



VIRTUOSO
Performing Arts

NYCDA Convention & Competition Info Packet

Updated 12/20/18

WHAT IS NYCDA?

NYCDA leads the industry in offering professional weekend conventions – exciting workshop classes from our distinguished faculty, thrilling competition and a professional audition experience – all in a supportive, positive, and fun environment! Expect to be INSPIRED!

NYCDA is able to create experiences and opportunities that no other dance convention can offer. We are proud of our exclusive and continued support from the professional dance community which assists us to help dancers to take the next step into the ‘real world.’

Expect classes that keep you inspired ALL year long! Our expert faculty deliver challenging, exhilarating classes that will empower you to push beyond your own limits.

GENERAL INFO

Location: Hyatt Regency O’Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr Ave. Rosemont IL, 60018
Phone: 888-421-1442
If you wish to book a room for this event you may do so by calling the number above. VPADC dancers are not required to stay at the hotel for this event.

Workshop Dates/Times: **PLEASE NOTE: ALL VPADC DANCERS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP!**
February 8-10, 2019
Schedules will be released 7-10 days prior to the event

Competition Dates/Times: **PLEASE NOTE: ONLY COMPETING SOLOS/DUETS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE COMPETITION; HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE SOME VPADC SUPPORT IN THE AUDIENCE IF YOU SO DESIRE!**
February 8-10, 2019
Schedules will be released 7-10 days prior to the event

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Dancers are required to be present during the entirety of the above workshop times.
- For arrival, it would be best to park and walk your dancer in to find our meeting spot unless you trust them to walk in and find us. In that case, there is a driveway just outside the ballrooms.
- For pick up, you can text your dancer or the VPA Supervisor when you arrive. Your dancer will check out with the scheduled VPADC Supervisor and then be escorted outside to meet you in the driveway at the ballroom entrance.

VPA Workshop Supervisors:

Ms. Laura (cell 630-337-5678)
Ms. Irina (cell 847-691-3544)
Ms. Carrie (cell 847-946-7231)

Please note: VPA staff will only be supervising during the workshop and will not be supervising during the competition. VPA staff will, of course, be there to support our competitors; however, parents are responsible for their dancers during competition.



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WORKSHOP RULES AND CONVENTION ETIQUETTE

- Dancers are expected to always maintain professional classroom etiquette.
- Dancers must wear cover-ups outside the ballroom area.
- Please respect the property of our convention and hotel sites. Excess noise or loitering in areas not NYCDA inhabited can be cause for removal. Help us maintain a pleasant relationship with our sites so that they will look forward to our return visits.
- Chaperones are required for students age 15 or under staying in the hotel.
- NYCDA and the convention and housing facilities are not responsible for personal injury or property loss.
- **NO VIDEO CAMERAS ALLOWED AT ANY TIME DURING THE ENTIRE EVENT.** Registered Teachers (with ID lanyard) may video during the last 15 minutes of Workshop classes.



Upon registering for this NYC Dance Alliance, Inc. event, it is agreed that all students, parents, teachers, and additional attendees will NOT hold NYC Dance Alliance, Inc., its directors, staff, and/or employees responsible for any injury or loss of property during the event.

See the entirety of NYCDA's rules for convention and competition here:

Convention Rules: http://www.nycdance.com/Regional_Conventions/Workshop_Guidelines.aspx

Competition Rules: http://www.nycdance.com/Regional_Conventions/Competition_Guidelines.aspx



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CONVENTION DO'S AND DON'TS

DON'T stay up til' the wee hours the night before a workshop or competition. You will not make it through the day.

DON'T show up late to class or leave early. You will be called out. Please do not forget that you are representing your entire dance school, not just yourself.

DON'T talk or goof around during any workshop class. Please do not forget that you are representing your entire dance school, not just yourself.

DON'T show it when you are discouraged or don't care for a particular teacher or choreography.

DON'T be intimidated by the number of dancers in your ballroom.

DON'T worry or be turned off if you are not the best in the room.

DON'T badmouth anyone. The walls have ears.

DO give yourself pep talks to stay confident. To keep it positive, tell yourself, "I may not be as good as this person, but I sure can show them what I can do and be inspired by them at the same time."

DO do everything you can to show respect for the teacher and the dancers around you. Smile, make eye contact with the teacher, answer his or her questions enthusiastically and cheer for other dancers. Use your body language to show that you're hardworking, easy to work with and fun to be around.

DO make friends with dancers outside VPA...be friendly.

