

# Solo / Duet / Trio Info Sheet

## **Solos, Duets, and Trios – Application & Approval Policy**

Participation in solos, duets, and trios requires both application and prior approval from the directors. Please understand that being a competitive team member does not automatically qualify a dancer for this level of work.

To be considered, dancers must have completed at least one full year of competitive experience. In rare instances, a dancer may be approved without meeting this requirement, but only at the sole discretion of the directors. Dancers must also receive a minimum average score on their Instructor evaluation score. If a dancer has not fully committed during the year, their score will reflect their work ethic and they will not be approved for a solo if they do not meet the minimum.

Solo, duet, and trio work requires significantly increased personal responsibility, focus, and confidence. Approval will be based on a dancer's technical ability, maturity, commitment, and readiness to handle the demands of individual or small group performance and preparation.

The directors will approve all artistic decisions, including style, music selection, choreographer, choreography, and costumes, to ensure a cohesive and professional result.

Please note that **not all applications will be approved**. Being granted a solo/duet/trio is a privilege and an additional opportunity, not a guarantee. Instructor evaluations, completed annually and reflecting work ethic, class behavior, and overall studio conduct, will be considered in the approval of solos. Dancers must meet a minimum score to be eligible for solo approval.

Most importantly, **team dances will always take priority** over solo, duet, and trio routines. Participation in these additional pieces must never interfere with your commitment to your team for rehearsal and competition.

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## **Readiness for Competition and Performance**

Dances will **only be registered for competition if the dancer is fully prepared**. Readiness will be carefully assessed through in-class evaluations and during the dress rehearsal.

We strongly encourage parents to openly and honestly discuss these expectations with their dancer. It is important that the dancer feels confident, committed, and prepared to take on the additional responsibility that comes with a solo, duet, or trio.

Please note: **If at any point the teaching staff or directors determine that a solo, duet, or trio is not ready to compete or perform**, it will be **removed from the competition or recital without refund**. This policy ensures the quality of performance and the well-being of the dancer.

We kindly remind all dancers and families that choreography is the **creative work of the assigned instructor**. As such, it is important to respect their artistic vision. Any **changes to approved solo choreography must be discussed and approved by our staff**. Unauthorized modifications by individuals outside our faculty may result in the routine being withdrawn from competition.

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## Choreography Package Details

Each solo, duet, or trio includes **3.5 hours of instructional time**, divided into appropriate sessions based on the needs of the dancer and the choreographer. **\$500/solo, \$600/duet or trio** (this is the total cost for duet/trio - please divide between members)

This time covers: choreography development, professionally edited version of the music for practice, studio use, open studio hours, weekly rehearsal space, costume fitting, and ordering assistance.

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## Recital Information for Solos, Duets, and Trios

Solo, duet, and trio performances will be featured in **one recital**. **Typically, only senior solos/duets** are selected to appear in *The PAC Showcase*. However, exceptions may be made for particularly high-scoring routines and advanced dancers.

To be eligible for recital performance, dancers must maintain **at least 85% attendance** in all scheduled classes and rehearsals. If the choreographer or directors determine that a routine is not performance-ready or does not meet the standards of The PAC, it may be **removed from the recital at any time**, including last-minute decisions.

Additionally, **not all solos/duets/trios may be approved for recital performance due to time limitations and the number of requests**. Final participation will be based on readiness, attendance, space availability, and overall show flow.

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## Duet/Trio Placement

If you are interested in a duet or trio, please know that **individual strengths and compatibility** are key factors in the placement process. For a duet or trio to be successful, dancers must be well-matched in skill level, style, work ethic, and overall performance quality. Directors will carefully consider these elements when approving and assigning duet/trio groupings to ensure the best outcome for all involved.

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## Approximate Competition Costs

### Costumes

Costumes must complement the choreography and music and be approved by the studio directors. If you have costume ideas- such as pedestrian wear or selections from a costume vendor - you are welcome to share them. Otherwise, your choreographer will provide up to three approved options for the dancer(s) to choose from.

This process helps prevent costume duplication across competitive groups, solos/duets/trios, and performance classes. Please note: if a costume is purchased or altered without approval and does not meet expectations, you will be responsible for purchasing a new approved costume. We will do our best to assist with size exchanges, but exchanges cannot be guaranteed.

