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We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to **2010 "Champion Dance Nationals" in Los Angeles, California.** With the competition only a few short weeks from now, we want you to know how excited we are to have your team represented in our Open National Competition with other outstanding teams from across the country.

Please take a few moments to review this information. It is important to inform your team of the final details before the competition begins. Enclosed is the complete Competition Performance Schedule and layouts of the Performance Facility. In order to remain on schedule due to some quick costume changes, please make sure your team knows of all your performance times.

We have also included profiles of our professional panel of judges. Assembled from all over the country, they have been chosen due to their expertise as adjudicators. We are confident you will find their comments and critiques most valuable.

Thank you for choosing "**Champion Dance Nationals**"! Before and during your trip, please know we are committed to assist your every need. Please do not hesitate to give us a call if you have any further questions. We are looking forward to this special event and are thrilled to have your team be a part of it. Best of luck to your team and we will see you in Los Angeles!

Warmest regards,

Tom Sanchez

Tom Sanchez
President

Patricia A. Horn

Patricia A. Horn
Vice President

Debbie Nordstrom

Debbie Nordstrom
Competition Director

CONTEST STAFF & ADJUDICATION PANEL

Tom Sanchez, Executive Director/Producer

Tom is an Orlando resident with over twenty years of experience promoting National Events and Tours for performing arts groups. For ten years, Tom was Executive Director for the "Contest of Champions" and Director of Sales for Four Season Tours, Inc., a student travel company that offers youth groups performance and festival tours to the Walt Disney World Resort, Universal Studios Orlando or on-board Carnival Cruise Lines. Prior to Four Seasons Tours, Tom was a Charter Sales Manager for Greyhound Travel Services and was responsible for group travel arrangements for the Vancouver World's Fair, Premier Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and Home Line Cruises. Tom is also a member of several associations that support performing groups, such as the Florida Dance Team Directors Association, Drill Dance Team Directors of America, Texas Drill/Dance Team Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association and the Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic. Tom has been a guest speaker for the Domestic Group Travel Association, and workshop presenter and scholarship judge for the Texas Dance Educators Association as well as Miss Teen Florida Pageant.

Debbie Nordstrom, National Competition Director

In the industry for the past 30 years, Debbie has been the Competition Director for Champion Dance Nationals and Regional Events in Orlando, Florida for the past 8 years. She was the Competition Director for the "Contest of Champions" at Walt Disney World for 8 years. Currently a Regional Sales Manager for USA Fundraisers, she is a former 10 Year National Award Winning H.S. Dance Team Director. She received her Associate of Arts from Tyler Jr. College where she was a member of the "Apache Belles" and her Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Houston where she was Captain of the Dance Team. Additionally, she was an NFL Houston Oiler Cheerleader, the "Derrick Dolls", and was an original member & choreographer for the NBA Houston "Rockets" Cheerleaders. Debbie has taught Dance Team camps for the past 30 years & has adjudicated many prestigious events including the Miss Drill Team International Pageant in Tokyo, Japan, the Miss Drill Team USA Pageant in Los Angeles, MA Dance Nationals, USA Dance Nationals, the Miss Drill Team Texas and Utah Pageants, the Utah State Dance/Drill Team Tournament, the Iowa State Dance/Drill Team Championships, and Crowdpleasers Competitions. She is a Past President and Lifetime Member of the Texas Dance Educator's Association who recognized her as its 2007 Distinguished Service Award recipient. She and her husband, Rick, currently reside in Cypress, Texas.

Tammy Fife, Production Assistant

Tammy Fife has worked as an Instructor in the Dance Division of the Department of Theatre and Dance at Texas State University for thirteen years where she also served as the Assistant Director of the Texas State University Strutters. She graduated with a BS ED degree in Business and Dance Education from Southwest Texas State University. She has her Masters Degree in Dance from University of Houston and completed her MS ED from the University of Houston in 2006. At Texas State, Tammy teaches Ballet, Jazz, Recreational Dance, and supervises student teachers. She teaches a course that she created and wrote the curriculum for titled "Dance Team Directing" which was established in the fall of 2002. Tammy taught high school dance and drill team for ten years. For 8 years she served as a Competition Coordinator for the Contest of Champions and is currently a Production Assistant for Champion Dance Nationals and Regional Events. A Past President of the Texas Dance Educators Association, she was recently awarded their Lifetime Achievement Award. She currently lives in New Braunfels, TX with her husband, Jimmy, and children, Lane and Julia.

Lee Ann Schultz, Production Assistant

Involved in the dance/drill team industry for over 20 years, Lee Ann is a graduate of Northbrook High School and Houston Baptist University. She is the former director of the nationally award winning Klein H.S. "Barkadettes" and was the founder, former co-owner and director of "JazMaTaz", a community dance/drill team program and training studio. For 8 years she served as a Competition Coordinator for the Contest of Champions. In addition Lee Ann served on the Executive Board for the Texas Dance Educators Association for 5 years. A respected adjudicator throughout Texas, she is currently a Production Assistant for Champion Dance Nationals and Regional Events. A former Jazzercise instructor and current competitive tennis player, she resides in Houston, Texas with her husband, Kyle, and her five children, Jordan, Reid, Keaton, Carter and Rachel.

