

Why?

ILD



WHY ILD Boutique Community :

At ILD, we honor the whole dancer — not just the performance on stage. That's why we created The ILD Experience: a collection of opportunities designed to inspire growth, spark confidence, and strengthen our community. From second chances to empowering instant feedback, from heartfelt recognition to unforgettable workshops, The ILD Experience is where every dancer's journey shines.

Do-Over

Because everyone deserves another chance to shine.

Missed a step, had a stumble, or just want to give it your all again? With Do-Over, dancers can perform their routine a second time — embracing resilience, growth, and the joy of dance.

Do-Over \$150

**Each Studio is limited to 1 Do-Over per event*

Rapid Empowerment

Feedback in the moment, growth for a lifetime.

Right after stepping off stage, dancers receive quick notes of encouragement and love directly from the Show Director. These immediate reflections celebrate what stood out, highlight areas to refine, and offer empowering guidance to make the very next performance even stronger.

Conventions, Workshops & Masterclasses

Learn, create, and grow with top professionals.

Dancers gain access to intensive training with industry leaders, opportunities for scholarships, and a special choreography created just for competition performance — pushing artistry and creativity beyond the classroom.

Networking, Reimagined

~A curated boutique community~

From parent lounges, teacher workshops, sunrise breakfasts, cocktail salons to high-energy mixers, ILD creates spaces where dancers, families, and professionals build real connections — more community, more inspiration.



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WELCOME TO ILD COMPETITION GUIDELINES

We are thrilled to welcome you to the ILD Event Weekend! These guidelines are designed to ensure a fair, safe, and inspiring experience for every dancer, teacher, and family in attendance. Please review each section carefully, as they outline important requirements and expectations for performances, music, props, hotel stays, and event logistics. By following these rules, we create a supportive community where artistry, discipline, and joy can shine on stage.

REGISTRATION

ILD is a curated boutique competition community where entries are intentionally limited to preserve an EXCLUSIVE, high-touch experience for STUDIOS AND participants, fostering meaningful CONNECTION, recognition and elevated EDUCATION.

- To preserve the exclusive ILD Boutique experience, reservations are secured on a first-come, first-served basis, with the option to place a deposit and hold your space in advance.
- Entries must be submitted either paid in full or with a deposit through the online system—no phone, fax, mail, or email entries accepted.
- Deposits are non-refundable, and all remaining balances must be paid in full no later than 45 days prior to the event. Failure to meet this deadline will result in reserved entry spaces being released to other studios and forfeiting your deposit.
- Deposits are applied toward your total balance, ensuring your reservation is credited in full.
- Deposits are \$500/flat fee + a fee for the number of entries you are reserving a place in the schedule for.
 - 1- 10 entries > \$150
 - 11-24 entries > \$360
 - 25+ entries > \$750
- LAST CALL for registration closes 2 weeks prior to the event.

PRICING

Early Bird | Standard Rate | Last Call

Early Bird Deadline: November 30, 2025

Solo - \$120 | \$135 | \$155

Duo/Trio per dancer - \$60 | \$65 | \$85

Group (4-19 dancers) per dancer - \$50 | \$60 | \$80

Production (20+ dancers) per dancer - \$55 | \$65 | \$85

CHANGE FEES

Change fees will be charged for a change made after event registration is complete.

Level changes

Roster changes

Category changes

Change fees are as follows:

- \$10 per change (30 days before event)
- \$25 per change (under 30 days before event)



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REFUNDS/TRANSFERS

Refunds will not be offered for cancellations.

If an injury occurs either before an event or onsite and a dancer does not compete, a doctor's note will need to be provided.

Funds can be transferred to another ILD event if a credit is created on the account.

AGES

Ages for Solos, Duet/Trios and Groups are as of January 1st. The age of each participant is determined as of the event date. Duo/Trio and Group entries must be registered under the age of the oldest participant in the routine. Entries cannot compete in an age division more than one age division younger than the oldest dancer's age as of January 1 of the competing year, regardless of the average age.

Cupids = Ages 3-5

Darlings = Ages 6-8

Beloveds = Ages 9-11

Treasures = Ages 12-14

Valentines = Ages 15-17

Flames = 18+

Divisions

Solo

Duo/Trio

Group (4 - 19 dancers)

Production (20+ dancers)

ABILITY LEVELS

Ability level is also determined as of the event date.

- For solos, a dancer must compete at their highest ability level across all genres (Ballet/Lyrical/Modern, Jazz/Hip-Hop, Tap/Musical Theatre, and Variety Arts/Acro/Ethnic).
- For Duo/Trios and Groups, the ability level is based on the dancer with the highest level in that number.

Do not average ability levels.

