



DANCE LIVE! 2024[®]

Information Pack



Item	Description	Page No.
1	Welcome from The Guildhall Trust	3
1.2	Images from Dance Live! 2023	4
1.3	Introduction	5
2	Participation, Fees & Payment	6
2.2	Entering the Competition	6
2.3	Agreement	6
2.4	Participation Fee	7
3	Creating a Performance Piece	8
3.2	The Performance Piece	8
3.3	The Role of the LED Screen	8
3.4	Demonstrating Teamwork	9
3.5	Workshops	10
3.6	Dance Live! Resources – Teaching Aids and Information	10
4	Performance Guidelines	11
4.2	Performance Guidelines and Rules	11
4.3	Copyright	12
4.4	Audio and Visual Guidance and Rules	13
4.5	Stage Decoration and Props Guidance and Rules	13
4.6	Lighting	15
4.7	Video Directing	16
4.8	Performance Space	16
4.9	Behaviour	16
5	Judging & Awards	17
6	Ticketing	20
7	Child Licencing Requirements	21
8	Communication & Submission of Documents and Film Footage	22
9	Welfare, Health & Safety	23
10	Dance Live! Media and Photo Policy	25
11	Final Note	26
12	Contract of Agreement	27
13	Code of Conduct	28



1 Welcome to The Guildhall Trust

We launched our Dance Live! competition for schools and colleges in 2020 as part of our 'Get Involved' programme, inviting young people between the ages of 7-18 to take to the stage and perform creative dance routines that are choreographed to the backdrop of a giant LED screen.

After such a great reception, we have worked through the challenging circumstances of the last few years of which schools and their pupils have been grateful for. In 2023, Dance Live! welcomed up to 110 schools and colleges with over 5000 young people across our events in Portsmouth, Poole, High Wycombe, Guildford and Eastbourne along with our first ever North event in Sheffield. We are incredibly excited to be expanding to multiple venues for Dance Live! 2024 (subject to registration) including:

<p>Portsmouth Guildhall (Portsmouth): Tuesday 30th January SENIORS Wednesday 31st January SENIORS Thursday 1st February JUNIORS Friday 2nd February JUNIORS Monday 5th February SENIORS Tuesday 6th February SENIORS Wednesday 7th February SENIORS Thursday 8th February JUNIORS Friday 9th February JUNIORS</p> <p>Winter Gardens (Blackpool): Tuesday 27th February SENIORS Wednesday 28th February SENIORS Thursday 29th February JUNIORS</p> <p>Congress Theatre (Eastbourne): Tuesday 5th March SENIORS Wednesday 6th March JUNIORS</p>	<p>The Lighthouse (Poole): Thursday 7th March SENIORS Friday 8th March JUNIORS</p> <p>Bridlington Spa (Bridlington): Monday 11th March SENIORS Tuesday 12th March JUNIORS</p> <p>G Live (Guildford): Wednesday 13th March SENIORS Thursday 14th March SENIORS Friday 15th March JUNIORS</p> <p>Brentford (Essex): Monday 18th March SENIORS Tuesday 19th March JUNIORS</p> <p>The Swan (High Wycombe): Wednesday 20th March SENIORS Thursday 21st March SENIORS Friday 22nd March JUNIORS</p>
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The Finals will take place at Portsmouth Guildhall on Tuesday 23rd to Friday 26th April 2024. Exact dates will be confirmed after the registration deadline.

Please read through this pack, which will detail the rules and information for competing with event options. **If you have competed in Dance Live! previously, please still read it thoroughly, as some rules have changed.** There are instructions on how to register your school, which will be done via a Google Form on our website. **Please note that by registering your school, you are committing to the event and confirm your understanding that a withdrawal fee of £150.00 will be charged if you subsequently pull out after confirmation of dates and venues have been issued (approx. mid to late July at the latest). Our delivery of events at each venue depends on the level of registrations. Should we have to cancel an event, you will be offered a space at another venue. If you are unable to attend at the new venue offered, you will not be charged a withdrawal fee.** If you have any questions about the event, do get in touch with the Dance Live! Team via email: dancelive@portsmouthguildhall.org.uk.

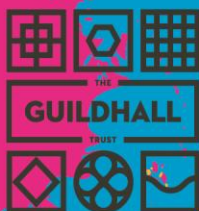
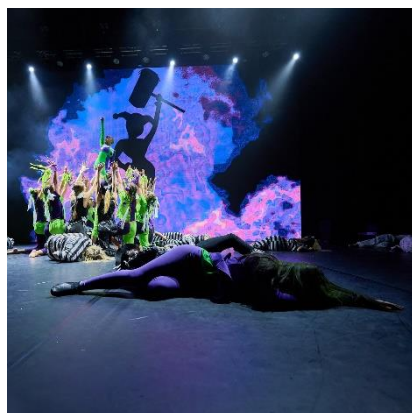
Kind regards,

A. Grays

**Andy Grays CEO
The Guildhall Trust**



1.2 Images from Dance Live! 2023





1.3 Introduction

We live in a digital age. Much of what we see, hear or do is defined by the latest technology. At the forefront of this are our young people, they embrace today's digital culture naturally and often with a greater certainty than older generations.

In today's professional world, dance and theatre embrace all aspects of digital technology. Whether that is using the latest sound and lighting equipment, to all aspects of the creative delivery of a show. Sets are no longer defined by heavy pieces of carpentry which are static, but moving imagery conveyed by projection, video and the clever use of lighting and sound. Smaller props are imaginatively assimilated into the digital world of today's production.

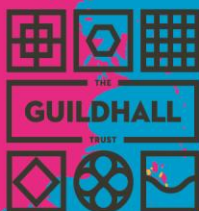
Dance Live! challenges schools to embrace today's digital culture by creating a performance piece which is largely dance based. We want schools to be highly creative, developing an original piece of work using video and sound on a large LED screen. The work should have a strong narrative or theme, which interacts with the digital content.

Today's dance and musical theatre practitioners challenge themselves to push boundaries, whether that's the re-staging of a classic musical like 'An American in Paris' in London's West End, new dance presented by Sadlers Wells or touring ballet by companies like Northern Ballet.

