

YoungArts 2025 Application Requirements

Dance: World Dance Forms

African, Indian, Irish Step, Mexican Folkloric and Spanish

Please follow the requirements related to your discipline/category as closely as possible. Failure to comply with the requirements may make your application ineligible for an award.

African Audition Requirements

All videos must be recorded within the last year.

- **A two-(2) minute African Dance technique as follows:**

- Clarity in the use of foot techniques.
- Polyrhythm in movement as well as appropriate use of grounded and elevated movements.
- Demonstrated command of African rhythmic complexity including correct use of syncopated movement.
- Complex combinations of movement without excessive repetition.
- Choreography including the following movement qualities: balance between percussive and sustained, flowing movement; full range of motion in the head, torso, back, arms and legs (especially fluidity of the spine).
- Energetic but not rigid execution of movement.

- **A two (2)-minute prepared solo piece of your choice with a clear beginning and ending.**

Note: If selected as a winner with distinction, you will be required to perform your submitted solo live for the panel during National YoungArts Week and, therefore, must have rights to the choreography for that piece.

Audition Apparel

- Dancers should choose garments that support the judge's ability to see how the body creates shapes and lines in space. We strongly encourage that you select fabric colors that create contrast to the background and remove excess layers of warmups, costuming, and jewelry that distract from the performed choreography. Artists may wear regalia appropriate to their cultural traditions and forms.

Guidelines for Recording Your Audition

- Record your audition in a clearly defined interior space with neutral lighting and background that is free of creases and breaks.
- Shoot straight on, leaving the camera in one position. The camera should be placed sufficiently close to the performer so that positioning and movement of all parts of the body and face are clear and visible. Record with the camera framing your entire body to capture movement in place as well as movement in and through space.
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- Ensure recording captures good quality sound and image.

Media Submission Guidelines

- Save and name your files individually as “technique” and “solo”.
- Upload each audition selection as a separate video file in the correct space provided.
- Do not put your name or any identifying information in or on your submission.
- When uploading, be sure that the video frame is upright (not sideways or upside down) and plays smoothly.
- Please indicate the specific dance form in the space provided.
- Do not edit within the solo.
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Indian Audition Requirements

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- **A two (2)-minute technique to include the following:**

- ❑ Only one Indian Dance form (for example, Bharata Natyam, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Kathak, Kathakali, Manipuri, or Mohini Attam)
- ❑ Rhythmic dance combinations (depending on the form) that display the dancer's technique in slow, medium and fast tempos, with emphasis on precise footwork, posture and breadth of movement. This would be structured similarly to class or warm-ups.
- ❑ Expressive dance or abhinaya: choose ~30+ seconds of an abhinaya section from a piece you already know and perform it in the technique video. Kathak dancers may opt to perform padhant (recitation) instead.
- ❑ Clips can be cut together for brevity, but please record all of these videos in a simple practice session format and avoid cutting from previously recorded performance footage.

- **A two (2)-minute prepared solo piece of your choice with a clear beginning and ending.**

- ❑ Rhythmic dance phrases that include advanced dance phrases/choreography.
- ❑ We recommend that the prepared solo has technical dance as well as some abhinaya or expressive dance.
- ❑ Video should include sound of footwork and/or bells depending on the style. For instance, for kathak we should clearly hear your bells, and for bharatanatyam either bells or footwork.

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Irish Step Audition Requirements

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- **“Technique”:** A recording of Soft Shoe and Hard Show techniques as follows:
 - Perform a Reel (48 bars) or Slip Jig (40 bars), AND a Hornpipe (40 bars) or Treble Jig (48 bars).
 - One (1) video upload – please stop the recording for the changing of the shoes.
 - In all cases, the audition video should show that you are familiar with the techniques appropriate to the dance form.
- **“Solo”:** A two (2)-minute prepared set dance piece of your choice with a clear beginning and ending.
 - Set dance must be in contrasting tempo to the hard shoe dance performed in the technique.

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Mexican Folkloric Audition Requirements

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- **A two (2)-minute Mexican Folkloric technique as follows:**

- The presentation of Danza Folklorica (Traditional) or Ballet Folklorico (Contemporary technique) should demonstrate examples of footwork, meaningful gestures and/or isolation intrinsic to the cultural dance form being presented.
- In all cases, the audition video should show that you are familiar with the techniques appropriate to the dance form.
- Show a clear understanding of the distinctive qualities of the chosen style of dance represented.

- **A two (2)-minute prepared solo piece of your choice with a clear beginning and ending.**

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Spanish Audition Requirements

Spanish Dance includes Flamenco, Classical Spanish, Bolera School, and Folklore dance.

- **Two (2)-minute Spanish Dance technique as follows:**

- ❑ Show a clear understanding of the distinctive qualities of the chosen style of dance represented.
- ❑ Show combinations demonstrating changes of direction, use of space, speed, and accents as well as flexibility of torso.
- ❑ Emphasis on arm work. Include turns or pirouettes.
- ❑ Show rhythmic footwork patterns increasing in speed, using arms and footwork at the same time (escobilla). Include countertime (contratiempo) and clapping (palmas). This needs to be done over a base rhythm, utilizing a recording, live musicians or palmas in order to hear the structure of the rhythm as it increases in speed.
- ❑ If auditioning in Classical Spanish, Bolera School or Folklore dance, it is required to demonstrate ability to play castanets in a variety of rhythmic patterns while continuing to move through space. If auditioning in Flamenco, demonstrating ability to play castanets in a variety of rhythmic patterns while continuing to move through space is a plus, but is optional in the technique video.
- ❑ Folklore combinations must include typical steps from the chosen region's dance. Bolera School combinations must be executed with castanets and include steps from the time period and include batterie and pirouettes.

- **Two (2)-minute prepared solo piece of your choice.**

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