attend all three group competitions
- Technique Classes
  - Must take at least one technique class that is in the style of their choreography class
    - Example: a dancer is on a Company B tap team then they must take at least one tap technique class. Ballet technique satisfies the technique requirement for lyrical, contemporary, and jazz. There is no technique class for hip hop.
    - \*Company A Tap 1 does not have a tap requirement

### Company B

- Costumes
  - Two costumes will be required per class
- Attendance
  - See "Attendance" page for more details.
  - The class prior to a competition must be attended (exceptions may be made for illnesses.)
- Workshops
  - Must attend a total of at least two workshops during the season (August-May)
- Try Outs
  - Must attend January 7<sup>th</sup> group performance scored by judges (exceptions may be made at instructor's discretion)
- Competitions
  - Must attend all three group competitions

- Dress Code
  - See “Dress Code” page for details.
- Technique Classes
  - Must take at least one technique class that is in the style of their choreography class (exceptions made at my discretion)
    - Example: a dancer is on a Company B tap team then they must take at least one tap technique class. Ballet technique satisfies the technique requirement for lyrical, contemporary, and jazz. There is no technique class for hip hop.

### **Company C**

- Costumes
  - Two costumes will be required per class
- Dress Code
  - See “Dress Code” page for details.
- Technique Classes
  - Company C tap classes must take a tap technique class
  - ALL Company C classes must take a ballet technique class

### **Recreational Teams**

- Costumes
  - One costume will be required per tap and hip hop class
  - Two costumes will be required for combo classes
- Competitions
  - Will have the option to attend Sidney and Glendive’s competitions
- Dress code
  - See “Dress Code” page for details.
- Technique Classes
  - Not required to take any technique classes but strongly encouraged

### **Technique Classes**

- Costumes
  - No costume will be purchased for technique classes as there are no routines taught.
- Performances
  - Technique classes do not participate in recitals or competitions.
- Dress code
  - See “Dress Code” page for details.

### **Creative Movements**

- Eligibility
  - All preschoolers must take Creative Movements for a minimum two seasons or until they enter kindergarten
- Season
  - Session 1 runs September 6<sup>th</sup>-December 1<sup>st</sup> and session 2 runs February 6<sup>th</sup>-April 27<sup>th</sup>
- Costume
  - No costumes are required. We have the Creative Movements dancers dress up in their favorite “party” or routine themed attire.
- Performances
  - Will perform at both winter and spring recitals

## Dress Code

It's important to have a strict dress code for dance. Instructors need to be able to see each dancers' body lines to ensure they're executing things correctly. This will decrease chances of dancers getting hurt since the instructor can see if a dancer is doing something that could result in an injury. Please see each classes' dress code specifications below:

- Clothing
  - Tap and Hip Hop Classes
    - Workout attire that does not include:
      - Pants that cover feet or could get stepped on
      - Oversized long sleeve tops that have sleeves that cover the dancers' hands
  - Ballet, Lyrical, Contemporary, Jazz Classes
    - Tops can either be a leotard, form fitting tank top, or sports bra
    - Bottoms can be tights, shorts, or capri length yoga pants
- Shoes
  - The appropriate shoes for each class are required.
    - Tap shoes must be worn in all tap classes.
    - Jazz slippers must be worn in all jazz classes.
    - Paws must be worn in all lyrical and contemporary classes.
    - Paws, ballet slippers, or bare feet must be worn in ballet technique classes.
    - Hip hop sneakers or CLEAN tennis shoes must be worn in all hip hop classes.
- Hair
  - Dancers' hair must always be pulled up and out of their faces.
  - THIS APPLIES TO ALL CLASSES REGARDLESS OF LEVEL
- Violations
  - Result in the dancer being excused from the class. This will count as an absence.
  - Recreational classes will be given warnings

## Season Layout

Each Company and recreational class will learn two routines. The first will be taught from September through November. The second will be taught January through April. If your dancer competes, then they will compete both routines they learned through the season.

At the winter recital, each class will perform its first routine only. At the spring recital, each class will perform its second routine only.