Anne Caskey, Adjudicator

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Anne has been a camp director, choreographer and staff trainer for Badgerette Pom Pon Inc. for the past 22 years. Badgerette was founded in 1970 as the first pom/dance camp and competition company of its kind in the entire United States. She travels throughout the states of Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan annually facilitating Badgerette camps and workshops. Hosting and announcing numerous Midwestern competitions for the past 20 years, she is a former National and Regional award-winning coach to H.S. and JR High teams. She was the 1994 National Dance Team Coach of the Year and in 2001 she was inducted into the Badgerette Hall of Fame. Anne is the founding director of the Disney All*Star Talent Tour in Orlando which brings together the top award-winning Midwestern dancers (from three states) each year to form one performance team that has been enjoyed by over 1,300 students each spring. She has also co-directed the NYC Dance Starz Tour in New York City annually since 2001 and is the founding director of the Michigan Spirit Showdown Pom Competition as well. Throughout the Midwest, Anne judges various pom/dance competitions, studio dance workshops and auditions and college dance team auditions. She also facilitates workshops and is an accomplished seminar speaker to students and coaches in leadership, choreography, team building, judging certification and performance training. Anne is the current Executive Director of Badgerette Pom Pon Inc.

Ron Kellum, Adjudicator

From Los Angeles, California, Ron has appeared on Broadway in "Chicago" and "Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and toured nationally in "Fosse", "Dreamgirls", "Smokey Joe's Café" and "Aida". He's appeared in national commercials for Doritos, Reebok, Blockbuster, Denny's and Pepsi. Ron is now directing and is currently Artistic Director for San Diego Musical Theater.

Marcy McCusker, Adjudicator

Marcy McCusker was classically trained in ballet and was first introduced to Pilates mat work at a young age as a tool to further her study of dance. She is an accomplished entertainment professional, dancer and actress. Marcy has appeared in "Roommates", "The Adventures of Old Christine", "What About Brian", "CSI-NY", "Southland Tales" and "American Dreams". She earned a BA in Electronic Media Management at California State University-Northridge. After beginning her professional dance career in Los Angeles, she suffered a severe ankle injury and was re-introduced to Pilates as a rehabilitation tool and is now hooked for life! She was certified a short while later by Pilates Sports Center in Studio City, and has also completed PSC's pregnancy workshop focusing on the needs of any "expecting" clients. Marcy believes strongly in the vast benefits of Pilates for people of all walks of life, fitness level and age.

Leah Samarin, Adjudicator

Leah has been teaching with the United Spirit Association for 12 years and was voted the Dance/Drill leadership award in 2006. She is a head instructor, a member of the program development team, judges Regional, National and international competitions, has directed summer camps and started directing competitions this year. She was the captain of her nationally ranked high school and college dance teams, completed a dance scholarship at DeFore Dance Center, and has danced professionally with the Jazz Spectrum Dance Company. She received her Bachelor Degree in Psychology and Social Behavior at the University of California, Irvine. She obtained her Master's Degree in Psychology at Pepperdine University and is attending Rosemead School of Psychology at Biola University to pursue a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology. Currently residing in La Mirada, CA, in her spare time, she volunteers with a non-profit organization in Orange County and teaches Sunday school for 2nd graders.

Betsy Carr, Adjudicator

Betsy Carr has a Master's in Dance Performance & Choreography from the University of Michigan, an Undergraduate Degree in Dance from Eastern Michigan University and has served on the teaching faculties at both institutions. While living in New York City, Carr was on scholarship at Steps on Broadway, where she served as an assistant manager. After performing as training in New York City, Carr moved to Ann Arbor to dance professionally with the Parker Copely Modern Company, as well as Jazz Dance Theater. One of her career highlights was being named Michigan Dance Teacher of the Year in 2001. In 30 years of teaching, she has won numerous National and Regional Honors, and has students dancing professionally in Ballet & Modern Companies, as well as Broadway Shows and National Tours. Carr also has numerous students with studios and companies of their own. She is in demand as a Guest Teacher and has taught for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, Cecchetti Summer Workshops at Michigan State University, Hope College, and Cleveland Ballet, Detroit Windsor Dance Company, South Dayton Dance Theater, Macomb Arts Festival, Badgerette Dance - Milwaukee, and Performing Arts Dance Theater. She has served as the President of the Northern Michigan Dance Council for the past 8 years, facilitating scholarships and performance opportunities for Traverse City Area Dancers.

COMPETITION DETAILS

Meruelo Athletic Center, Mater Dei High School, Santa Ana, California
Saturday, March 13, 2010
7:30am - 4:30pm

ARRIVAL AT THE MERUELO CENTER (Doors Do Not Open Until 6:30am!)