- **Beginning** - LESS than 2 years in any Dance Studio environment
- **Elementary** - 2-4yrs of dance study
- **Junior** - 5-7 years of dance study
- **Senior** - MORE than 7 years of dance study



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TIMING

Time Limits: All routines must remain within the time limits. (Extensions must be paid in advance)

- Solo: 2:45 minutes
- Duet/Trio: 2:45 minutes (Max extension 3:00)
- Group (4 –19 dancers): 3:30 minutes (Max extension 4:30)
- Production (20+ dancers): 7:00 minutes

TIME EXTENSION FEES:

- 15 secs
 - Duo/Trio - \$20
 - Small Group (4-9) - \$40
 - Large Group (10-19) - \$60
- 30 secs
 - Small Group (4-9) - \$60
 - Large Group - (10-19) - \$75
 - Production - (20+) - \$90
- 60 secs
 - Small Group (4-9) - \$75
 - Large Group - (10-19) - \$90
 - Production - \$105

Extended time rules :

If a routine exceeds the time limit without purchasing extra time, it will face a 1-point deduction per judge for every 15 secs.

The system will automatically calculate and charge based on the music file uploaded. If music is uploaded after a final balance is paid, any extra time fees must be paid at time of music upload.

PROPS

Props can enhance a performance, but they must be safe, manageable, and leave the stage as it was found.

- Props are allowed in all categories.
- A prop is defined as anything not worn as part of the costume (e.g., hat, cane, chair, or costume pieces removed during the routine).
- Props must enter and exit with performers and must not require extensive setup.
- Props must not include electrical equipment, hazardous items (fire, smoke/fog machines, knives, confetti, glitter, etc.), or live animals.
- The stage must be left clean and in its original condition after each performance.

TUMBLING | LIFTS | ACRO

Athletic movement and acrobatics are welcome but must be entered in the proper category.

- Tumbling moves are permitted in all categories (e.g., cartwheels, somersaults, handstands, walkovers, floor work, and lifts, including “head over heels” entries/exits).
- Acro is defined as handsprings, aerials, acro passes, and contortion work.



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MUSIC GUIDELINES

Music sets the tone for each performance, and all submissions must follow ILD guidelines.

- All music must be uploaded digitally through the ILD online portal.
- Uploads must include the entry number, performance title, and studio name.
- Back-up music must be brought in at least two formats (USB drive, tablet, smartphone with adapter, or new CDs labeled with entry number; no stickers).

MUSIC LENGTH LIMITS

- Maximum of 3 minutes for all group entries (except Production Numbers).
 - Maximum of 7 minutes for Production Numbers.
 - Extended Time may be purchased (see details).
- The same piece of music must not be used more than once.
- Music must not contain profanity or offensive language. Violations may result in a score deduction or disqualification.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- Stage Presence
- Originality
- Technique
- Style
- Execution
- Overall Entertainment Value
- ⚠️ Incorrect age entries = 5-point deduction (not disqualification)
- ✅ Judges' decisions are final.

Scores & Feedback

- Judges' score sheets and recorded comments will be available to teachers via ILD portal after the competition.

AWARDS

 Participation - Every dancer receives an ILD participation gift.

 Category Awards (*by age + ability level*)

- 🏆 1st Place – Trophy
- 🥈 2nd Place – Medallion
- 🥉 3rd Place – Rosette

GRAND SWEEPSTAKES

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd Overall Highest Score – Trophy (by age group)
- Each 1st Overall Score receives a \$100 cash prize
- Special Overall Group Awards:
 - Cupids – \$100
 - Valentines – \$100
 - Beloveds – \$100
 - Darlings – \$100
 - Flames – \$100



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★SPECIAL AWARDS

- Judges Award
- Outstanding Participation
- Excellence Award
- Outstanding Performance
- Sweetheart/Heartthrob Titles + Trophy (Junior & Senior). **Winners must attend ILD Nationals if selected as City Representatives.**

HOTEL REQUIREMENTS

Our host hotels are part of the ILD experience and ensure convenience and community throughout the event. All participants are encouraged to stay at the official host hotel under the “ILD Block” for the best Event Weekend experience.

Reservations should be made at the time of registration to secure special ILD rates.

Overflow hotel information will be provided if the host hotel is sold out.

Studio owners, dancers, and parents must demonstrate sportsmanship within the ILD Community.

Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the event without refund.

MISCELLANEOUS

These guidelines cover general expectations and logistics for a smooth event weekend.

Entries will be limited to 500 per event to ensure a curated boutique experience.

Dancers may perform in multiple categories and cities.

Routines from previous years may be re-entered.

A proof of entries will be sent to verify spelling and categories.

The Confirmation Packet (sent ~10 days prior) will include performance order, entry numbers, music link, time schedule, and parent/dancer details.

Teachers must check in at the sound desk within 15 minutes of doors opening and verify all music.

Dancers must check in at least one hour prior to their performance.

Admission is \$10.00 per ticket and can be purchased on the ILD website

Children under 3 are not recommended due to the length of the event.

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