

AARTS

ARTISTICULTA ARTS ORGANIZATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



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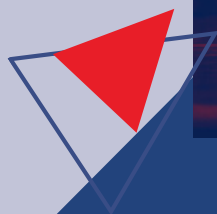
GETTING STARTED



Welcome! We hope this guide contains everything you need to navigate our general processes and rules.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **A-Arts Calendar 2026**
- **A-Arts Dance Style descriptions**
- **A-Arts Dance Festival Rules**



DATES & VENUES



Area	Venue	Date	Closing date
Rising to Fame A-Arts Grand Finale	Emperors Palace	28 March – 1 April 2026	Feb 27, 2026
A-Arts Festival Garden Route (Mosselbaai)	Curro Mossel Bay High School	1-3 May 2026	Extended to Apr 8, 2026
A-Arts Festival Limpopo	NG Moedergemeente Polokwane (Pietersburg)	25– 27 June 2026	May 25, 2026
A-Arts Festival JHB South Alberton	Kenton Primary School Alberton	1 – 4 July 2026	May 25, 2026
A-Arts Festival Rustenburg	Laerskool Proteapark Rustenburg	23 – 25 July 2026	Jun 25, 2026
A-Arts Festival Bloemfontein	Wynand Mouton Theatre Bloemfontein	31 July - 1 August 2026	Jun 25, 2026
A-Arts Festival Mpumalanga	Cornerstone Church Middelburg	20 August - Drama/Music 21-22 August 2026 - Dance	Jul 25, 2026
A-Arts Festival Centurion Gauteng	Sax Theatre (Southdowns' Theatre), Centurion	21-22 Aug - Drama 24-27 Aug -Music&Vocals 28-29 Aug & 31Aug - 5 Sept- Dance	Jul 27, 2026
A-Arts Festival Upinton	Primary School Uppington Hall	18-19 September 2026	Aug 7, 2026
A-Arts Festival Cape Town	Sea Point Civic Centre. (Cape Town)	9-11 October 2026	Sep 7, 2026
A-Arts Festival KZN	Milkwood Theatre, Vrginia, Durban North	16-17 October 2026	Sep 15, 2026
A-Arts Festival Hartbeespoort	Skemerberg Venue Hartbeespoort	23-24 October 2026	Sep 25, 2026
A-Arts Festival Potchefstroom	Laerskool ML Fick, Potchefstroom	30-31 October 2026	Sep 25, 2026
A-Arts Online Festival – Only for qualifying rounds to participate in the A-Arts Grand Finale	N/A	Nov 1, 2026	Oct 31, 2026

DEAR A-ARTS SUPPORTERS



Please take note of the following changes and arrangements for A-Arts 2026.

A-Arts Festival is our qualifying local festival and open to all provinces in South Africa. Participants can now take part in any A-Arts Festival in certain provinces/areas. Due to popular demand we will host our Gala evening(s) where trophies and special prizes will be handed out.

All participants receive a medal and printed certificates. Only the first 6 category winners will be ranked in a section. We complete the festival with our Gala evening as mentioned above.

Dancers receiving 80% and above can take part in our Rising to Fame Grand Finale in 2027 hosted in the March/April holidays 2026. Certificates, Medals, Trophies, Money Prizes and Bursaries will be handed out to the category winners.

Participants in remote areas are welcome to take part in our online festival. The online festival is also a second opportunity to qualify for the Rising to Fame Grand Finale 2027, where a video can be submitted for qualification.

STYLE DESCRIPTIONS



Ballet Dance: is a type of performance dance that originated during the Italian Renaissance in the fifteenth century and later developed into a concert dance form in France and Russia. It has since become a widespread and highly technical form of dance with its own vocabulary. Ballet has been influential globally and has defined the foundational techniques which are used in many other dance genres and cultures.

Jazz Dance: Jazz dance is a performance dance style that originated in the United States in the early 20th century. It blends African American vernacular styles with European movement, characterized by syncopated rhythms, isolations, intricate footwork, and expressive strong body movements. Jazz dancers interpret and execute moves in their own way, incorporating elements from ballet, modern dance, and African dance.