Please do not arrive at the Athletic Center prior to 6:30am.

All teams should arrive dressed and ready for their first performance. We suggest that you arrive at least one hour prior to your scheduled first performance. Everyone (performers & spectators) will enter the Arena through the main lobby entrance and you will be directed to "team registration" or "spectator seating". Performers will be given a brief orientation and directed to the changing area. Spectators will be directed to the viewing area.

There is no parking fee at the arena for this event. Buses may drop off/park in the main parking lot located in front of the Athletic Center. Cars will be directed to park in the auxiliary lot.

*Meruelo Athletic Center, Mater Dei High School
1202 West Edinger Avenue, Santa Ana, California 92707
714-754-7711*

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE/FLOOR

The Meruelo Athletic Center has a regulation basketball court which is marked with boundary lines, regular court lines and a center line. The floor **does not** have Volleyball Lines. All performers must wear soft-sole shoes (unless barefoot) so that the floor will not be marked or damaged.

In order for the competition to remain on time, we will not reschedule any performances. If your group is not ready to compete at your scheduled time, your team will forfeit that performance and it will not be re-scheduled. Teams have some quick costume changes, however the changing area and performance floor are very close in proximity.

ADMISSION TICKETS

Anyone that has purchased a contest only or complete travel package in advance receive admission tickets to the Gym for the competition.

For anyone that has not purchased tickets in advance, tickets for competition at the Athletic Center will be on sale for \$15.00 per adult, \$5.00 for children 5-10 yrs old. Children under 5 are free.

DRESSING/CHANGING

All Teams should arrive dressed and ready for their first performance. Teams will be assigned a classroom or lockerroom which will be used for costume changes. **Room are not secured and we do not recommend leaving valuables unattended.** Mirrors are not provided, so we suggest you bring small hand held mirrors.

Champion Dance Nationals and Mater Dei High School are not responsible for any lost or stolen items. We suggest all personal items and costumes be left in the stands with parents/chaperones.

WARM-UP

Teams will use the open courtyard areas around the school grounds for warm up. **No team will have access to the performance floor prior to competition.**

SOUND/SPEED CHECKS

Directors will be required to turn in music at the sound check area **20 minutes** prior to each of your performances. At this time you will have access to the variable speed recorder and CD for your sound/speed check. **PLEASE HAVE BACK UPS AVAILABLE OF ALL CDS AS SOME CDS ARE UNREADABLE.**

Champion Dance Nationals and the Merulo Athletic Center use professional sound systems and are not responsible for any music that has not been professionally recorded. A sound technician will control the system, however if you wish to push "start" you will be permitted to sit with the technician.

Your music selection must be recorded on a quality **cassette tape or CD** that has excellent musical clarity. A separate tape/CD must be furnished for each routine entered. The **tape/CD** as well as the case should be clearly marked with Team Name, Classification and Category. Please provide a separate back-up tape/CD for each routine entered. If you are using a cassette, you must record music at the beginning of the tape following the leader and turn it in to the sound table rewind, cued and ready to play. **One and only one music selection may be recorded on each tape/CD used for competition. Music will be played on a professional sound system with variable speed players.**

Please do not forget to pick up your tapes/CD's following your performance. We are not responsible to return any tapes/CD's that are not picked up.

PERFORMANCE ENTRANCE & EXITS

A production assistant will let you know when to take the floor. Teams will enter the performance floor "stage left" and exit the floor "stage right". Entrances are not judged and if you need to change your entrance please advise the pre-staging production assistant in advance. Once on the floor the announcer will ask if the team is ready. Your captain should signal to the announcer that the team is ready to begin. Your team will be announced to the audience and your music will begin.

SOUVENIR MERCHANDISE

Contest souvenir items will be on sale throughout the day at the Athletic Center. These items are limited. We suggest that if you wish to purchase souvenir merchandise, you do so upon arrival at the Athletic Center.

PHOTOGRAPHS / VIDEOS

Spectators are permitted to take photographs and video during performance. However, please **DO NOT** use flash photography that could interrupt the performers spots or focus.

CONCESSIONS

Food concessions will be open all day at the Athletic Center. No food or drinks may be brought into the Athletic Center.

PROPS/BACK DROPS

Props/Back Drops may not be shipped directly to the Athletic Center. You must bring all props and/or back drops with you the day of competition and they must leave with your team upon departure.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

The awards presentation is scheduled for 3:30pm at the Meruelo Athletic Center.

ATTIRE / SEATING

The attire for the awards presentation is casual. We would suggest that your team dress in matching team warm ups or uniforms/costumes.

Performers will be asked to assemble with your team and sit on the main performance floor in front of the trophy tables. Spectators will remain in the stands.

ACCEPTING YOUR AWARDS

We ask that you designate a maximum of three members from your team to accept each award. The "Grand Champion" and "Reserve Grand Champions" will be permitted to have the entire team accept these awards.

EXIT

Following the awards presentation, everyone will exit the main entrance for departure.