Any time there is no school for Sidney there will be no classes whether it was scheduled in advance or because of weather. All these predetermined dates will be posted on the home page of our studio website.

### Important Dates:

- August 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>- annual shoe sale/open house held at the studio
- September 6<sup>th</sup>- official season starts for all classes with Welcome Back/drop-in classes (doubles as auditions for Company A and Company B)
- Weekend of December 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>- winter recital (subject to change)
- December- no classes
- January 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>- Welcome Back Classes
- January 7<sup>th</sup>- solo/duo/trio tryouts & group “pre-comp” evaluations SHOWCASE\*
- January 9<sup>th</sup>- regular class schedule resumes (except Creative Movements)
- February 6<sup>th</sup>- Creative Movements 2<sup>nd</sup> session begins
- Late February/Early March- competition season begins
- April 30<sup>th</sup>- spring recital (subject to change)

\*Each choreography class (Company A/B/C and recreational classes) will perform their 1<sup>st</sup> group routine at these pre-comp evaluations for a chance before competitions to get feedback and critiques. This will be run like a competition without awards. I will have two professionals flown in to do the judging. Elizabeth’s Dance Expressions from Williston joins us and this event runs like a Showcase! It’s very fun and encouraging!

## Glitter Slips, Red Slips, & Green Slips

Dance studio etiquette is very important. I have listed critical points below. We have three programs to enforce these rules. Glitter slips are given out to dancers who go above and beyond. For every fifth glitter slip a dancer receives, they will receive a Cutting Edge tee shirt or tank top. Red slips are given out if they fail to listen and be respectful in class OR at any other studio functions, including competitions. Three red slips result in expulsion for that season. Green slips are dress code violation slips. They have details on correct dress code for future reference.

Points of emphasis:

- Don't talk while the teacher is talking. Not even whispering to the person next to you.
- Dress appropriately and come prepared.
- Leave your stuff in the entry way in the closets or hanging on the hooks.
- Don't come late and, if you do, enter very quietly.
- Don't leave early. If it is a must, talk to the teacher before class. If you need to exit in an emergency (it better be good), exit as quickly and discreetly as possible.
- Respect the dance space. Pick up trash, your clothes, and don't turn things on, off, up, or down in the space without permission.
- Don't "hang" or slouch on the barre or anywhere else, for that matter. Be attentive at all times, especially when waiting for your turn. Beware of negative body language (like folded arms). And never sit down unless you are asked to.
- Pay attention at competition award ceremonies to ensure you accept the correct awards.



## Attendance

Good attendance is very important. It's very difficult to build on a routine or technique class-to-class if not all dancers are present. Once dancers get to a certain level of competitiveness, there are higher expectations in every aspect of their dancing, including attendance.

Dancers in Company A and B classes are only allowed **two** absences per session per class. If dancers are in other non-dance activities, each dance class missed (even for a practice or a game) counts as an unexcused absence. If a dancer has **two** absences in one class in one session, they will be able to continue taking the class but will not be able to perform/compete with that class (final decision made at discretion of instructor.)

Technique class absences are treated like choreography absences in the class that correlates to that style. If a student misses two ballet technique classes (and doesn't make them up,) they are unable to perform/compete with their lyrical, contemporary, or jazz choreography class.

The class prior to a competition weekend is required for Company A and B.

Dancers can make up technique class absences by taking a different technique class within one week of the absence. They cannot make up choreography class absences. If the instructor of the missed choreography class feels the dancer needs an extra class to get caught up, that will be required and will be \$50 regardless of the amount of time the class takes.

All absences and absence situations may be reevaluated as every situation is unique. We will have the final say on any repercussions based on the situation.

## Season Cost

Dance is an incredibly rewarding activity! I want everyone to know what they're committing to financially before the season begins. Here is an ESTIMATED break down of costs for the entire year. Your dancer is always guaranteed at least three classes/month and up to five classes/month. If classes are cancelled due to bad weather or no school, tuition remains the same. If classes are cancelled due to an instructor being ill or out of town or another studio specific reason, please subtract \$9.00 per choreography classes or \$6.00 for technique classes from your next payment.