Contemporary: Contemporary dance is a modern form of expressive dance that combines elements from various genres, including modern, jazz, lyrical, and classical ballet. It allows artists to explore movement in innovative and unconventional ways, emphasizing self-expression, storytelling, freedom and emotion.

Hip Hop & Street styles: Hip hop dance is a range of street dance styles primarily performed to hip hop music or that have evolved as part of hip hop culture. It is influenced by a wide range of styles (waacking, voguing, tatting, urban, jerkin, crumping, rocking ect) that were created in the 1970s and made popular by dance crews in the United States. Hip Hop dance evolve every year.

Commercial Dance: The dance industry responded to hip-hop dance by creating a commercial version of it this urban choreography or studio hip-hop, sometimes called "new style", is the kind of hip-hop dance seen in rap, R&B, and pop music videos and concerts.

Modern Open: Modern dance is a broad genre of western concert or theatrical dance which includes dance styles such as ballet, folk, ethnic, religious, and social dancing, and primarily arose out of Europe and the United States. It was considered to have been developed as a rejection of, or rebellion against, classical ballet. Due to the diversity of the modern style, there was decided to change this to a modern open section.

African: African dance is a diverse and dynamic art form that reflects the continent's complex cultural heritage¹. Some popular African dance styles include shaku shaku, indlambu, gwara gwara, gombey, mbira, coming of age dances, Zaouli, miribayasa, and many more. African dance uses the concepts of polyrhythm and total body articulation.

Disco dance: This style is a high-energy, expressive dance form that emerged in the early 1970s, characterized by 4/4 "four-on-the-floor" beats, flashy, exaggerated arm movements, hip wiggles, and dramatic poses

STYLE DESCRIPTIONS



Tap: Tap dance is a style of dance in which a dancer wearing shoes fitted with heel and toe taps sounds out audible beats by rhythmically striking the floor or any other hard surface. There are several styles of tap dance, including rhythm (jazz), classical, Broadway, and post-modern

Lyrical: Lyrical dance is a dance style that combines aspects of modern dance, ballet, jazz dance, and other dance styles. The style combines ballet technique with the freedom and musicality of jazz and contemporary. Fluidity, strong emotions, and physicalizing of song lyrics are distinguishing elements of lyrical dance choreography.

Acrobatics: Acro dance is a style of dance that combines classical dance technique with acrobatic elements. It is defined by its athletic character, its unique choreography, which blends dance and acrobatics, and its use of acrobatics in a dance context. It is a popular dance style in amateur competitive dance as well as in professional dance theatre and in contemporary circus productions.

Breakdancing: Breaking, often referred to as breakdancing, is a dance style characterized by acrobatic moves like spins and flips, intertwined with intricate footwork and freezes. Breaking has long been the public face of hip hop dance, widely popularized in movies and commercials.

Freestyle: Freestyle dance is a type of dance where the order of moves the dancer makes are neither choreographed nor rehearsed. Dancers do not plan or choreograph their motions beforehand and there is not a rehearsal of the routine. All movements are decided intuitively and in the moment, creating an original dance experience. Freestyle is an inventive, creative dance style that allows the dancer to show their feelings using movements they choose.

Heritage/Cultural Dance: Cultural or heritage dance is unique to its own culture.

Open section: This is a combination of all the dance styles. Open section is also referred to as the “grey area” between sections.

Improvisation: Dance improvisation is the art of spontaneous movement, where dancers create and perform without a predetermined choreography. Its roots can be traced back to modern dance pioneers like Isadora Duncan and Martha Graham, who valued freedom of expression and self-discovery through movement

Student's Own Choreography: This section is specific for our young talent in studios. If there are dancers that would like to enter an item where they choreographed the dance, then this is the section to enter.

Family Section: This section is for families. Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and cousins can enter under this section.

Disability Section: Our disability section is for our participants that would like to perform but has some difficulty of some form of a disability to perform in normal categories.

INTRODUCING FOUR NEW STYLES!!

Model and Dance section:

A full modeling routine with 6 or more dance moves in between. Choose your own style, music, clothing, shoe wear and entertain us with a 2min performance of runway and dance, all in one category!

Modeling are competitive events that primarily focus on physical appearance, talent, and personality. Now mix this with 6 or more dance moves...