Dance Live! is therefore much more than just the performers, it relies heavily on how the choreography and direction works with the digital element. We hope a wide range of skills will be utilised to create the work and we want to see the teamwork involved in putting the performance together, demonstrated through a 2-minute introductory film.

Children and young people from primary and secondary schools right up to sixth form/college can enter, from ages 7-18. Primary schools will enter the Junior competition and senior schools and colleges the Senior competition.

Please note that the competition is only open to schools and colleges and not dance schools, dance studios or youth dance companies. If you are a dance school, dance studio or youth dance company wishing to compete, please contact the Dance Live! Team regarding *Dance Live! Studio Edition*. The Guildhall Trust has public liability insurance and licenses with PRS and PPL.



2 Participation, Fees & Payment

2.2 Entering the Competition

Schools must register by completing the Google Form on The Guildhall Trust's website: www.dancelive.co.uk before **5pm, Monday 10th July 2023**. By completing this form, you are entering into an agreement to participate in the event. **The signed agreement will confirm your entry into the competition. Should a school wish to withdraw after they have signed their agreement, and dates and locations have been confirmed (late July) they will be liable to a £150.00 withdrawal fee. Our delivery of events at each venue depends on the level of registrations. Should we have to cancel an event, you will be offered a space at another venue. If you are unable to attend at the new venue offered, you will not be charged a withdrawal fee.**

2.3 Agreement

The agreement will ask each school to abide by safeguarding rules concerning all young people with regards to offsite school's activity and the local authorities licensing requirements. The school must be prepared for each pupil to be offsite for one full day.

By returning the agreement, you are confirming that you will be submitting all required paperwork, to comply with Child Licencing requirements, by the stipulated deadlines. More information about this can be found in section 7, page 21 of this Information Pack.

The agreement will ask each school to commit to our rules and confirm that they will make payment in full according to the participant numbers. It is expected that all children and young people will be well behaved within the venue and under the supervision of teachers and/or helpers.

Please note that only one team from each school can enter into Juniors and Seniors. A school with a Junior and Senior section can therefore enter 2 teams, one into the junior competition and one into the senior competition. If you are a Middle School, you must enter either:

- the Junior competition with only participants of Juniors ages
- or**
- the Senior competition with participants of Senior ages (and Junior ages if you wish).

Middle Schools are not allowed to compete in the Junior competition with participants of Senior competition ages.

2.4 The Participation Fee

For each school who enters, there is a participation fee of £13 per participant attending the event on the day, with a minimum of 25 participants. If you wish to bring less than 25 participants you will be charged £300. This fee supports the production and delivery of the event. Each school will be invoiced for their total fees, which must be paid by the deadline stated on the invoice. The fees

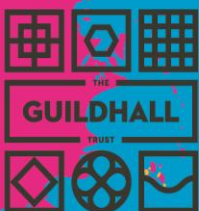


apply to all 'student' team members engaged with the delivery of the event on the day, therefore the dancers, crew, technicians and creative participants. Teachers and adult volunteers who are supporting the development and delivery of the event do not need to pay a participation fee.

The participation fee to be paid to us (The Guildhall Trust) will be shown as £13 per participant. We will be issuing invoices once you have returned your Invoice and Access Needs form in the Autumn term.

BACS transfer will be the preferred method of payment; however, we will accept card and cheque payments.

The deadline for final confirmation of participant numbers is **Monday 4th December 2023** after which an invoice will be sent to your lead contact. If we have not received any participant number updates, we will be invoicing for the numbers stated on your official registration form. The deadline for payment is **5pm, Friday 12th January 2024** after which point we are unable to give refunds to schools for individual participants unless there are exceptional circumstances. **Due to the scale of the arrangements needed to run the event, including appointing appropriate dressing room spaces, you will be unable to change your participant numbers or amend invoices after this date.**





3 Creating a Performance Piece

We want to encourage as many young people to get involved as possible – even those that will not attend the venue on the day of the event. Our aim is to make participants more aware of how professional theatre and dance is created, so that they can relate to the process as well as the final performance. Creating a new piece of work in the digital age requires a variety of cross over skills including direction, choreography, costume making, filming, graphic design, drawing, lighting design and music. **Teamwork is key!**

Dance Live! would like each school to ensure the pieces are student led, enabling as many students to be involved in the creative process as possible. You may want to consider teams, but however you chose to do it, you will be asked to reflect the teamwork process in the 2-minute introductory film, which will be discussed in section 5.2.

3.2 The Performance Piece

The performance must be between 5-7 minutes in length, anything less or more will affect the judging of your piece in the 'Performance' category. Your piece must be original and 'PG' rated and therefore suitable for all audiences.

Please see the important guidance in section 5.2 about what is and is not allowed, in relation to the theme.

We will liaise with you throughout the creative process and will want to hear your ideas. We want to see work that is original, innovative and exciting, however most importantly we want you to have fun. All dance forms are permitted, including but not limited to: Classical, Contemporary, Jazz, Hip-Hop, South Asian, Irish and Tap.

Your work might tell a story, relate to a theme, or it might be interpretive. Whilst it should be a dance piece, it can include complimentary elements of performance including spoken word or narration. Dance Live! will make available microphones. We won't allow full musical support on stage, but some percussion is permitted. If you're unsure about anything, please contact the Dance Live! Team.

3.3 The Role of the LED Screen

The LED screen is to be used as the set and backdrop. All schools must use it to support their performance. The screen is essentially a large computer screen, you should create a video with soundtrack that runs the entire length of the performance. Schools should be able to gain access to several free, easy-to-use, software programmes which will create the content, for example I-Movie and Final Cut Pro. The Dance Live! Team will offer support and advice including a workshop hosted by an industry professional. **The audio must be embedded into the video.**



The Screen will be very large, size depending on the venue, which we'll hang at the rear of the stage, 6 inches above the floor. There are several good examples of how screens tie into performances, they are often used on shows such as X-Factor and Britain's Got Talent. After registering, participating schools will be given access to examples of how the screen was used in previous events along with advice documents to support their creation of screen content. We also have several promotional films on our website, with footage of the screen, that can be seen as examples and image examples can be found on our Instagram page (@danceliveportsmouth).

