

Musical Theatre Dance

In a Musical Theatre Dance Performance, the Thespian(s) must present one dance selection from a published score written for a musical theatre scene with a focus on dance performance. All dance performances must be accompanied by music. The adjudicators will consider how well the piece is danced as well as how well it is acted. Dance selections which include brief moments of vocalization are acceptable, if required to perform the piece.

Thespians may present solo, duet, or group dance numbers. A solo should be from a musical theatre scene that includes a dance performance for an individual. A duet is defined by The International Thespian Excellence Awards as a dance performance for two (2) players. A group number is defined as a dance performance for 3-16 players. In each case, every participant must be actively involved in the dance chosen for performance.

The skills measured by the adjudicators during the performance are:

- Use of transitions into and out of character.
- The ability to create a believable character.
- Communication of character and relationship through dance and movement.
- Musical theater dance technique.
- Use of expression and physicality in the dance format.
- Integration of body, movement, dance and staging.

In Musical Theatre Dance, the Thespians must follow the [aforementioned rules](#) for the International Thespian Excellence Awards as presented in this guide, and also the following rules specific to this category:

1. Prior to the event, validate the material using the [approved publishers and acceptable materials information](#).
2. Each participant must be actively involved in the scene.
3. Performers must use pre-recorded music, no live music is permitted, including live accompanists. Acceptable formats can include selections from

a cast album or recorded piano accompaniment following the score/dance break.

4. The total performance time for the selection must not exceed five (5) minutes. Time begins after the slate with the first word, musical note, or acting beat (if it precedes the first word or note) of the presentation. If a performance exceeds the time limit, the adjudicator will note the time and a final eligibility ruling will be determined. Exceeding the time limit may result in a disqualification.
5. This is a dance category. Singing or dialogue is not allowed except to include brief moments of vocalization if required to perform the piece.
6. In a Solo Musical Theatre Dance, one (1) chair may be safely used. In a Duet Musical Theatre Dance, two (2) chairs may be safely used, and in a Group Musical Theatre Dance, up to six (6) chairs and one (1) table may be safely used. No other scenic elements, furniture, or props are allowed. "Safely" means that items may be used in a safe manner but should not be used as props (e.g., pushed over, lifted, etc.). Sitting on, laying across, and/or standing upon a chair(s) is usually acceptable so long as safety is the priority (i.e., if a chair or table has wheels, it would not be considered safe to stand upon).