Cheerleading:

Cheerleading are busy to become very popular in all South African schools. We are creating a competitive environment for these groups to come and participate. A great opportunity to see what school is the best!

Cheerleading, team activity in which elements of dance and acrobatics are combined with shouted slogans in order to entertain spectators at sporting events and to encourage louder and more enthusiastic cheering

Musical Theatre:

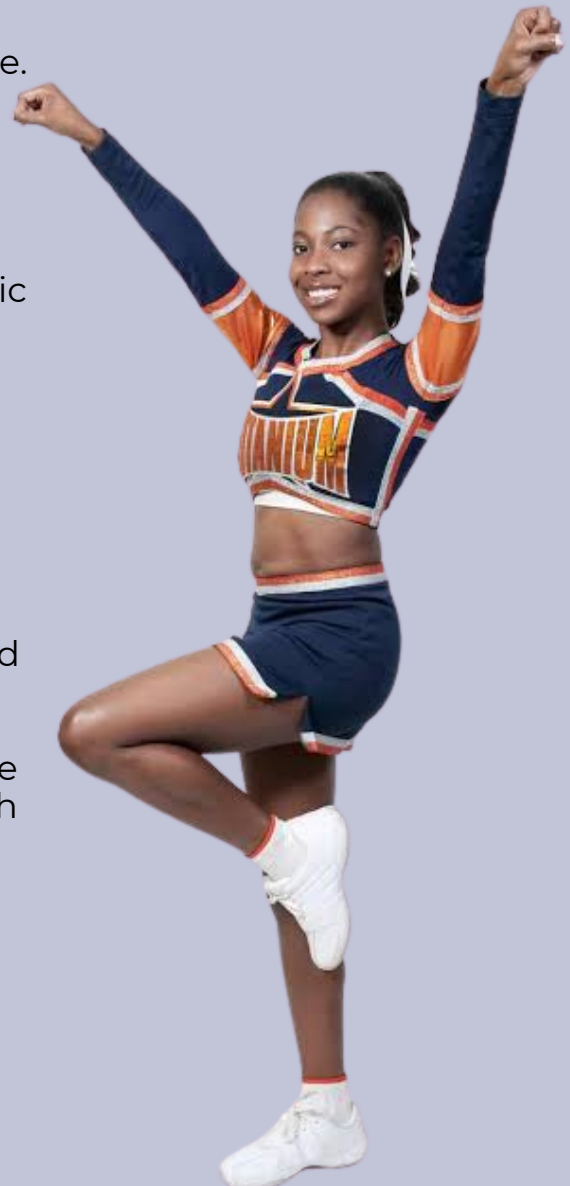
Musical theatre is a form of theatrical performance that combines songs, spoken dialogue, acting and dance.

Musical theatre dancing is less of a particular style, and more of a description of dancing that is rooted in the diverse history of Broadway musicals. Relying heavily on a knowledge of ballet, tap, and jazz, musical theatre dancers are, first and foremost, actors and place a high focus on musical interpretation.

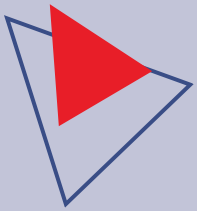
Entertainment section:

Another reason people dance is to entertain and give an audience a show they'll never forget. This kind of dance encompasses many different genres and styles including: commercial dance, hip hop/street dance, dance and drill teams, competition dance, and musical theatre dance.

Note that entertainment section has no status!



RULES



1. ENTRIES (opens the 6th of February 2026)

All entries must be completed on our online entry system. Please register your studio at www.dance.artisticulta.co.za and create your own login details by entering your email address and password. From there you can complete your entries. No late entries will be accepted. Entry fees are to be paid into the following account:

Banking details:

A-Arts Dance (PTY) LTD

FNB

Account Number: 63207342807

Cheque

Ref: Dance - Studio name

Send proof of payment to:

All provinces: wanya@a-arts.co.za +27 74 240 2027

Please use studio name for reference



RULES

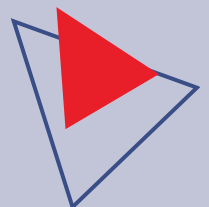


2. ENTRY FEES

R100	Yearly registration fee per dancer
R185	A-Arts Kiddies T-shirt sizes
R200	A-Arts Adult T-shirt size
R230	Per dancer per item: Solos, Duos & Trios
R185	Quartets / Groups (4-15 dancers), Formations (15+) and Productions per dancer per item
TBC	Spectators Fees will be announced with each festival

ENTRIES OPEN THE 9th of February 2026!

No entry or registration fees are refundable



A-ARTS MERCHANDISE

Order your merchandise on our E-tail site:
<https://etail.xco.co.za/order/9CV3H>

Variety of goodies to choose from!





3. Judges

Our judges will be announced closer to the time for each area.



4. TIME LIMITS

Solos, D/T & Pas de Deux	ALL AGES	1.30 - 2 minutes
Quartets & Small Groups (4-10 dancers)		2 - 3 minutes
Formations or Large groups (11-20 dancers)		3 - 4 minutes
Mini Productions (20 dancers and up)		10 - 20 minutes

❖ Please adhere to the above time limits



RULES

5. SCORING SYSTEM

A++	Certificate & medal	95% - 100%
A+	Certificate & medal	87% - 94%
A	Certificate & medal	80% - 86%
B+	Certificate & medal	75% - 79%
B	Certificate & medal	70% - 74%
C+	certificate, no medal	69% and under

- ❖ All dancers receive medals, printed certificates and report forms. Report forms will be emailed to teachers.
- ❖ Online entries only receive a certificate and no medal
- ❖ Special Award medals for solos and duets/trios and certificates for groups, formations and productions will be handed out during the festival to items that were exceptional for our judges.
- ❖ After each festival a Gala evening will commence where we hand out trophies and special prizes to items in all statuses. Not applicable for online entries.
- ❖ Trophies will be awarded to our championships winners based on the highest marks of that section, above 87%, only for solos, D/T, groups, formations and productions
- ❖ Please note it is imperative that teachers check spelling of dancers' names and surnames when entering on the system.

6. APPEARANCE, ADJUDICATION, RESULTS AND QUERIES



Costumes, music and appearance have to be acceptable. No parent/teacher is allowed to have contact with adjudicators while adjudicating. The student will be penalized. No jewellery or nail polish on stage.

7. WITHDRAWALS



Withdrawals must be done either at the beginning of the day, or during the tea, lunch, or dinner break. No withdrawals during the dance session. No fees are refundable.

8. VIDEO CAMERAS AND CAMERAS (N/A for online festival)

No video cameras or flashing lights are allowed in the hall. A video will be recorded of each individual item where parents can place their orders. A professional photographer will be on duty to take photos. If teachers/dancers would not like their item(s) to be recorded they can email us before hand so that those items will not be recorded.

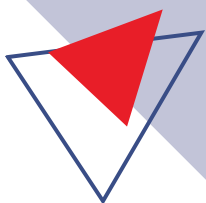
9. MUSIC AND MOVEMENTS

Items with music that contain harsh or strong language will not be tolerated and performances must be free of vulgar and provocative movements.

A music link will be sent closer to the time where dancers and teachers can drop their music numbered according to the final program.

Teachers must still bring a memory stick with all their music on as a backup for if a problem occurs.

Music link instructions will be sent via email closer to the time.



10. AGE GROUPS

Age groups are from the 1st of January



- 5 and under
- 8 and under
- 9 – 10 yrs
- 11 – 12 yrs
- 15 and under
- 16 and over
- Adult (18yrs and over)
- Any Age

Please make sure the dancer is entered under the correct age groups.

When entering on the system for duos, trios, groups, formations and productions the system will select the age group of the youngest member in the group. If the age gap is too big please enter under “any age”.

11. DANCE STYLES

Jazz, Contemporary, Hip-Hop, African, Disco, Tap, Lyrical, Acrobatics, Breakdance, Freestyle, Heritage/Cultural Dance, Modern Open, Hip Hop commercial, Family section, Open Section, Students own choreography, Special Needs Section, Improvisation, Model and Dance, Cheerleading, Musical Theatre & Entertainment style

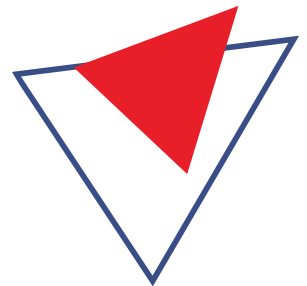


Teachers please stick to the STYLE at hand when choreographing your items!

12. STATUS (FOR SOLOS, DUETS, TRIO'S, QUARTETS/GROUPS & FORMATIONS)

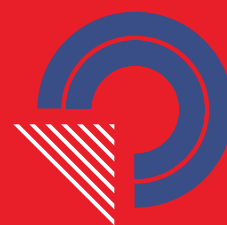


- Teachers should use their own discretion as to where they should enter a child, this includes new studios participating for the first time in A-Arts Festival.
- Dancers are allowed to dance for two years in the same status. We find that some teachers for example keep dancers in the beginner section for 3 years which is unfair to the dancer and unfair towards the other dancers dancing against her/him in that section.



- Teachers are also not allowed to mix statuses in the same style. The same dancer for example cannot dance beginner in her solo and Championship in the group and novice in her duet. When entering a dancer choose the correct status the dancer will participate in.
- Please note that we don't have a quartet section only duets and trios. A quartet will be seen as a group.





13. STATUS CONTINUES

Once again a teacher must use their own discretion of the status of the dancer when entering for the first time. Below is only a guideline:

Beginner	1 year dance training
Novice	2 - 3 year dance training
Amateur	Received a A+ in novice status in the previous year
Championships	Received a A+ in amateur status in the previous year
Dance Teacher	Teachers may enter in solos, duets, trios, quartets/groups & formations. Status: Amateur or higher

- Please note that dancers are not allowed to enter twice under the same category (example two jazz solos under same age and status)
- Only beginners and STUDIO SET SOLO falls under the same category as beginners.
- Studio set solos or Class solos are solos choreographed by the teacher for a group of dancers in the same style, in the same status and age group. **These solos fall under the beginner status and is only allowed in this status.**

14. SING AND DANCE

Vocalists can enter items with back up dancers! These entries can be straight or have a theme/character to them. All sing and dance items will fall under the section type: Sing and dance. Participants/teachers must use their own discretion when it comes to choosing a status.



15. SECTION TYPES

15.1 Ballet: Solos, D/T, Quartets/Groups & Productions

- Studio Set Solo or Class solo
- Classical
- National / Folk
- Demi -Character
- Neo-Classical (Primarily classical technique with modern abstract flavor)
- Repertoire with pointe shoes form 14yrs – above / without pointe shoes 13yrs
- Classical Greek
- Spanish (Classical, Flamingo) – Traditional dress and shoes.

15.2 Jazz, Contemporary, Hip-Hop, African, Disco, Tap, Lyrical, Acrobatics, Breakdance, Freestyle, Heritage/Cultural Dance, Modern Open, Hip Hop commercial, Family section, Open Section, Students own choreography, Special Needs Section, Improvisation, Model and Dance, Cheerleading, Musical Theatre & Entertainment style

- Studio Set Solo/Class Solo (beginners only)
- Solos
- Duet/Trio
- Quartets & Small Groups (4-10 dancers)
- Formations/Large groups (11-20 dancers)
- Mini Productions (20 dancers & up)
- Sing and Dance
- Character/Show dance

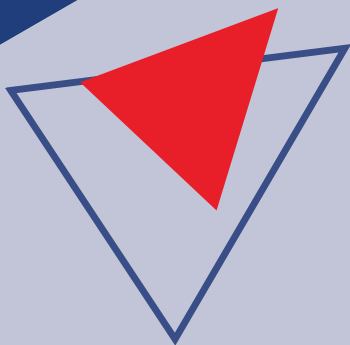




15. GENERAL RULES (N/A FOR ONLINE FESTIVAL)

Be ready to perform one hour prior to given / allocated time.

If not performing, no candidates and spectators are allowed backstage. Should a competitor not be able to complete his/her dance, a two-minute recovery time will be given. With character dances no fire, knives, alcohol or smoking will be allowed. The A-Arts organizing team will not be held responsible for any property losses or injuries during the festival period.



16. RISING TO FAME GRAND FINALE 2027

Note that if participants receives 80% and above they qualify to enter for the Rising to Fame A-Arts Grand finale 2027!

More info will be released during 2026.

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