3.4 Demonstrating Teamwork

The creation of the piece should be a student led process, and we will be asking to see this reflected in a 2-minute introductory film, your '**Journey to Dance Live!**' video, which will play ahead of the start of your performance.

At The Guildhall Trust, we have promoted the benefits of offstage skills so that young people can understand the wider opportunities within the sector. We hope that as well as the young people enjoying the competition it might spark some interest to explore careers in lighting, sound, production, design, marketing and much more.

You may want to consider something along the lines of the following, **although this is not compulsory:**

The Dance and Performance Team: could comprise of all the performers who are on stage. This will obviously include the dancers, as well as any musicians or voice over performers.

The Choreographic Team: could devise and create the work. This team might include a lead choreographer/ creative director and assistant choreographers, all of whom train and develop the dancers and link up with the other teams. We expect teachers and parental support with this team but ask that students play a role as well.

The Props and Production Team: could build the props, design the costumes, create the video content and provide technicians, wardrobe, hair, make-up and assistant stage managers for the day of the performance. It is up to this team to ensure that everything runs smoothly on the day for their school's performance. In advance of the event we imagine some children will be involved in prop making whilst others will need to create the video content to go on the LED screen. This team would create the lighting design for the piece working with the Dance Live! Technicians on the day plotting the work. From within this team we would advise you nominate a producer and assistant producer to work across all 4 teams pulling together the ideas and ensuring everything is properly co-ordinated.

The Film Team: you would produce the 2-minute film created, demonstrating your school's journey to the heats, which demonstrates the teamwork that went into making up the piece. This might include auditions, production meetings, rehearsals, prop making and content creation. It would be good to hear of individual stories and what you've enjoyed about the process leading to the heats. This would be an opportunity for young film makers to make use of anything from their phones to video equipment.





The role of volunteers and parents are welcome in a supportive capacity. We do realise that for the Junior competition teachers and volunteers will need to be more hands on. However, for the senior competition we expect teachers, parents and volunteers to be supportive and allow the young people to take the lead where it's feasible.

A note for SEN/D settings

We completely understand that for SEN/D settings, the young people will require additional support. We hope that by having additional elements to the production, that more young people can be involved, in whichever capacity they are interested in. If it is feasible for your school, the Dance Live! Team will work with you, to organise a time for your students to come into the venue ahead of the day, so that they can familiarise themselves with the space, including the stage, backstage areas and dressing rooms.

3.5 Workshops

Dance Live! will be offering workshops to all schools participating in the event. The team will work with you to develop all areas of your Dance Live! Performance. Workshops can be for either teachers or students (or both), and will be based around the following elements:

- The creation of the LED screen content/ 2 minute 'Journey to Dance Live!' film
- Lighting Design
- Choreography/ Performance Skills
- Costume Design
- Concept/Theme Development
- Screen Interaction

These workshops will be organised as group workshops in venues. This could be for teachers, or teachers plus a small group of students. We will also be offering 1-2-1 zoom support sessions after workshops have taken place.

We will be organising workshops to take place in the Autumn/Winter term.

3.6 Dance Live! Resources – Teaching Aids & Information

After registering, all participating schools will be given access to the Dance Live! Resources SharePoint site. This will include an array of teaching aids and information to help you with your Dance Live! creations, for example: some information videos relating to the LED screen, including examples from last year; simple guides to creating a 2-minute film; dance tutorials; guidance for lighting plans and general information about the event.





4 Performance Guidelines

Please read the below guidance carefully, as it details the rules and what is and is not acceptable for a performance. You should refer back to these throughout the creation of your piece.

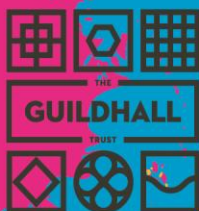
4.2 Performance Guidelines and Rules

PERFORMANCE

- Performance length must be between 5-7 minutes, penalty points will be deducted if you fall out of this time.
- All performances must make full use of the LED screen with the soundtrack embedded into the video for the whole length of the performance. **Please see judging section for how this will be weighted.**
- Music can be original or published, Judges will take into account originality in the creative scoring section. Dance Live! is covered by PRS and PPL and will declare all music to the accountable bodies. All audio must be embedded into your video and declared to the Dance Live! Team at the point of video submission.
- Drums and percussion are allowed but no electric instruments. You must be able to walk on and off the stage with all instruments used.
- You will have a 20-minute rehearsal during the day where you can practice your piece, mark out the stage and work with technicians plotting the lighting.
- **Vocals and spoken word live are permitted but should not be centre stage.**
- **If your performers will be wearing tap shoes, or performing vocals or spoken word, please notify the Dance Live! Team to enable microphones to be prepared for sound/video recording purposes.**
- Dance Live! will provide a full lighting rig and sound, schools must use the Dance Live! lighting and are not permitted to introduce any additional elements without gaining permission from the Dance Live! Team.
- You must be backstage at least 5 minutes before you perform. If you are not ready for your cue you will be disqualified or heavily penalised by the judges.
- You are permitted to have a maximum of 100 students from the named school involved. You can have no more than 20 crew in or around the stage whilst you perform.

PERFORMANCE CONTENT

- **The performance must be appropriate to a family audience and therefore 'PG' rated. The content of your performance must be appropriate for the age of the performers, please note we will come back to you in Autumn term if we feel your concept is not suitable.**





- Themes/stories/videos must be grounded in facts, if approaching a sensitive topic, and we will be requesting a short synopsis about what the performance focuses on by **5pm, Friday 17th November 2023**, to ensure that topics are not breaking guidelines.
- If you are creating a piece that could be considered sensitive, please ensure that you keep a list of references/source material, as we are likely to request to see this. Evidence of the education of source material to participants should be shown in your 'Journey to Dance Live!' video where possible.
- Participating schools will be signposted to a resource to help determine if a theme is appropriate upon registration to the event.
- Cultural appropriation is not acceptable - you will not be permitted to change the skin colour of any performer and should give serious consideration as to whether any costume or make up breaches these guidelines. The Dance Live! Team reserve the right to request changes to hair/makeup/costume on the day, if we feel they are inappropriate.
- **For a copy of Dance Live! and The Guildhall Trust's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, please contact the Dance Live! Team at dancelive@portsmouthguildhall.org.uk.**
- Please consider, when deciding your theme, whether it is likely to be a popular topic, and therefore something that could be similar to other schools' performances. Please also consider the impact current events may have on members of the audience.
- **Performances that are centred around the Coronavirus outbreak, the 2022 Russian and Ukraine conflict and Queen Elizabeth II's funeral will not be a permitted theme this year. Screen content must not contain footage from these events.**