DO try to absorb every detail the teacher gives and adapt to his or her style. Then, when the teacher asks for your own style, go for it!

DO ask questions about the choreographer's style, confusing sections in the choreography or whether the class can switch lines so dancers in the back can come closer.

DO turn off your cell phone, push your dance bag under a chair around the edges of the room and pick up all your food and trash before you leave.

DO kick your spatial awareness into high gear, and apologize if you accidentally graze a dancer near you.

DO be smart about sharing the spotlight. Stand where teachers can see you, but remember to let other dancers take the front row sometimes. Choreographers appreciate a generous dancer who knows when to give her comrades a chance to shine.

DO stay hydrated and well nourished all day long. You are expecting a lot from your body. Make sure you give it the fuel it needs to get you through the day.

DO be a sponge and soak up all the positive energy in the room...ignore the negative.

DO your very best and dance your butt off! Be honored that you have the ability to dance with these amazing teachers and dancers. Know that by giving your best you will improve your craft!



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WHAT TO WEAR

- There will be lots of dancers rocking bare midriff but don't be intimidated by that, unless you feel confident in bare midriff...if so, feel free to wear a crop top. What's most important is that you feel confident.
- Hair should be pulled back off the face. Please secure any hairs that hang in your eyes with pins and hairspray. You will not have time to change hair styles.
- Wear some makeup and bring some to do touch ups. It does not need to be as heavy as stage makeup. Juniors and boys do not need to wear make-up
- Make sure to wear your VPADC jacket and possibly any other VPA apparel you may have. You will take your jacket off during classes.
- For most classes, wear something form-fitting that shows off your lines. Once you've found your outfit for the day, stick with it. "Faculty members sometimes refer to dancers as 'the girl with the braids' or 'the dancer with the bright capri pants'" when discussing dancers who stand out in class.
- For all classes, girls should wear a leotard, crop top or sports bra (not black) and either fitted shorts, capris or leggings (something that makes you stand out but not too crazy). Boys should wear a solid colored fitted shirt and black pants or shorts. You will not have time to change your look; however it would be wise to bring optional wardrobe changes (i.e. ballet look, change your look to make yourself stand out).
- You'll likely be dancing on carpet in the convention center, at least at some point, so plan your footwear accordingly. Some dancers wear socks instead of shoes for jazz and contemporary classes—you'll have to play it by ear with bare feet, since the carpet can cause floor burn. Therefore, definitely bring socks.
- Dancers must wear cover-ups outside the ballroom area.

WHAT TO BRING / FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Bring a water bottle with a lid, some healthy snacks, all dance shoes and \$20 each day for lunch or a lunch from home. If you intend on staying for the competition bring money for dinner and snacks during the competition. Keep in mind that lines to purchase food at the event will be long and dancers may be better off bringing meals to save time during lunch/dinner breaks. VPA will not be providing food as we have in the past. Bring extra money for anything you might like to purchase from the vendors such as dancewear or merchandise. Bring something for pain medication if it's ok with your parents. Ibuprofen or aspirin is a good idea in case you get a headache; however, staying hydrated might prevent a headache from happening in the first place. In this situation, dancers will need to drink a cup of water every 15 minutes to stay hydrated.



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OBSERVER PASS--\$50, \$60 after the deadline

- A separate **Year Long Observer Pass** may be purchased onsite **ONLY** (where available) for \$120 – unlimited use during the Regional season. Each observer pass purchased is a tax-deductible contribution to the NYCDA Foundation.
- Observers are allowed with participating dancers and must not be teachers, dancers, or studio owners. Observer Passes do not grant access to the Teacher Room or any Scholarship Auditions.
- Observer Passes have been known to sell out. NYCDA reserves the right to limit Workshop Observers within each ballroom, subject to attendance and space limitations.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FROM NYCDA

Every weekend, our goal is to assist dancers in realizing there are a broad spectrum of opportunities available – far beyond the lessons of the convention dance floor. Our numerous Scholarships and Special Opportunities offer unique and important ‘next steps’ for our dancers. Our many sponsors and partners represent a diverse cross-section of the professional dance community. Additionally, the prestigious NYCDA Outstanding Dancer Program is always a highlight of every convention weekend. This allows dancers to qualify for our National Scholarship Program in NYC. Ask anyone who as ever participated.... ‘there is nothing like it’!

Please see [NYCDA’s Convention Rules and Regulations](#) for more information on their scholarships.