### Tuition:

- Technique classes \$25/month
  - If a dancer takes two technique classes, all other technique classes beyond those two are each \$15/mo.
- Choreography \$35/month
- Creative Movements \$120/session
- Required make up classes \$50 flat rate
- Max monthly rate \$150 (unlimited classes)

### Costumes:

- Group costumes average \$60
- Tights \$14
- Shoe bows \$5
- Lashes \$5
- Earrings \$5

### Shoes:

- Patent leather tap shoes \$25
- Basic Oxford tap shoe \$40
- Advanced Bloch oxford tap shoe \$85
- Advanced Dancing Fair oxford tap shoe \$140
- Recreational hip hop shoes \$35
- Competitive hip hop shoes TBD per class
- Ballet slippers \$18
- Jazz shoes \$30
- Lyrical/Contemporary paws \$20

### Competition fees (vary per competition):

- Groups (including production) \$35-70/dancer/routine
- Solos \$70-140
- Duos/Trios \$35-75/dancer

### Solo/Duo/Trio:

- \$220/solo (\$240/solo from Miss Jen) (includes two 1.5-hour classes to learn the choreography and two-45 minute optional clean up classes)
- \$150/dancer/duo includes two 1.5-hour classes to learn the choreography and two-45 minute optional clean up classes)
- \$100/dancer/trio (includes two 1.5-hour classes to learn the choreography and two-45 minute optional clean up classes)
- \$280/workshop instructor solo (includes two 1.5-hour classes to learn the choreography)
- \$50 for each additional, one hour clean up class

## Solos/Duos/Trios

Solos/duos/trios are a huge commitment! They require many hours of practice outside the studio.

Solos/duos/trios are not required to purchase a new costume for the routine. They can borrow or wear a previous year's costume. Hair and makeup decisions are completely up to the solo/duo/trio as long as everyone in the routine looks uniform.

Solos/duos/trios are learned in two 1.5-hour classes. It is then up to the dancer(s) to practice on their own. Two-45 minute clean up classes will be offered to be used whenever the solo/duo/trio desires throughout the remainder of the year. Additional classes are \$50/hour.

### **Auditions:**

**\*NEW for ALL COMPANY DANCERS\***

If you are in a company class, you automatically qualify for a solo. You no longer need to audition. EVERY Company solo/duo/trio is now required to participate in a Student Choreography Showcase. Each dancer will put together a one-minute routine to perform in front of the other Company members. There will be a variety of awards that will be voted on at the conclusion of the performances. This will be held at the studio in early November.

### RECREATIONAL DANCERS

To attain a new solo/duo/trio you must win an audition. (If you had a solo in 2021-22, you do not need to audition again.) Auditions are held in October and are \$10/audition to attend. There will be a panel of 2-3 judges that will determine the winner. One dancer cannot win two different auditions in one year. Once a dancer wins an audition in a certain style, they can never win an audition in that same style.

Audition groups are broken up by age. Ages are based on the dancer's age the day of that dancer's first audition. To attain a solo/duo/trio, the dancer must attend a weekly choreography or technique class in that style.

To attain a duo or trio, the winner of that audition is allowed to select 1-2 dancers from the audition pool to create a duo or trio.

When you win a routine, there is additional fee of \$150/solo, \$90/dancer/duo, or \$70/dancer/trio for the remainder of the choreography and two-45 minute optional clean up classes throughout the remainder of the year.

### **Try Outs:**

EVERY solo/duo/trio must try out on January 7<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for competition. Try outs are held in front of a panel of two judges. Each routine must score a minimum score to "pass." If the routine does not pass, there will be a list of things for the routine to fix. Once the dancer(s) has fixed these things they can try out for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. If the dancer(s) fixes the problems, then they pass. If not, then it can only be performed at recital and local performances.