2 MINUTE 'JOURNEY TO DANCE LIVE!' FILM

- Must be a reflection of your schools' journey to Dance Live! this year.
- Must not be longer than 2 minutes. **We allow a 10 second leeway, any Journey video that runs over 2mins 10secs will be cut and the stage will go to blackout along with a five point deduction from your performance mark.**
- Must NOT contain footage or reference to any other Dance competition, except previous Dance Live! events.
- All schools will be provided with a 'Journey to Dance Live Video Structure' resource to refer to. This includes end credits showcasing all those that contributed to the technical elements of your performance even if they will not attend on the day of your event.
- Must be submitted by the time frame stipulated (refer to section 8 of this pack).

4.3 Copyright

- **All images, film, graphic design and animation in LED Screen Content must be royalty-free and copyright-free or must be original content. The Dance Live! Team reserves the right to black out the screen if we consider it to be breaking copyright regulations. **Any schools who we consider to be breaking copyright regulations will not be eligible for****



any awards at their heat event and will not be eligible to attend a finals event.

- Please be considerate about the soundtrack, should we deem any pieces unsuitable, we reserve the right to mute sections (e.g. featuring explicit language).
- **You do not need to obtain copyright permission for music tracks, as Dance Live! will have obtained a licence for the event.** However, Dance Live! does not have a licence for images/film and therefore all images and video used must be copyright-free and royalty-free or original content. **Dance Live! will provide participating schools with a copyright resource to refer to.**
- By agreeing to take part in Dance Live! your school consents to being recorded by audio, visual, and/or other means for marketing in all media now known or hereafter devised worldwide in perpetuity. (Please refer to section 10 of this pack)
- Schools or members of the public are not permitted to record or photograph any, or part of, the performance.
- A copy of your schools' performance will be made available digitally along with photographs available to purchase, for you to share with students and parents (See page 25 of this Information Pack)

4.4 Audio and Visual Guidance and Rules

- The LED screen is to be used as the set and backdrop. All schools must use the screen to support their performance (refer to section 6 for how this will be weighted).
- The screen will be the majority of the width of your performance area. This will vary depending on venue capacity and we will be able to provide an exact size for each venue.
- All audio must be embedded into your video and videos must be submitted in MP4 format.
- Minimum length of video thus performance is 5 minutes. Maximum length of video thus performance is 7 minutes. **We allow a 10 second leeway, any screen content and performance that runs over 7mins 10secs will be cut and the stage will go to blackout along with a five point deduction from your performance mark.**
- Sound effect and voice overs are permitted.
- **Text used on the screen must not contain explicit language.**
- **We would suggest a minimum of 1920 x 1080 pixels for video and image with a 1080 resolution, also referred to as 'Full HD'.**
- There can be no live music produced by electrical instruments, however drums and percussion are permitted.

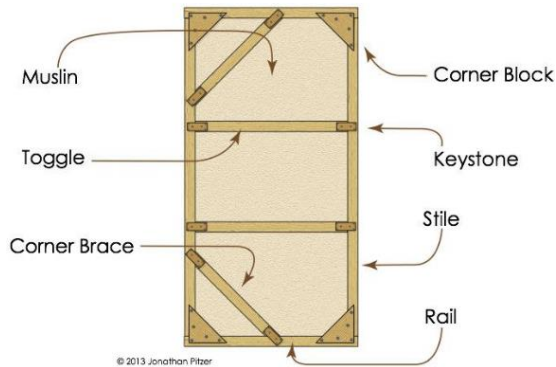
4.5 Stage Decoration and Props Guidance and Rules

USE OF STAGE DECORATION

- **Solid Flats are not permitted.** A Solid Flat consists of 'a frame covered with scenic canvas or plywood' and/or 'a painted wooden, cardboard or plastic board' that is usually built in a rectangular or square shape or the shape of an object or scenery (e.g. a tree or furniture) and positioned on



stage so as to give the appearance of a specific scene or hide a stage background. Solid/ Broadway/ Studio/ Scenery Flat example:



- All stage decoration should move at least once during the performance and should not be static.
- All stage decoration must be used to help enhance the performance. These are door frame, tables and chairs, steps, boxes, etc.
- It should be possible for all stage decoration to be brought safely onto the stage ideally by one person. More than one person will be permitted where aid is required and to ensure health and safety is adhered to. There can be no risk of injury when taking on and off the stage any stage decoration.
- Maximum size of any one solid piece of stage decoration is **2m high, 1.2m wide, 1m deep**. Please note this height includes wheels. A solid piece of stage decoration must be able to pass through an imaginary single door frame. **Five points will be deducted from your overall performance mark for any stage decoration over this measurement.**
- Fabrics (e.g. blue net for a wave effect) are permitted and when extended should be no longer than the width of the stage and no taller than **2m**.
- **All fabrics must be flame-retardant.**
- Off-stage storage: All stage decoration and props must be stored in an area of **1.5m x 2m** when not on stage. Schools performing in the second half of the show may be asked to store their stage decoration and props either outside the venue, in your dressing room or in your transport. Stage decoration and props will then be stored off stage during the interval.
- Any stage decoration over **1m high** on which a performer will stand upon must be fitted with **2 handrails** either side. **Any stage decoration above 1m high without handrails fitted will not be allowed to be used during your performance.** Please note that the 1m height includes wheels.
- All stage decoration must be of strong construction as to not cause harm to any of your performers.
- No scaffolding is permitted.
- You will have **2 minutes** to position your stage decoration and props pre-performance (while your Journey to Dance Live! video plays on the LED Screen behind you) and then **1 minute** to remove stage decoration and hand props post performance.





