

TDC

The Dance Challenge

Studio

NATIONALS

MAY 29-30, 2026
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA



Fort Dodge Photo Challenge Winner
Alivia - United All Stars

MEET your judges



Lesa Dencklau

Lesa Dencklau is a veteran dance team coach with almost twenty years of experience who has spent her career building competitive programs. For eight seasons she was the Director of Dance at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, Iowa leading the dance team to seven State Championship Titles and two Top 3 finishes in the winner's circle at NDA College Nationals. At Iowa Central she also choreographed the annual musical productions, The Encore Singers Show Choir, and started the all-male hip hop crew, Team Uneek. Lesa also built successful competitive collegiate dance teams at Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri and Dodge City Community College in Dodge City, Kansas. She spent a four year stint as Entertainment Director and Dance Coach for two different semi-professional arena football teams, the Dodge City Law Gunpowder Girls and the Cedar Rapids Titan Dolls. She has held positions as the Director of the Academy of Theatre Arts and Resident Choreographer at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre in Kalamazoo, Michigan and as Dance Director at the Academy of Performing Arts at two studio locations in Oak Creek and Franklin, Wisconsin. The Drake University alumna holds a BFA in Musical Theatre and has numerous awards as a freelance choreographer. She has mentored athletes that went on to be professional cheerleaders for several minor league teams as well as the Kansas City Chiefs. Most recently Lesa was the Head Dance Team Coach at West Virginia Wesleyan College where she led her competitive dance team to 2 national runner-up finishes at NDA College Nationals in Division II Team Performance and Spirit Rally. For four years she was also dance faculty for Wesleyan's Theatre and Dance Department and choreographed their annual musical production. Lesa is currently the Associate Head Dance Team Coach at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. She is honored to be a part of the 23-time and reigning National Championship legacy and excited to continue her career as a Division I collegiate coach.



Jeffrey Shields HAPPY DANCING!

Jeff began his dance training at the age of nine under the direction of Stacey and Connie JO Wilson school of Dance in Ankeny, Iowa. After high school he trained extensively in New York City for several years at Steps, Broadway Dance Center, and The Luigi Jazz Centre. He also went on to dance with the Rock School Ballet in Philadelphia, where he received some of the world's best ballet, jazz, contemporary and musical theatre training. He has also had the opportunity to study with a wide range of talented dance masters over the years which include Savion Glover, Desmond Richardson, and Sascha Radetsky, to name a few.

Jeff currently teaches dance throughout Iowa as a guest choreographer for Dance Studios and Dance Teams. Jeffrey has a vast knowledge in all things dance with a keen eye in technique, and has over 30+ years of teaching experience.

Jeff has former students, friends and family who are Professional Dancers and Actors on Broadway today. He is a fun-loving, energetic person who loves to share his wide range of dance styles and experiences with the students he teaches across the United States.



*Sammy
Stephens Jr.*

Sammy Stephens, Jr., a Hot Springs, Arkansas native now based in Las Vegas, is a choreographer, performer, and educator with more than 20 years of experience in hip-hop, urban, and modern dance. He holds a Master of Fine Arts in Dance from Arizona State University and a bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts, Dance, and Health Science from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Sammy has appeared in a wide range of theatrical productions including Hair, The Wiz, To Kill a Mockingbird, Spunk, and the Black Theatre Troupe's Revenge of a King. His concert dance performances include José Limón's The Exiles, presented at Arizona State University and the Congress on Research in Dance in New York.

He has been a company member with The Tidwell Project in Little Rock and Movement Source in Phoenix, and he founded Floor Rockers, a hip-hop dance company based at UALR. Sammy has led workshops and masterclasses across the country—including in Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee, Iowa, and Arizona—and has taught at Arizona State University, Mesa Community College, and Chandler Community College.

As a respected voice in the dance community, Sammy also serves as a judge for national dance competitions, state pageants, and most recently, the NBA Chicago Bulls "Luvabulls" professional dance team auditions... bringing a unique blend of technical knowledge, performance experience, and cultural insight to every stage he steps onto.

New at Nationals 2026

TITLE CHALLENGE

Challenge Spotlight Artist

A Challenge Spotlight Artist is a dancer who demonstrates excellence in technique, authenticity in artistry, and confidence in communication.

Titles will be awarded based on:

- Age Divisions & Performance Level
- Technique & Execution - 10 pts
- Overall Artistry - 10 pts
- Interview Question - 10 pts

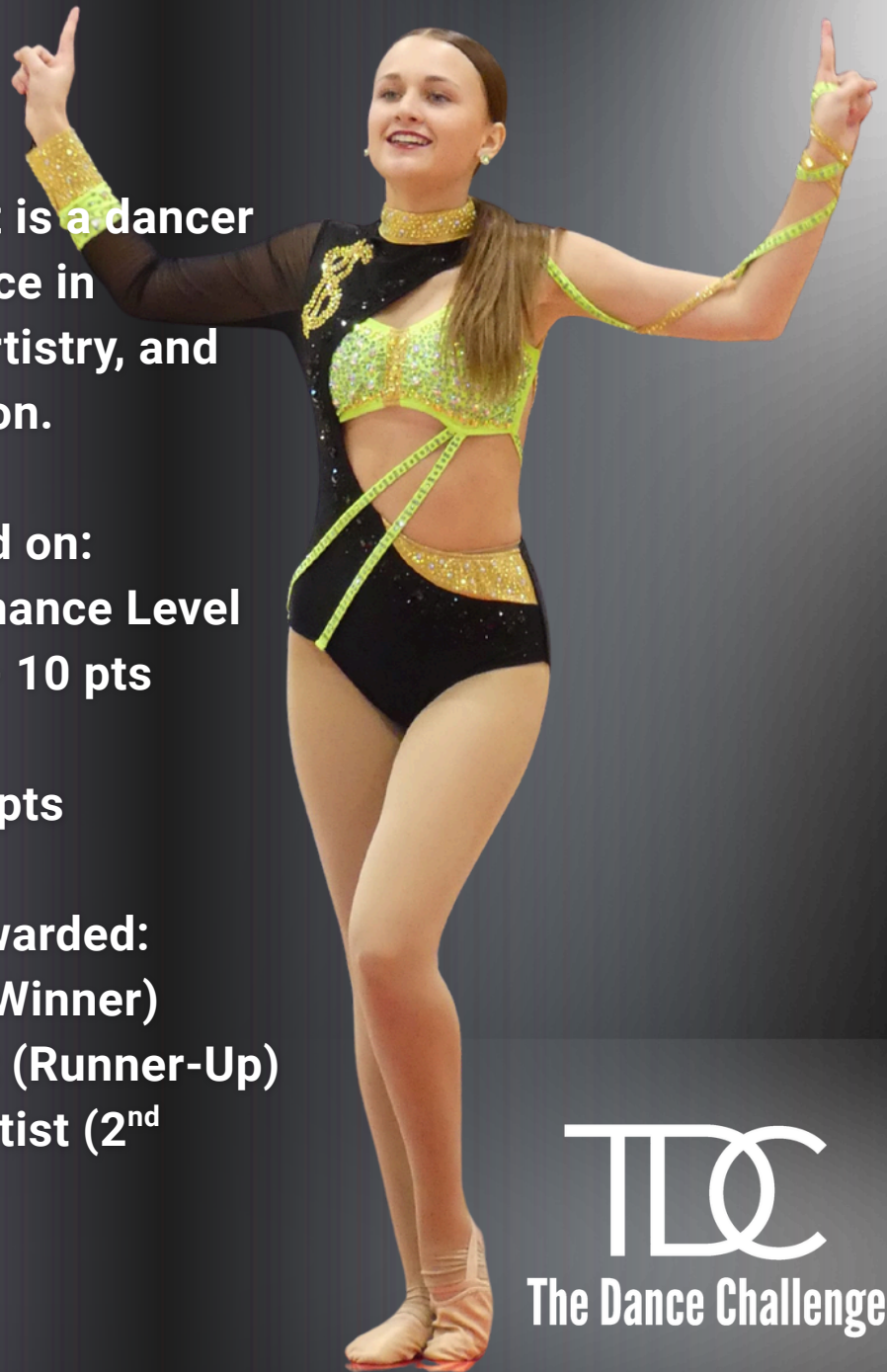
Each Age Division will be awarded:

Challenge Spotlight Artist (Winner)

Challenge Rising Star Artist (Runner-Up)

Challenge Emerging Star Artist (2nd Runner-Up)

**Pre-registration required.*



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www.thedancechallenge.org

Friday Schedule

**indicates Spotlight Artist contestant*

Please keep in mind competitions can run ahead or behind schedule. If we are lucky enough to run ahead of schedule, we will stay ahead of schedule.

TIME	#	DANCE NAME	STUDIO	LEVEL	AGE	TYPE	STYLE
4:45	1	Showstopper*	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
4:47	2	Oh So Quiet	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
4:50	3	All Shook Up	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
4:52	4	Boss*	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
4:55	5	9 to 5*	Tempo Dance Studio	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
4:57	6	My Own Drum	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:00	7	Get the Party Started	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:03	8	Queen Bee	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:05	9	Rain on Me	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:08	10	I Will Survive	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:11	11	Glam*	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:13	12	Bulletproof*	Tempo Dance Studio	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:16	13	Stargazing	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:19	14	Shake it Off	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:21	15	Ain't Been Done	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:24	16	Rockstar	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:26	17	Tribe	Fusion Dance Carroll	Elite	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:29	18	Tell Me	Fusion Dance Carroll	Elite	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:31	19	My Way	National Dance Academy - CF	Elite	Mini	Solo	Jazz
5:34	20	So Marvelous	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Mini	Duet/Trio	Jazz
5:37	21	Good to Go	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Mini	Duet/Trio	Jazz
5:39	22	New Attitude	Tempo Dance Studio	Novice	Mini	Duet/Trio	Jazz
5:41	23	I Want You Back	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Small Group	Jazz
5:44	24	Take You To Rio	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Mini	Small Group	Jazz
5:47	25	Do It Like This	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Mini	Small Group	Jazz

5:49	26	Kids In America	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Mini	Small Group	Jazz
5:52	27	Man! I feel like a Woman	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Small Group	Jazz
5:55	28	1999	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Small Group	Jazz
5:58		BREAK					
6:13	29	Welcome to Wonderland	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Small Group	Lyrical
6:16	30	Be Still	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Small Group	Lyrical
6:19	31	Kiss the Sky	Momentum Dance Force	Elite	Mini	Small Group	Lyrical
6:21	32	Look What You Made Me Do	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Mini	Solo	Hip Hop
6:24	33	Where Dem Girls At	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Mini	Solo	Hip Hop
6:26	34	<i>Devil In Disguise*</i>	Expressions Dance Studio	Novice	Mini	Solo	Hip Hop
6:29	35	Cowgirl Boogie	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Mini	Solo	Hip Hop
6:31	36	Scoutin	Momentum Dance Force	Elite	Mini	Small Group	Hip Hop
6:34	37	Man in the Mirror	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Duet/Trio	Lyrical
6:37	38	The Truth	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Solo	Lyrical
6:40	39	My Wish	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Solo	Lyrical
6:43	40	<i>Eurydice*</i>	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Solo	Lyrical
6:47	41	Somewhere Over the Rainbow	Studio 30 Dance	Novice	Mini	Solo	Lyrical
6:50	42	Grace	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Mini	Solo	Lyrical
6:52	43	Beyond	Paulette's Dance & Tumbling	Novice	Mini	Solo	Lyrical
6:55	44	I Have Confidence	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Solo	Musical Theater
6:59	45	My Shot	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Mini	Small Group	Musical Theater
7:02	46	Roaring On	Tempo Dance Studio	Novice	Mini	Small Group	Musical Theater
7:05	47	Heigh Ho	Momentum Dance Force	Elite	Mini	Small Group	Musical Theater
7:08	48	Rockstar	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Mini	Large Group	Hip Hop
7:11	49	My Adidas	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Mini	Large Group	Hip Hop

****indicates Spotlight Artist contestant***

Saturday Schedule

**indicates Spotlight Artist contestant*

*Please keep in mind competitions can run ahead or behind schedule. If we are lucky enough to run ahead of schedule, we will stay ahead of schedule.

TIME	#	DANCE NAME	STUDIO	LEVEL	AGE	TYPE	STYLE
9:30	66	My Boyfriend's Back	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Junior	Large Group	Jazz
9:32	67	I'm a Lady	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Junior	Solo	Jazz
9:35	68	Can't Help It	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Junior	Solo	Jazz
9:37	69	Beat Goes On*	Tempo Dance Studio	Novice	Junior	Solo	Jazz
9:40	70	Do My Thing	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Junior	Solo	Jazz
9:42	71	Born This Way	Ambition	Novice	Junior	Solo	Jazz
9:44	72	Man I Feel Like A Woman	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Junior	Solo	Jazz
9:47	73	Crazy in Love	Holy Trinity Catholic	N/A	MS	Solo	Jazz
9:50	74	Supa Good	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Solo	Jazz
9:52	75	Dare La La La	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Solo	Jazz
9:55	76	Do What I Want	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Solo	Jazz
9:57	77	Mixing Up The 80's	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Junior	Duet/Trio	Jazz
10:00	78	Denim & Rhinestones	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Junior	Duet/Trio	Jazz
10:03	79	Uptown Girl	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Junior	Duet/Trio	Jazz
10:05	80	Land of 1000 Dances	The Dans Company	Elite	Junior	Duet/Trio	Jazz
10:08	81	Something New	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Duet/Trio	Jazz
10:10	82	Watch This	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Duet/Trio	Jazz
10:13	83	It's Raining Men	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Junior	Solo	Tap
10:15	84	Pickup Love	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Petite	Duet/Trio	Tap
10:18	85	Splish Splash	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Pre-Petite	Solo	Jazz
10:21	86	My Cute Little Monster	Expressions Dance Studio	Novice	Petite	Solo	Jazz
10:23	87	Party All Round the World	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Petite	Solo	Jazz
10:25	88	Cruisin for a Bruisin	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Petite	Solo	Jazz

10:28	89	Hot Hot Hot*	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Petite	Solo	Jazz
10:30	90	Do You Love Me	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Petite	Solo	Jazz
10:33	91	Party In The USA	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Petite	Solo	Jazz
10:36	92	Ay Caramba	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Large Group	Jazz
10:38	93	Speakeasy	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Junior	Small Group	Jazz
10:41	94	Black & Gold	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Junior	Small Group	Jazz
10:44	95	Escapade	Momentum Dance Force	Elite	Junior	Small Group	Jazz
10:47	96	Tiny Tacos	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Petite	Small Group	Jazz
10:49	97	Texas Hold Em'	Holy Trinity Catholic	N/A	MS	Team	Jazz
10:52	98	Stay	Studio 30 Dance	Novice	Junior	Solo	Lyrical
10:55	99	Skinny*	Expressions Dance Studio	Novice	Junior	Solo	Lyrical
10:58	100	What The World Needs Now*	Tempo Dance Studio	Novice	Junior	Solo	Lyrical
11:01	101	Speechless	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Junior	Solo	Lyrical
11:04	102	Days Gone By*	National Dance Academy - CF	Novice	Junior	Solo	Lyrical
11:06	103	Flying	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Junior	Solo	Lyrical
11:09	104	It's My Party	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Large Group	Jazz
11:12	105	Heaven Is A Place On Earth	Tempo Dance Studio	Elite	Junior	Small Group	Lyrical
11:15	106	Listen*	The Dans Company	Elite	Junior	Solo	Lyrical
11:18	107	Sign of the Times	The Dans Company	Elite	Junior	Solo	Lyrical
11:20	108	The Truth	The Dans Company	Elite	Junior	Solo	Lyrical
11:24	109	Better Together	Ambition	Novice	Junior	Duet/Trio	Lyrical
11:26	110	Unbreakable	Studio 30 Dance	Novice	Petite	Solo	Lyrical
11:29	BREAK						
11:44	111	Shooting Star	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Junior	Small Group	Lyrical
11:47	112	Too Much To Ask	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Junior	Small Group	Lyrical
11:49	113	There for You	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Junior	Small Group	Lyrical
11:52	114	Missy Mix	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Junior	Small Group	Hip Hop
11:55	115	I Like To Move It	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Petite	Small Group	Tap

***indicates Spotlight Artist contestant**

11:57	116	Drumbone	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Small Group	Tap
12:00	117	Another Day of Sun	The Dans Company	Elite	Junior	Small Group	Tap
12:03	118	<i>Dang!*</i>	Expressions Dance Studio	Novice	Petite	Solo	Hip Hop
12:05	119	The Avocado	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Petite	Duet/Trio	Hip Hop
12:08	120	Level Up	Studio 30 Dance	Novice	Junior	Solo	Hip Hop
12:10	121	Telephone	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Junior	Solo	Hip Hop
12:13	122	White Lies	Momentum Dance Force	Elite	Junior	Small Group	Contemp.
12:16	123	Too Young to Grow Old	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Small Group	Contemp.
12:19	124	High School Hop	Tempo Dance Studio	Novice	Junior	Duet/Trio	Open
12:21	125	We are Warriors	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Junior	Duet/Trio	Open
12:24	126	Sisters	Tempo Dance Studio	Novice	Junior	Duet/Trio	Open
12:26	127	Rise Up Let's Go	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Junior	Duet/Trio	Open
12:29	128	My Own Way	Paulette's Dance & Tumbling	Novice	Junior	Solo	Open
12:31	129	<i>Popular Girl*</i>	Tempo Dance Studio	Novice	Junior	Solo	Open
12:34	130	Numb	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Junior	Solo	Open
12:37	131	Beautiful	Studio 30 Dance	Novice	Junior	Solo	Open
12:39	132	Ya Ya	Momentum Dance Force	Elite	Junior	Duet/Trio	Open
12:42	133	Happy	Expressions Dance Studio	Novice	Pre-Petite	Solo	Open
12:44	134	I Like To Move It	Expressions Dance Studio	Novice	Pre-Petite	Solo	Open
12:46	135	Take Down	Studio 30 Dance	Novice	Petite	Solo	Open
12:49	136	<i>Signed Sealed Delivered*</i>	Tempo Dance Studio	Novice	Petite	Solo	Open
12:52	137	Bumble and Bloom	Tempo Dance Studio	Novice	Petite	Duet/Trio	Open
12:54	138	Work	Tempo Dance Studio	Elite	Junior	Large Group	Open
12:57	139	Telephone	Holy Trinity Catholic	N/A	MS	Team	Pom
12:59	140	Island Party	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Junior	Small Group	Pom
1:01	141	Who's Sorry Now	The Dans Company	Elite	Junior	Solo	Musical Theater

****indicates Spotlight Artist contestant***

1:04	142	Candyman Bugle Boy	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Duet/Trio	Musical Theater
1:06	143	Rest	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Junior	Solo	Contemp.
1:09	144	Deep End	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Junior	Solo	Contemp.
1:12	145	Constellations	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Solo	Contemp.
1:15	146	Don't Speak	Momentum Dance Force	Elite	Junior	Solo	Contemp.
1:17	147	Landslide*	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Solo	Contemp.
1:20	148	Once Upon A Dream	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Junior	Duet/Trio	Contemp.
1:23	BREAK						
1:38	149	Fiesta Caliente	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Junior	Production	Open
1:44	Pre-Petite, Petite & Jr Improv						
2:00	AWARDS						
2:44	150	Hot	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Large Group	Jazz
2:46	151	The Way You Make Me Feel	The Dans Company	Elite	Teen	Large Group	Jazz
2:49	222	Escalate	Melinda's Dance Studio	Novice	Teen	Solo	Jazz
2:52	152	Candy Man	Studio 30 Dance	Novice	Teen	Solo	Jazz
2:54	153	Grown	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Teen	Solo	Jazz
2:57	154	Desperado	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Senior	Solo	Jazz
3:00	155	Call Me Queen	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Senior	Solo	Jazz
3:02	156	Too Much*	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Solo	Jazz
3:05	157	Watch This	Momentum Dance Force	Elite	Teen	Solo	Jazz
3:08	158	Glitter Shoes*	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Solo	Jazz
3:10	159	See Me Now	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Solo	Jazz
3:13	160	Unchained Melody*	The Dans Company	Elite	Teen	Solo	Jazz
3:15	161	Burn It Up	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Solo	Jazz
3:18	162	Rich Girl	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Solo	Jazz
3:20	163	Look	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Senior	Solo	Jazz
3:22	164	Uh Huh*	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Senior	Solo	Jazz
3:25	165	Vogue	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Teen	Duet/Trio	Jazz

***indicates Spotlight Artist contestant**

3:28	166	4 Minutes	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Teen	Duet/Trio	Jazz
3:30	167	That Girl	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Teen	Duet/Trio	Jazz
3:33	168	Love Fool	Tempo Dance Studio	Elite	Teen	Duet/Trio	Jazz
3:35	169	On The Floor	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Duet/Trio	Jazz
3:38	170	Breakin Dishes	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Elite	Teen	Duet/Trio	Jazz
3:41	171	PopStar	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Teen	Duet/Trio	Hip Hop
3:44	172	Frozen	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Teen	Solo	Open
3:46	173	Unsteady	Studio 30 Dance	Novice	Teen	Solo	Open
3:49	174	House of the Rising Sun	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Senior	Solo	Open
3:51	175	<i>Laughing On The Outside*</i>	Tempo Dance Studio	Elite	Teen	Solo	Open
3:54	176	Cupid Variation from Don Quixote	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Solo	Open
3:56	177	I Ran	Momentum Dance Force	Elite	Teen	Solo	Open
3:59	178	NYC	The Dans Company	Elite	Teen	Large Group	Hip Hop
4:01	BREAK						
4:16	179	SexyBack	Impact Dance Company	Novice	Teen	Small Group	Hip Hop
4:19	180	The Seed	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Large Group	Contemp.
4:21	181	Le Jazz Hot	The Dans Company	Elite	Teen	Small Group	Jazz
4:24	182	I Can't Go For That	Tempo Dance Studio	Elite	Teen	Small Group	Jazz
4:27	183	Worst Of Me	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Teen	Solo	Lyrical
4:30	184	Zzyzx Road	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Teen	Solo	Lyrical
4:33	185	Save You A Seat	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Teen	Solo	Lyrical
4:36	186	Power Over Me	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Teen	Solo	Lyrical
4:39	187	Lost Boy	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Teen	Solo	Lyrical
4:42	188	Can't Catch Me Now	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Novice	Teen	Solo	Lyrical
4:45	189	The Man That Came Back	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Senior	Solo	Lyrical
4:48	190	Somewhere Only We Know	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Teen	Duet/Trio	Lyrical

****indicates Spotlight Artist contestant***

4:51	191	She's Got a Way	The Dans Company	Elite	Teen	Solo	Lyrical
4:53	192	With One Look	The Dans Company	Elite	Teen	Solo	Lyrical
4:56	193	<i>Jealous*</i>	Tempo Dance Studio	Elite	Teen	Solo	Lyrical
4:59	194	One and Only	The Dans Company	Elite	Teen	Solo	Lyrical
5:02	195	Lonesome & Mad	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Elite	Teen	Solo	Lyrical
5:05	196	I Don't Think About You	The Dans Company	Elite	Senior	Solo	Lyrical
5:07	197	Moral Of The Story	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Elite	Senior	Solo	Lyrical
5:10	198	Hold Me While You Wait	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Senior	Duet/Trio	Lyrical
5:13	199	Something in the Water	The Dans Company	Elite	Teen	Large Group	Lyrical
5:16	BREAK						
5:31	200	<i>Gotta Move*</i>	The Dans Company	Elite	Teen	Solo	Musical Theater
5:34	201	End of Time	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Duet/Trio	Tap
5:36	202	Let Me Go	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Senior	Duet/Trio	Contemp.
5:39	203	A lot More Free	Studio 30 Dance	Novice	Teen	Solo	Contemp.
5:43	221	Reaching for Cold Hands	Melinda's Dance Studio	Novice	Teen	Solo	Contemp.
5:46	204	Iris	Studio 30 Dance	Novice	Senior	Solo	Contemp.
5:48	205	Ordinary	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Senior	Solo	Contemp.
5:51	206	Lonely	Star Struck Dance Center	Novice	Senior	Solo	Contemp.
5:53	207	Rome	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Senior	Solo	Contemp.
5:56	208	Bad Dreams	Momentum Dance Force	Novice	Teen	Duet/Trio	Contemp.
5:59	209	Me and the Devil	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Teen	Duet/Trio	Contemp.
6:02	210	Evergreen	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Solo	Contemp.
6:04	211	Chasing Shadows	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Solo	Contemp.
6:07	212	<i>Someone, Please Come Help*</i>	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Senior	Solo	Contemp.
6:09	213	Innocence and Sadness	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Senior	Solo	Contemp.
6:12	214	I'm Here	Tempo Dance Studio	Elite	Teen	Duet/Trio	Contemp.
6:13	215	Warriors	Nicole Rock's School of Dance	Elite	Teen	Duet/Trio	Contemp.
*indicates Spotlight Artist contestant							

6:18	216	Fallen	Spotlight Studios	Novice	Teen	Small Group	Lyrical
6:21	217	Jealous	The Dans Company	Elite	Teen	Small Group	Lyrical
6:24	218	Conga*	Star Struck Dance Center	Elite	Teen	Solo	Tap
6:26	219	Get Happy	The Dans Company	Elite	Teen	Solo	Tap
6:29	220	Can't Let Go	Tempo Dance Studio	Elite	Teen	Small Group	Open
6:31		Exhibition	Never Dream Less				
6:36	Teen & Senior Improv						
6:40	AWARDS						
7:00	FINAL SHOWDOWN						

BEST IN SHOW RULES

- All group routines are automatically eligible for Best in Show.
- Judges will select a number of standout group routines that embody the spirit of The Dance Challenge—captivating performance, strong technique, and a commitment to artistry and authenticity.
- There is no set number of routines the judges can select.
- Selected routines will be invited to take the stage again in The Final Showdown, where they will compete head-to-head for the ultimate title: Best of The Challenge.
- Finalists will receive a 2nd round of judges' critiques during the Final Showdown.
- Each studio can be represented a total of 1 time in each division.
- Divisions:
 - 13 & Under
 - 14 & Over
- All finalists in each division will be recognized and placed according to their total score.
- Total of 2 Best of The Challenge awardees, one in each division, will be awarded an exclusive "Best of the Challenge" banner.

2026-2027 Competition Season



The Dance Challenge

October 10, 2026	Fort Madison, IA
October 17, 2026	Waverly, IA
October 31, 2026	Alburnett, IA
November 21, 2026	Storm Lake, IA
High School/College NATIONALS	Des Moines, IA
January 9, 2027	
January 30, 2027	Monticello, IA
February 20, 2027	Bridgeport, WV
March 19 & 20, 2027	Fort Dodge, IA

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