### **Student Choreography**

All students ages nine and up have the option to do a student choreography solo, duo, or trio. This means that the student(s) does/do 100% of the choreography on their own. These routines must try out on January 7<sup>th</sup> along with the other solos, duos, and trios in our studio. These routines are not able to have any clean up classes or classes with instructors. An instructor can watch the routine and give some generic feedback but not change any choreography per competition rules.

## Performances/Competitions

For every recital and competition, it is imperative that your dancer is at the venue dressed and ready to perform at least one hour before their approximate performance time. We will go on stage without a dancer if he/she is not ready. Competitions can run up to one hour ahead. There are slight exceptions to the time rule. If your routine is one of the first five to go onstage a half an hour is a sufficient amount of time to be early.

At recital, please be in the dressing room five routines before you perform. At competitions, please meet in the dressing room eight routines before. It's important the group is in the dressing room with ample time to rehearse together before going on stage. You, parents, pay a lot of money for competitions so we need the dancers to take it seriously.

At every recital and competition your dancer must wear every accessory that comes with the costume. Every costume will have tights. Most costumes have a hair accessory which is to be worn on the dancer's right side of the head. Company A and B will have eye lashes. Company A, B, and C will have earrings. Recreational dancers are welcome to purchase earrings as well!

A uniform hairstyle will be voted on for all company dancers. TBD.

No nail polish is allowed at competitions or recitals. Local performances are less "formal," and hair and nails are casual.

Our competition season begins mid-February for solos/duos/trios and mid-March for groups. Each team has different competition requirements in terms of the minimum to attend (as stated above.) Our studio generally attends 5-6 competitions throughout the spring.

Competition fees have strict deadlines. I will email fee and deadline sheets in January. I am unable to enter your dancer until the competition fees have been paid in full. There is a \$20/routine late fee if I do not receive the fees by the deadline.

I will not know the exact routine schedule for any competition until roughly 10-14 days before the event. As soon as I receive the competition schedule, I will email it out.

On our studio website, I will have all the competition dates, venues, host hotels, and other information. You are not required to stay at the host hotel. The earlier you reserve rooms the better. Hotels can fill up quickly.

At every competition, there are award ceremonies. Attendance at these ceremonies is not required. At these ceremonies, every routine is adjudicated and will receive a placement award. That award may be a medallion, pins, or a trophy. Typically, only one dancer is allowed to go up when the routine is called and accept the award per competition rules. I choose one dancer to accept the award based on their submission of the competition etiquette form. This does not mean that dancer gets to keep the award. It is only for accepting the award. Please read the competition etiquette form on page 17 which explains the process more thoroughly.

Our studio attends nationals every other year. This upcoming summer of 2023 is a nationals' year!

## **Production Routine**

Every other year our studio puts on a production routine. This is offered to Company dancers only.

A production routine is different from normal routines because it has various ages and styles of dance combined into one longer than normal routine. It is good experience and is fun because everyone dances with someone they wouldn't normally be in the same routine with.

The classes for this routine will take place mostly in December. There will be a total of 4-7 classes. The fee for production classes total \$60 and the costume will range between \$50-60.

Our production routine performs at the spring recital and competes in Sidney and two out-of-town competitions. To be a part of the production routine each dancer must commit to these competitions where the production routine will compete.

This upcoming 2022-23 season is an off year for production.

## Boosters

Beginning this season, all fundraisers are run through the studio and not a booster club. Any parent is welcome to propose a fundraiser for the studio to participate in. By proposing the fundraiser, you are in charge of that fundraiser (organizing, scheduling, delivering items, and handling the finances.) Once the fundraiser is complete, all the money will be turned in and each families' "earnings" will be put on their account. There are two forms that will be filled out for each fundraiser. Form A will be filled out prior to the fundraiser starting and Form B will be filled out after and turned in with any money.