- All stage crew must wear footwear which cover the complete foot (e.g. trainers or boots).
- Once your stage decoration and props are in the loading area you will be required to transfer the stage decoration and props to your transport.
- Please have your stage decoration and props at the venue a minimum 30 minutes before your rehearsal time.
- Parking arrangements will be sent to all schools on a per-venue basis.

USE OF PROPS

- Props that are held or worn by the performers.
- Worn props must not exceed **5m** in height from the floor when used. **Five points will be deducted from your overall performance mark for any props over this measurement.**
- The use of authentic weaponry is not permitted.
- No performer may wear roller skates, blades or ride skateboards, bikes or any other form of transport.
- All props must be removed from the stage area once the performance is complete and then from the venue once the show has ended.
- All props must comply with relevant health and safety regulation. All props must be fire retardant. This can be done by using fire retardant paint, materials or sprayed with a fire-retardant substance. Dance Live! Management have the right to test any prop for fire safety and any pieces considered non-fire retardant will be removed from the venue.
- Any props that require power must be battery operated.
- The following are not permitted: **animals (except guide dogs), liquids, lasers, confetti, glass (including mirrors), oils, bubble machines, helium balloons, air-filled balloons, talcum powder, dry ice, naked flames, any kind of compressed gas or pyrotechnics (this includes party-poppers and confetti-cannons).**

4.6 Lighting

- Dance Live! will supply all lighting.
- No additional lighting will be allowed other than battery powered lights.
- Projection equipment is allowed but should be battery operated.
- **No follow spots are allowed.**
- Strobe lighting must conform to health and safety regulation. A maximum of 10 seconds at any one time and a total of 60 seconds during a performance. **This includes strobe effects in your screen content.**
- No lasers are permitted.
- Before the day you must nominate a student to be your Lighting Assistant (LA). The LA will be required to design a **maximum of 10 lighting states** to enhance your performance.
- The Dance Live! Lighting Technician will assist you with what you require and may give ideas which complement your performance.
- The LA does not need to be an expert in lighting, just someone who knows the performance, knows the scene changes, and knows the kind of effects your team wants.





- You will receive a lighting plot of what lights will be available, along with a basic cue sheet to be completed and brought with you on the day of your event.
- **All schools must bring a student Lighting Assistant. If your school does not bring a student Lighting Assistant, your school cannot score more than 3 points (out of 5) maximum for your lighting score. Please note for SEN schools, this could be a teacher.**

4.7 Video Directing

- All schools must provide a video director to call the shots within your individual school's video production. This can either be a student or a teacher.

4.8 Performance Space

- The performance space in every venue is **12m wide by 7m deep**.
- Performers must not hang legs, arms or props over the front of the stage.
- Performers must use the crossover behind the stage. There is no access directly behind the LED screen. **Please note that costumes involving material touching the floor and/or footwear such as heels or tap shoes may be a hazard when considering quick crossovers.**
- All performance is restricted to the onstage area. No performer may enter or exit from the auditorium.

4.9 Behaviour

The spirit of Dance Live! is mutual respect and professionalism. We ask that all participants show their support and appreciation for their fellow competitors.

As part of registering, you will be required to sign a code of conduct (please see page 28 of this Information Pack)

We will not tolerate any negative behaviour, from either students, staff or supporting audience members; this could lead to points being deducted and possible disqualification.

All participants and teachers must respect the venue and their staff and pay particular notice to venue signage and rules.

All schools must be considerate and mindful when in dressing rooms, as you may be sharing a dressing room with another school. Should we receive any complaints during the day about your school, marks will be deducted from your performance.

If any individual causes damage to fixtures and fittings Dance Live! will invoice the school for repair. We operate a one warning policy before action is taken.

Any schools that we consider to be breaking any rules from sections 5.3-5.9 will have points deducted and will not be eligible for awards at their heats event and will not be eligible to attend a finals event.

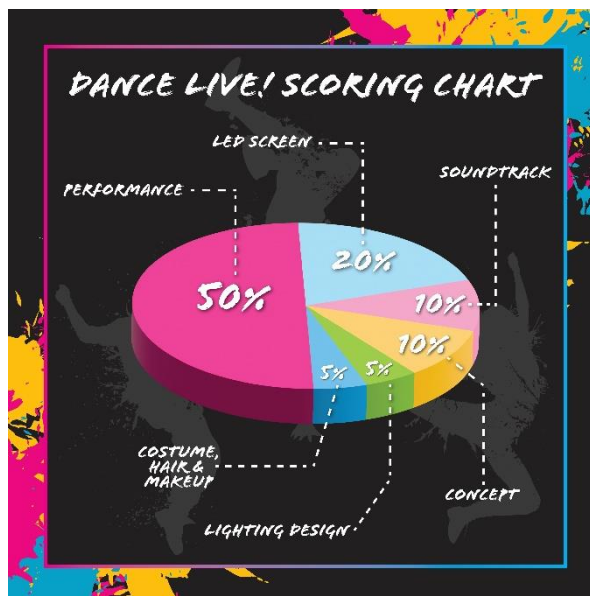




5 Judging & Awards

MAIN PERFORMANCE

There will be 3 judges all of whom have worked within the sector. Judging for the main piece will be split into 2 segments 'Creative' and 'Performance'. Each segment will contribute equally to the final score. It will be made up of the following:



Performance: 50%

Creative:

LED Screen Content: 20%

Lighting Design: 5%

Soundtrack Creation 10%

Costume, Hair and Makeup: 5%

Concept: 10%

HOW PERFORMANCES WILL BE JUDGED

Each school will receive a score out of 100 points.

Performance: after each school's performance judges will score out of 50. Judges will look at delivery, originality, interpretation, musicality, formations, choreography and overall performance.

Creative: judges will look at each section listed above - LED Screen Content, Lighting Design, Soundtrack Creation, Costume, Hair and Makeup and Concept.

The LED screen content score is worth 20 marks. Judges will be looking at the content of the screen, how well it complimented the performance and how the performance interacted with the screen. Consideration will also be given to whether the screen distracted from the performance (e.g. too much text).





Each of the other areas will attract a maximum of between 5 to 10 marks, therefore your creative score will be marked out of 50.

The overall score will be the average of the 3 judges scores (there may be up to 4 judges for the Finals).

QUALIFYING FOR FINALS

For the Heats, the top scorers will be revealed to the audience at end of the show, with the top schools from each night automatically going through to the Final. The amount of schools invited to the Final from each night will depend on the number of participating schools and this will be decided by the Dance Live! Team after the registration deadline.

Please note the judges for the Finals may be different to the Heats and will most certainly score differently.

OTHER AWARDS

Alongside the main top 3 awards, other awards to be presented on the evening will be:

- **Video Journey Award** - this will be the award for the best 2-minute film, that reflects and demonstrates the teamwork that went into creating a production. This will be prejudged by a panel, ahead of the show day.
- **Technical Award** - this award will be presented to the school whose technical team (lighting crew, stage crew etc.) demonstrated professionalism and dedication on the day. This will be judged by the stage manager, stage crew and backstage production assistants.
- **Dance Live! Fellowship Award** - this will be judged throughout the day by staff, production assistants, and a vote from each school. It will be awarded to the school who supported others the most and showed an outstanding level of camaraderie and consideration throughout the daytime.
- **Creative Achievement Awards** - Each school will receive an award, presented to them on the evening, for the 'Creative' element that they scored highest in, as judged by the 3 judges. For example, if your school got their highest mark in the 'LED Screen', they will be presented with an award for that. We will be using averages to assess this, given the weighting of the scoring.
- **Supporter Advocacy Award** - This is nominated by your school if you think a particular parent or guardian or group of supporting adults has contributed significantly to the development of your Dance Live! performance e.g. organised fundraising activities.

FINAL PRIZES

Should your school make it through to the Finals - there will be one winner for the Junior competition and one winner for the Senior competition.

A 1st prize of £1,000 will be awarded to the winners and £500 to the runners up of both competitions. We would ask the schools to commit this money to their arts budget (this includes music and dance). Dance Live! will also arrange Junior and Senior winners to have an in-school workshop with a professional artist.





South Finals will take place at our home venue, Portsmouth Guildhall. Due to levels of interest this year we are unable to hold a North Finals however winning Northern Schools will be invited to participate in the Southern Finals in Portsmouth Guildhall. As the event grows in the North Region, we will be exploring Northern Finals Events in the future.

WINNER CONDITIONS

Please note that as a condition of winning 1st place at a Finals event, your school's lead screen content creator/s must lead a zoom session or recording of how your screen content was made.





6 Ticketing

Schools can apply for a limited allocation of free audience tickets to those participants who are eligible for Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium.

Tickets will go on sale for all venues in Autumn term. School Group Bookings will also be available at this point. Please note we must receive payment before tickets can be emailed to teachers.

If your school does not wish to make a Schools Group Booking, parents/guardians can purchase their own tickets via our website. **If parent's/guardians book their own tickets and have issues, they must contact the venue's Box Office directly. Dance Live! and The Guildhall Trust have no access to venue booking systems.**

Please note we do not publicise school performance dates for safeguarding reasons, please ensure your performance date and venue is communicated clearly to parents before booking. **Once tickets are paid for, either Schools Group Booking or individual tickets, we do not issue refunds.**

All schools will receive two FREE tickets to be given to headteachers/SLTs. These are registered under your school name and can be collected from the venue's Box Office on the night of your event. Please note, these seats are ringfenced in a certain area of the auditorium and will not be next to your Schools Group Booking.

Finals tickets will go on sale in the Spring Term. Each school will be allocated seats for Schools Group Bookings and these seats will only be released after the Schools Group Booking Deadline to ensure that all participating schools, no matter how late their Heat Event, will be able to purchase tickets.





7 Child Licensing Requirements

By signing up to participate in the event, you are confirming that you will supply the Dance Live! Team with the information required in order for us to obtain appropriate licences for the event to go ahead.

You will receive the relevant documents, along with the deadline for returning these, after your entry has been confirmed in the Autumn.

These include the following:

Child Performance Licensing Agreement

This document sets out what we require from you as part of your entry. Amongst other things, it includes:

- Agreeing to provide us with every participating students name and date of birth at the time of performing (at least 15 days before the performance)
- Agreeing to provide us with a list of names of all staff and chaperones (least 15 days before the performance)
- Agreeing to complete the Details of Performance document (and return at least 15 days before the performance)
- Confirming that, on the day, you have details of any medical conditions and emergency contact details for each young person (we do not need to see these, but may ask you for them on the day).

Details of Performance Document

This form should be completed and returned at the same time as the lists of student's names and date of births, and staff lists.

This document asks for you to break down the number of girls/boys/nonbinary students participating, along with number of male/female/non-binary members of staff/chaperones. Please note that all school staff and chaperones must be Enhanced DBS checked. **We will be confirming exactly what is required with regards to DBS Checks at the start of the Autumn term.**

These documents will be stored securely as password protected files or in a locked cabinet and will only be show to Venue-Area Council staff, should they request it. We must make this information available for up to 6 months after the event, after which point it will be safely destroyed or removed from our system.

Both of these forms are a condition of us obtaining our Child Body of Persons Licence from Venue-Area Councils. These are compulsory documents, that must be completed in order for your school to be able to compete in the event.





8 Communication & Submission of Documents and Film Footage

By signing up to Dance Live! you are agreeing that all required documents and footage will be submitted by the stipulated dates at the latest. These dates will be sent to you in the Autumn term but will be no later than 15 days before your performance day.

Communication will be via email and documents will be stored and accessible via the Dance Live! SharePoint system. When submitting, films must be shared by schools via WeTransfer or Google Drive, however we will also accept films via email if the size of the files allows. All videos must be in either **.MP4 or .MOV format**. When submitting documents, our preference is that these are shared by schools via email and these should be password protected if they contain personal information.

For more information about how confidential data, including participant details, is used and stored please visit our Data Sharing Agreement: <https://dancelive.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Data-Sharing-Agreement.pdf>





9 Welfare, Health & Safety

Media, Consent and Wristbands

Wristbands will be sent to schools before their event. All students and teachers/ chaperones must be wearing a wristband when they arrive on the premises and wristbands must be kept on until they leave the premises.

The number of wristbands sent, will correlate to the information you have supplied on the Child Licensing documents.