### Entry Fees

Competition entry fees vary slightly depending on the event. On average, fees are approximately:

- **\$165–\$175 per solo**
  - **\$80–\$85 per dancer for duets and trios**
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## Rehearsal Requirements for Solos, Duets, and Trios

**Weekly Rehearsal Commitment** - As a soloist or member of a duet/trio, you represent **Footlights Dance Studio** and your choreographer's work. **Consistent weekly rehearsal is required** to maintain performance quality and readiness.

All solos, duets, and trios will be entered into **Akada**, and dancers must **check in at the front desk** before each rehearsal to ensure attendance is tracked. Attendance reports will be reviewed before registering for each competition. In addition, **dancers must maintain a minimum of 85% attendance** in classes/Saturday choreography, and/or rehearsals to compete.

If this attendance requirement is not met:

- The routine will be pulled from competition.
- **No refunds** will be given for entry fees already paid to the competition.

## Open Studio Time

Once solo/duet/trio routines are completed, a schedule of available **open studio times** will be shared. Studios will be open for self-guided rehearsals on **select Saturday mornings from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**, pending availability. *Please note: Team choreography and rehearsals take priority over open studio time.*

## Parental Guidelines During Rehearsals

During open studio time, **staff members may be present to offer guidance or feedback**. However, we kindly ask parents **not to critique or coach their dancers this time**. This boundary helps foster a positive growth environment for your dancer and supports a healthy parent-child relationship.

## Liability Notice

As with any physical activity, there is an inherent risk of injury. Signing up for solo/duet/trio participation, you acknowledge that your dancer may be **unsupervised** during designated rehearsal times. You agree **not to hold Footlights Dance Studio, its staff, or its parent company, Footlights Performing Arts, liable** for any injury sustained during open rehearsal.

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## Music Selection

The selection of music for solos, duets, and trios is a **collaborative process** involving the choreographer and the studio directors. While soloists are welcome to suggest songs, the **final choice will be a joint decision** based on what is best for the performance.

When choosing music, several factors will be considered, including but not limited to: **tempo and musicality, category and genre, age appropriateness, lyric content, popularity, and relevance.**

Our goal is to ensure the music complements the choreography and enhances the overall performance experience.

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## Choreographer Selection

We understand that dancers may prefer working with a particular instructor's choreography style. However, we ask that you remember that **assigning the strongest choreographers for each style** is crucial. Our priority is to match dancers with the best instructor for their performance style and overall growth.

The directors and choreographers will select the **appropriate style** for each solo, duet, or trio based on the dancer's strengths. While we value your input and encourage open communication, **dancers are not guaranteed their requested choreographer**. Assignments will be made based on the order in which applications are received and the availability of choreographers.

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## Competition Expectations

As a soloist or member of a duet/trio, it is important to approach competitions with **graciousness** and **preparedness**, understanding that competing is not solely about awards but personal growth, achievement, and a love for performing.

After the competition, it is the dancer's responsibility to **request feedback, scoring, and critiques** from the directors. Choreographers and directors will **not** initiate follow-up unless requested. Please note that not all choreographers can attend every competition or performance.

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## Self/Outside Choreography

For any **self-choreographed** or **outside-choreographed** work, specific standards and guidelines must be met to maintain the artistic integrity of our program. Historically, we have only worked with former Footlights instructors or trusted professionals that we know personally to ensure consistency in choreography, music, movement, and costuming - elements that reflect the values and standards of Footlights Dance Studio.

Our studio instructors are contracted with exclusivity clauses that limit outside work, helping to protect the overall integrity of our program. Therefore, if a dancer wishes to pursue self or outside choreography, it **must** be approved by the **studio directors**, and the same mileage and exclusivity clauses will apply.

If the directors feel that the choreography does not align with the dancer's growth or the studio's standards, adjustments may be made. In cases where significant adjustments are required, additional **fees may apply** to cover the time spent modifying the routine.

**Self and outside-choreographed routines must be presented for approval to the studio owners/directors before the dress rehearsal in January**, and rehearsed every week.

**Fees for self/outside choreography** cover only the **open studio/rehearsal space**, which is **\$150**. A separate rental fee will be applied if additional space or private lessons are needed to refine or learn the choreography.

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To fill out the application, please click this link:

<https://forms.gle/pfVSEFzEurPQg5L98>

**Deadline for application is July 1st. No exceptions. NO requests after July 1st will be approved.**