### FORM A- to be completed prior to the fundraiser

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraiser Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Profit Margin/Profit per Item/etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Beginning and Ending Date of Fundraiser: \_\_\_\_\_

### FORM B- to be completed at the conclusion of the fundraiser and returned with all monies

Name of Family	Amount Turned In	Participant's Signature	Organizer's Signature

## Competition Etiquette Form

Competitions can be quite overwhelming, especially to those of you who are new to the dance world. They are also very exciting and rewarding! Hopefully these guidelines will help your competition experience run smoothly and be fun. Please review the following information with your dancer(s) to ensure they understand what is expected of them.

1. During award ceremonies dancers need to know who accepts the award. Only one dancer per group is allowed to retrieve the award. A dancer will be selected from each group to accept the award. Soloists will be excluded from the selection simply because they get to accept the award for their solo. I want as many dancers as possible to get this experience. Please make sure your dancer knows that there will be one designated dancer per routine and competition. (The same dancer won't accept the award for all the competitions.)
2. Be sure to thank the judges each time you pick up an award. Judges have made comments to me in past years that our dancers are very polite. I want our studio to continue to be known as having respectful dancers; so please look the judge in the eye and thank them for your award!
3. Respect other dancers, the dressing rooms, and backstage. Let your dancer know that they should support all dancers whether from our studio or not.
4. When a group wins an award, the trophy will be displayed in the studio if no one wants to take the trophy home.
5. Costumes must be worn to attend any award ceremony. You may wear your studio jacket over your costume. Your dance shoes are not necessary.
6. Master classes or workshops are offered at some competitions. I highly recommend you take as many of these classes as you can. Thanking your instructor is as important as thanking a judge. Be sure to thank your dance instructor after every class.
7. Dressing room behavior is equally important. All dancers should be supervised at all times. Please respect the property of other dancers in our studio and other studios' property.

Please sign and return bottom portion to me by your dancer's first competition. Let's make the Cutting Edge Dance Studio Dancers the most admired dancers in our area! Thank you!

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We have read the above guidelines and understand what is expected of a dancer. We promise to be prepared to accept awards accordingly, thank the judges, respect every dancer we encounter, wear a costume for each award ceremony, thank our workshop instructor every time, and exercise proper dressing room behavior.

Dancer: \_\_\_\_\_

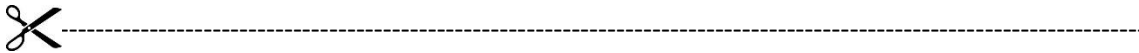
Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Company A & B Contract

Congratulations on being a member of our elite Company A or B! You've worked very hard and I am very happy for you. You should be proud. With this class comes extra responsibilities. Below is a list of things that I would like you to discuss with your parents, sign the bottom, and return to me.

1. Hold yourself accountable by knowing all choreography and coming prepared for each and every class.
2. Attend all of group competitions (see website home page for dates) and group evaluations January 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. Participate in a minimum of two workshops throughout the year (August-May.)
4. Purchase two costumes for the year per class.
5. Attend every possible class and accept the attendance guidelines and rules.
6. Wear the appropriate makeup/costume/accessories for every competition and recital.
7. Abide by the dress code.



I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to the seven above mentioned requirements made of me as part of Company A and B.

x \_\_\_\_\_  
(dancer)

x \_\_\_\_\_  
(parent)



# Try Out Score Card

By the time try outs come along January 7<sup>th</sup>, each routine should be perfectly memorized. If the “memorization” section is rated “poor,” that results in an automatic failure. The other categories are analyzed to get the two judges’ overall recommendation for each routine.

## Try Out Score Card 2023

<b>Memorization</b>	Poor	Average	Great	Routine: _____ Performance Category: _____ Age/Division: _____ Novice OR Competitive: _____
<b>Technique</b>	Poor	Average	Great	
<b>Musicality</b>	Poor	Average	Great	
<b>Appearance</b>	Poor	Average	Great	
<b>Solo Introduction</b>	Poor	Average	Great	

(name, age, studio, title of song)

## Company A and B Auditions Score Card

	1 low	2	3	4	5 high
Warm Up					
Across the Floor					
Combo					

In each section of the audition, dancers are being judged on technique, stamina, memorization, and attitude.

Comments: