



November 15th, 2022

Dear Director:

Auditions for the 2023 Student Choreography Showcase will take place on Saturday, March 11th from 8:00am - 4:00pm at John Hersey High School (1900 E Thomas Street, Arlington Heights). The 2023 Student Choreography Showcase will be held at Evanston Township High School (1600 Dodge Ave, Evanston) on Friday, April 14th at 7:00pm. A tech rehearsal will take place during the day at ETHS prior to the performance.

If you are interested in auditioning for the Showcase please fill out the Student Showcase Audition Google Form (<https://forms.gle/3xYBCFehRQABdeQn8>) and submit payment no later than Saturday, February 11th. Audition times will be assigned once payment is received. While schools may audition up to 2 dances, at most, only 1 dance per school can be selected. If you need to request a particular time of the day, please do so at the time of application and we will try to accommodate you.

Checks should be made out to Illinois High School Dance Festival and sent to:

IHSDF % Amelia Faulstick
33697 N Evergreen Dr
Grayslake, Illinois 60030

The Illinois High School Dance Festival is officially registered as a 501(c3) non for profit organization. Please reach out to Amelia Faulstick, Treasurer, to receive any tax forms needed to remit payment at ihsdancefestival@gmail.com.

The committee asks that all sponsors stress the importance of auditioning only ORIGINAL, STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHED WORKS.

Thank you for participating and good luck at auditions!

Sincerely,
Christine Widell & Michelle Carrison
Student Showcase Coordinators
<https://www.ihsdancefestival.com>

RULES FOR SHOWCASE SELECTION AND PERFORMANCE

Approved by Illinois State Dance Festival Steering Committee

CHOREOGRAPHY

- ALL PIECES MUST BE STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHED, WITH ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY.

AUDITION

- A \$50 per dance audition fee must be submitted by Saturday, February 11th. Checks should be made out to Illinois High School Dance Festival. **You will not receive an audition time until payment is received.**
- Schools may audition up to 2 dances, but, at most, only one dance per school may be selected.
- No special lighting is allowed at the auditions.
- All schools must set and strike their own props and set pieces. (if applicable-you will be held responsible for any damage to the stage).
- You will have a total of 20 minutes to stage and perform both of your dances.
- All schools will be assigned a warm up time prior to their audition. It is possible that the pace of the auditions can change throughout the day so all schools should be prepared and flexible.
- As each school takes the stage, they should briefly space their 1st dance and then the choreographers should come forward and introduce themselves, say their school letter (will be assigned when audition times are assigned) and the title of their piece to the judges. (DO NOT SAY YOUR SCHOOL'S NAME.). You will repeat this process for the 2nd dance.
- NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE GIVEN ABOUT YOUR PIECE BEFORE YOUR AUDITION. Please do not explain the theme, inspiration, meaning behind your piece, or costuming.
- An area will be provided for costume changes.
- Schools will be assigned a warm up time prior to their audition time.
- The sound system will have an AUXILIARY CORD TO CONNECT to an electronic device (you may play the music from your iPad, Phone, Computer etc.). All sponsors are responsible for operating their own sound at the auditions. Please have music downloaded to your device. We cannot guarantee the ability to connect to the internet.
- Schools may NOT audition via video tape. Although the committee understands that conflicts do arise, it is beneficial to the total educational experience that schools make every effort to attend the auditions in person.

JUDGING

- All schools will be judged anonymously by 3 professional judges from the Chicago area.
- All schools will receive their judging forms within a week of the auditions.
- Judges will be instructed to prioritize their selections based on quality first, variety second. Aside from making the showcase selections, judges will also place the showcase dances in show order.

SELECTION

To provide a positive educational experience for all who attend the festival, the following criteria will govern the selection of the Showcase dances:

- **Original student choreography.** All dances must be choreographed by a CURRENT high school student.
- **Technique of the dancers.** Extension, placement, control, rhythm, energy and focus.
- **Presentation.** Dancers' appearance, costumes, and clarity of performance.
- **Quality of the choreography.** Development of a theme or idea; body design, combinations, floor patterns, originality, creativity, and accompaniment.
- All schools who audition for the showcase will be notified of who was selected, by email, on Saturday, March 11th, no later than 10:00PM.
- Schools selected will receive corrections from the judges and are EXPECTED to make them prior to the showcase performance.
- The dance selected by the judges cannot be altered in any way for the performance other than what the judges suggested.

SHOWCASE TECH REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE

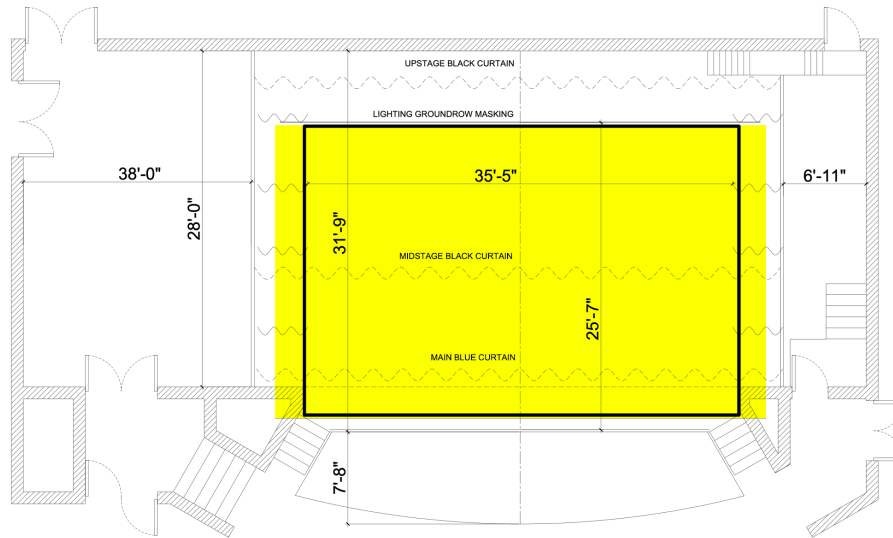
- All schools selected will be expected to attend a staging and tech rehearsal the day of the Showcase (Friday, April 14th) to confirm lighting and rehearse their pieces.
- The performance will take place on Friday, April 14th at Evanston Township High School at 7pm.
- Schools selected will be expected to act professionally both backstage and onstage.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE STATED CRITERIA WILL RESULT IN NO LONGER BEING ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE SHOWCASE AUDITIONS. PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ABOVE CRITERIA IS ESSENTIAL TO THE JUDGES' DECISIONS FOR SHOWCASE.

The showcase judges will be faced with very difficult decisions. In order to provide a positive educational experience for all who audition, we require schools to audition live. We realize that many of the judgments made are highly subjective and are therefore open to question and criticism. The judges will try to select dances that are of the highest quality, as well as those which will add variety to the performance. We wish to remind all applicants that the Showcase is NOT A COMPETITION-there are no BEST dances, no first or second place. Such a competition would be against the spirit and the educational philosophy of the Festival. The Showcase is simply a means of exposing dance students to the trends in dance education across the state. While being chosen for the Showcase will undoubtedly bring a sense of school pride, priority should be given to being receptive to new ideas presented in the dance performance and to return home with experiences to share and nurture. We hope that those groups who audition, but are not chosen for the Showcase performance, will find the judges feedback useful.

**JOHN HERSEY HIGH SCHOOL
STAGE DIMENSIONS
for AUDITIONS**

The highlighted space WITHIN the rectangle is the performance space. It measures approximately 35'5" x 25'7". There is a run around behind the stage. There are a couple steps leading to the backstage/run around area.



**EVANSTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
STAGE DIMENSIONS
for PERFORMANCE**

The entire stage is: 40'x100'

The dance floor dimensions are: 32' x 40'