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March 8, 2010

Dear Director,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to **2010 "Champion Dance Nationals" in New York City**. With the competition next week, 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 booklet. It is vitally 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 New York!

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 10 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 fourteen 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. She has served as a Past President of the Texas Dance Educators Association and was 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. "Berkadettes" 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.

Purdie Baumann, Adjudicator

Purdie grew up dancing at her mother and father's dance and tumbling studio in Maywood, IL. She attended high school at the Chicago Academy for the Arts. She then majored in Ballet at the North Carolina school of the Arts. Purdie is a proud Rockette at Radio City Music Hall. She also sings and dances in musicals regionally. Her favorite shows include: The Christmas Spectacular, Anything Goes, Cabaret, Carousel, Gypsy, Guys and Dolls, Fosse and A Chorus Line.

Kimberly Calore, Adjudicator

Kimberly Calore currently resides in New York City and is an active Performer & Instructor/Choreographer. Some of her favorite credits include: Current Radio City Rockette/Ass. Dance Captain of 11 years, The Producers, Contact, Crazy For You, 42nd St., Disney's Beauty & The Beast, The Tony Awards, RI Ballet Co., several Las Vegas Productions/Cruise Lines, and featured in numerous Commercials/TV/Film. She's had the honor of working with such Legends as: Chita Rivera, Susan Stroman, Jerry Mitchell, Bette Midler, Nathan Lane, Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Uma Thurman, and Mel Brooks to name a few. Kimberly's career highlights have been featured in publications such as Dance Magazine, The Oprah Magazine, Dance Spirit, Dance Teacher Magazine, and most recently in the newly published book, "The Radio City Rockettes: A Dance Through Time". In addition to performing, Kimberly has been an Instructor/Choreographer for the past 13 yrs. and was a scholarship attendee of The Dance Teacher's Club of Boston. She is an Instructor/Choreographer for the Broadway Dance Center's "The Rockette Experience" and is a featured Instructor in "The Radio City Rockettes- Kick Into Fitness" technique video. Kimberly has been on staff as a technical adjudicator for several leading talent competitions for 7 years and she continues to pass down her love for the performing arts by Guest Teaching/Choreographing nationwide.

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.

Abbie Cooper, Adjudicator

Abbie Cooper has performed, taught and choreographed across the country. Working professionally in musical theatre, she has been an original company member and featured dancer in such Broadway tours as *42nd Street*, *All Shook Up*, and *White Christmas*. She also originated the Las Vegas production of *We Will Rock You*, where she worked closely with the legendary Brian May and Roger Taylor of Queen. A career highlight has been kicking eye-high at Radio City Music Hall with the world-famous Radio City Rockettes! Abbie honed her critical skills as a teacher and choreographer at Northwestern University, where she directed the Graffiti Dancers Company and staged numerous theatrical productions. With a double major in Communications Studies and Dance, a Spanish minor, and a Musical Theatre certificate, she graduated first in her class. Professionally, she has instructed and judged for NCA Danz, in addition to numerous national talent competitions. She fully believes that dance nurtures the soul, and hopes to encourage aspiring dancers to follow their dreams

Lainie Sakakura, Adjudicator

Originally from Oakland, California, Lainie moved to New York City when she turned 17 years old. She trained extensively with Joffrey and danced with Ballet Hispanico for about a year before beginning work in musical theatre. She has been seen from her first tour of 'Song and Dance' to Lincoln Center's 'Carousel' to The Chita Rivera Project. She has been a New York City Rockette and has extensive training in Fosse Technique. She is a respected Dancer, Choreographer and Teacher who loves being in show business.

COMPETITION DETAILS

(All Events)

College of Staten Island Sports & Recreation Center

Saturday, March 20, 2010

9:30am - 7:00pm

ARRIVAL AT THE ARENA (Doors Do Not Open Until 8:30am!)

All teams should arrive dressed and ready for their first performance, **especially if your first performance is prior to 9:00am.** 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 and cars may drop off in the circle at the front entrance, however all vehicles must park in the lot.

After you pass through the main entrance/security gate of the campus you will take your first left turn and follow the signs directing you to the Sports & Recreation center.

*College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, New York 10314
718-982-3167*

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE/FLOOR

The College of Staten Island Arena has a regulation college 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. Enter stage left and exit stage left, (see enclosed diagram).

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 Arena for the competition.

For anyone that has not purchased tickets in advance, tickets for competition at the Arena 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 directed to the large auxiliary court which will be used for costume changes and warm-up. This is an open gym floor with no tables, chairs or facilities for storage. **It is not secured and we do not recommend leaving valuables unattended.** Locker rooms are also accessible to use for changing. Mirrors are not provided, so we suggest you bring small hand held mirrors.

Champion Dance Nationals and the College of Staten Island 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 auxiliary court (dressing/changing) area for warm-up. The area is located right next to the main performance floor and if you choose to bring a sound system/boom box the volume must be kept to a minimum level in order not disturb the performances on the main floor. Performers are asked to remain as quiet as possible while performances are taking place on the main floor.

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.

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 rewound, 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.**

Champion Dance Nationals and the College of Staten Island 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.

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 left" (*See enclosed diagram*). 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. They will then introduce the team to the judges and audience and the music will begin.

Immediately following each TEAM performance, your group will exit stage left and proceed back to the pre-staging area.

SOUVENIR MERCHANDISE

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

PHOTOGRAPHS / VIDEOS

Spectators are permitted to take photographs and video during performance.

CONCESSIONS

Food concessions will be open all day at the College of Staten Island Arena for Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Snacks, Coffee, Water and Soda. In addition the University Cafeteria is a short one building walk from the Arena. The cafeteria will be serving meals throughout the day. No food or drinks may be brought into the Arena.

PROPS/BACK DROPS

Props/Back Drops may be shipped directly to the College of Staten Island. However due to storage limitations and the location of receiving at the Arena, items may not arrive prior to Thursday, March 18, 2010 and must be picked up no later than Monday, March 22, 2010. Champion Dance Nationals and the College of Staten Island are not responsible for any props not picked up by March 23, 2010.

If you have any shipments to the College you **MUST** contact the following representative:

College of Staten Island
Fran Mitiileri, Asst. Director of Athletics
2800 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10314
718-982-3167 phone
mitiileri@mail.csi.cuny.edu

Do not ship any items to the contest office or to your hotel. If you have any questions regarding props, please contact Ms. Mitiileri in advance and she can give you some suggestions regarding your specific situation.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

The awards presentation is scheduled for 6:00pm at the College of Staten Island Arena.

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.