Any students who do not have photo consent, will be given a different coloured wristband on the day, upon registration.

Photographs and videos will be taken during the performance and schools will be sent an individual link post-event to their school's performance video.

Please be aware that Dance Live! will be using the photos and videos taken on the day for Dance Live! promotional material will be used for the Dance Live! Website and Social Media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. (For more information about photos and videos please see point 11 of this information pack.)

Changing Facilities

We want all young people participating in the event to feel welcome and comfortable. With this in mind, Dance Live! has ensured that there are gender neutral toilets and changing facilities available. We will notify schools of locations of accessible toilets and facilities on a per-venue basis.

Each school will also be provided with 2 pop up tents, to be used as changing facilities.

Risk Assessment

As with all school activities when taking students off-site you will have to create your own risk assessment for the visit to the venue. The venue risk assessment for visitors is available via our website here: <https://dancelive.co.uk/important-docs/>. This should form part of your assessment. The assessment must be completed by a trained, competent person and must include details pertaining to your visit to the venue and for the activities undertaken during the performance. The risk assessment must include all risks and relevant control measures which you will have in place. The relevant risks must be reduced so far as is reasonably practicable.

Student to Staff Ratios

Student to staff ratios must be a minimum of 1:12 or match your individual school's ratio (whichever is lower e.g. if your school policy is 1:20 you must abide by the 1:12 ratio). Please note that Dance Live! and The Guildhall Trust are not able to provide any child supervision during your event.



Parents and Audience Members

Schools are asked to reiterate to parents that they are not allowed in the dressing rooms. Any parents attempting to gain access to the dressing room will be turned away and any possessions that need to be passed to students will be transferred by Dance Live! staff. Please remind parents and other audience members that filming and photography on personal devices is not allowed due to consent and safeguarding rules.

Each school must coordinate their own parent/guardian collection arrangements. Parents will not be allowed to go to dressing rooms for collection, regardless of where in the auditorium they are seated. Dance Live! is not responsible for connecting students and parents' post-event.

First Aid

The venue hosting Dance Live! will ensure that suitably trained First Aiders are on hand for the duration of your visit and performance. Any person requiring First Aid must be attended to by the provided First Aider so as all relevant paperwork can be completed. All minors must always be accompanied when moving around the venue to reduce accidents. **Schools must have at least one designated First Aider within their party. The venue's designated First Aider will be on hand at all times.**

Personal Property

Items of personal property (e.g. Phones, cameras, bags, clothing etc) are brought onto venue property at your own risk. **Venues, Dance Live! and The Guildhall Trust are not responsible for the loss and/or damage of personal property or the returning of property.**

Stage Crew

All stage crew must wear footwear which cover the complete foot (e.g. trainers or boots).

Stage Decoration and Props

All stage decoration and props must be fire retardant, lightweight and safe in construction.

Electrical Items

Any electrical item entering the venue must have a PAT certification. **Dance Live! Management have the right to remove from the venue anything which it deems unsafe.**

Food

Venues, Dance Live! and The Guildhall Trust are not responsible for the delivery of food to participants during our events. This includes Deliveroo/Uber Eats and packed lunches.



10 Dance Live! Media Policy

This policy sets out Dance Live! and The Guildhall Trust's commitment to using photographs and recordings in a safe, appropriate way.

Photographs and recordings taken during Dance Live! events or workshops will be used on the Dance Live! and Portsmouth Guildhall Social Media pages, on the Portsmouth Guildhall website (www.portsmouthguildhall.org.uk), in Dance Live! Brochures, Information Packs and Promotional Videos. Please note that this list is not exclusive and images and recordings may be used to promote the Dance Live! Brand in other documents, platforms or websites.

Dance Live! and The Guildhall Trust will not use images unless parent/guardian permission has been obtained. Any young person without photo consent should be highlighted by participating schools to the Dance Live! Team. Please note that school names will be listed in photo/video captions and school social media profiles will be tagged if handles have been provided. Social media handles can be provided at the point of registration.

When posting on social media platforms (e.g. Instagram and Facebook), Dance Live! and The Guildhall Trust will not use filters on images and recordings of our participants. All images used will be truly representative of our participants and Dance Live! promotes positive body image for all our participants across our events and opportunities.

Dance Live! Photography Policy

Dance Live! does not share or sell photos or films directly with parents or guardians for safeguarding and media consent purposes. Audience members are not allowed to film or photograph performances. An Enhanced DBS Checked professional photographer is in attendance at Dance Live! Events and all performances are filmed. All professional photographs and films taken of each individual school's performance are sent directly to the lead teacher of each school post-event and it is the responsibility of the school to distribute photos and films to parents depending on the media consent of their students.

Schools are notified of photo package costs in the Autumn term of each school year. All videos of performances are sent to schools post-event, along with Judges Feedback, free of charge.

Please note that you can expect up to a month after your event for the return of photos and videos.



11 Final Note

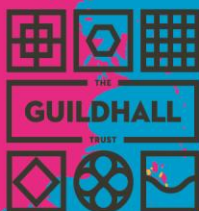
Should you have any questions about Dance Live!, get in touch with the Dance Live! Team via email: dancelive@portsmouthguildhall.org.uk where someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Should you wish to register for Dance Live! 2024, please visit the Dance Live! page on the Portsmouth Guildhall website - www.portsmouthguildhall.org.uk and complete the Google Form, before the closing date of **5pm, Monday 10th July 2023**. You will be required to return this signed document as part of the registration process. Please find the Contract of Agreement on page 27 of this document.

To stay updated with all Dance Live! news and upcoming events, follow us on social media:

Facebook: @danceliveportsmouth

Instagram: @danceliveportsmouth

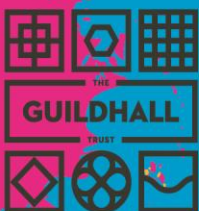




12 Contract of Agreement

The Participant School agrees to the following;

- 1) The Participant School to make full payment for all participants when formally requested by Dance Live! Schools must make full payment by Friday 12th January 2024.
- 2) That all young people have permission to be away from the school/college grounds for the whole day and parents have signed all relevant paperwork to authorise this.
- 3) The Participant School will ensure that there will be satisfactory supervision of children at all times. This is set out by the local authority guidance on supervising under-age children away from the school/college premises.
- 4) The Participant School must obtain relevant permissions from parents/guardians for their children to be recorded and photographed on stage during rehearsals and the evening performance and is aware of where/how these photographs and recordings will be used (please see the Dance Live! Media Policy listed in the 2024 Information Pack). Any young person without photo consent will be highlighted to the Dance Live! Team.
- 5) The Participant School will submit the full names and dates of birth of each child that is participating.
- 6) The Participant School will complete all relevant paperwork required by Child Licensing, by the dates specified.
- 7) The Participant School will adhere to the rules as set out in this document and all Dance Live! official documents.
- 8) The Participant School will advise the Producer at the earliest possible opportunity if they are unable to take part in the event and will be liable to a withdrawal fee of £150.00.
- 9) The Participant School is responsible for the health and safety of all their children, volunteers and carers whilst attending the Dance Live! Event Venues.
- 10) The Participant School will complete all relevant evaluation and feedback documents pre and/or post event. The Participant School is aware that any feedback and/or data given may be used for fundraising and/or promotional purposes for the Dance Live! Brand.
- 11) The Participant School will adhere to the below Code of Conduct:





13 Code of Conduct

Participants:

1. **Respect for self and others:** Participants must conduct themselves with dignity and respect towards themselves and others at all times. Any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination is strictly prohibited.
2. **Appropriate attire:** Participants must wear appropriate dance attire that is suitable for the event. Clothing that is revealing, offensive or inappropriate for a family-friendly event is not permitted. Participants must be wearing nude-coloured or black base-clothing while performing quick-changes at the side of the stage.
3. **Punctuality:** Participants must arrive at the event on time and be ready to perform. Latecomers will not be allowed to perform, and the organizers will not be responsible for any missed opportunities.
4. **Safety:** Participants must follow all safety guidelines provided by the organizers, including but not limited to, warming up before the performance, wearing appropriate footwear, and avoiding dangerous dance moves.
5. **Good sportsmanship:** Participants must exhibit good sportsmanship, both on and off the stage. This includes congratulating other participants and accepting the judges' decisions gracefully.

Teachers/Chaperones:

1. **Professionalism:** Teachers must conduct themselves with professionalism and act as role models for their students. They must also exhibit fairness, objectivity, and impartiality in all aspects of the event. During rehearsals throughout the year, we encourage teachers to develop resilience in their students and prepare them for the possibility that they may not win in order to help enable their students' good sportsmanship at their event day.
2. **Appropriate behaviour:** Teachers must conduct themselves appropriately at all times during the event. Any form of disruptive or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.
3. **Safety:** Teachers must ensure that their students follow all safety guidelines provided by the organizers, including but not limited to, warming up before the performance, wearing appropriate footwear, and avoiding dangerous dance moves.
4. **Respect for other participants, teachers, Dance Live! Staff and Venue Staff:** Teachers must show respect for other participants, teachers, Dance Live! Staff and Venue Staff. Any form of rudeness, bullying, harassment, or discrimination will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to: eye-rolling when being given clear instructions; pretending to a Dance Live! staff member that you haven't been given an instruction by another member of Dance Live! staff previously that day; expecting priority treatment on your event day over other schools; negative comments about other schools/participants etc.





5. Alcohol Consumption: Teachers and Chaperones must not consume alcohol while in attendance at a Dance Live! event. Any teachers or chaperones who are found in possession of alcohol will be asked to leave the venue and their school's participants will be sent home.

6. Adherence to rules: Teachers must adhere to all rules and guidelines set forth by the organizers. This includes submitting all necessary paperwork, payments and videos by the deadlines stated.

Parents:

1. Support and encouragement: Parents must support and encourage their children in their dance performance. They should refrain from placing undue pressure on their children to perform at a certain level or to win.
2. Appropriate behaviour: Parents must conduct themselves appropriately at all times during the event. Any form of disruptive or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated, this includes shouting children's names and making inappropriate comments during the performances.
3. Respect for other participants: Parents must show respect for other participants and their families. Any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination will not be tolerated.
4. Alcohol Consumption: While parents are able to purchase and consume alcohol at Dance Live! performances, they must be mindful of their behaviour and their ability to make their own way home post-event safely and legally. Any parents whose behaviour is becoming inappropriate due to their alcohol consumption will be asked to leave the venue.
5. Adherence to rules: Parents must adhere to all rules and guidelines set forth by the organizers. This includes refraining from taking pictures or videos during the performance, and any shouting during the performance.

Resilience

***Resilience: 'the ability to be happy or successful again after difficulties... It is also the ability to adapt to challenging situations without feeling like it's all too much for you. It means using difficult situations to grow and improve.'* (British Council)**

Dance Live! encourages the development of resilience in our participants in both Junior and Senior categories. We aim to do this through providing and signposting to resources to use in schools in rehearsals and classrooms. We also aim to avoid the promotion of negative-competitive behaviour at our events through our above code of conduct and school support on all things Dance Live!-related throughout the year.

Dance Live! does not release information around the placings of any schools other than those who won awards on the night of their event. This is to avoid promoting negative-competitive behaviour amongst our participants, teachers and parents along with our ethos of promoting creative careers, problem-





solving and creative thinking skills. While we are keen to offer and further discuss judges' feedback to all schools, we will not release overall scores and placements – exactly the same as a job interview!

We would like to remind all participants, teachers and parents that dance is a subjective artform and sport. Dance Live! and The Guildhall Trust do not expect all participants, teachers and parents to agree with our judges' decisions and event placings (sometimes our judges do not even agree with each other!) however all participants, teachers and parents should agree upon entering this competition that all our participants hold equal worth and deserve their moment on the big stage.

Dance Live! reserve the right to deduct points and stop performances in cases where rudeness, bullying, harassment or discrimination have taken place from participants, teachers/chaperones and parents.

Signed: _____

(signed by Headteacher/Member of the School Leadership Team/School Dance Live! Lead Teacher)

Date: _____



Signed: _____

(signed by Dance Live! Producer)

Date: _____

Please keep a signed copy of this Information Pack in your files. You will be required to provide your signed copy when registering your school.

