



DANCE MASTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

CHAPTER 5



2023

Solo Title Scholarship Competition Handbook



March 10-12, 2023

Regis College

Weston, MA

Dear Teachers, Contestants and Parents:

Welcome to our 2023 Solo Titles Competition! It is with great pleasure that we offer you an outstanding Solo Titles Event this year. Our March event is designed to prepare each contestant with a wonderful weekend, a higher level of dance education, and the opportunity to experience the quality and high standards that DMA Nationals has set forth for us to share. It is our hope that you will enjoy this educational process and build friendships along the way. At anytime during this weekend, or prior to the event, should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to send them along to me. We are always open to new ideas. Enjoy, and best of luck to each contestant!

Questions and phone calls from member teachers only please.

Ann-Marie Carlomagno
Solo Titles Director

2023 Solo Title Competition Schedule of Events

(All schedules are tentative; changes could be made depending upon number of entries)

Registration Deadline – February 1, 2023

**IMPORTANT- All winners are expected to attend the Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia.
Please be advised there is no parent meeting this year.
All information is in the solo title handbook.**

Solo Title Schedule

Petite Miss/Master, Junior Miss/Mr., Teen Miss/Mr., Miss/Mr.

Day: Sunday, March 12, 2023
Time: TBA

2023 Winning Title Holders – Photo Shoot of Petite Miss/Master, Junior Miss/Mr., Teen Miss/Mr., Miss/Mr.

Day: Sunday, March 12, 2023
Time: Immediately following end of talent presentation

2023 Winning Title Holders- Contract Signing

Day: Sunday, March 12, 2023
Time: Immediately following end of photo shoot

**Contact: Ann-Marie Carlomagno, Solo Titles Director
46 Stonybrook Lane, Shrewsbury, MA 01545
amcpacer64@yahoo.com
508-414-1804**

Section 1 - Eligibility

1. Only a student of a member in good standing of the Dance Masters of New England, Chapter 5, Inc. may enter the DMNE Solo Title Scholarship Competitions.
2. **The Teacher of Record** shall be the **DMNE member teacher** whose signature appears on both the Chapter and National Scholarship Competition Applications. The Teacher of Record shall be legally responsible for the entrant.
3. All other **DMNE member teachers** to be recognized shall be listed as the **Teacher(s) of Recognition**. (A Teacher of Recognition is a member teacher who works weekly with the contestant)
4. If a circumstance prevents the Teacher of Record from attending the DMNE Solo Title event, another DMNE member in good standing may be designated as the approved chaperone.
5. Entrants in the DMNE Solo Title event must have been enrolled (registered and attending classes on a weekly basis) as a student, with the teacher of record listed on the application.
 - a. Current Students:

For a minimum period of not less than seven (7) months prior to the Solo Title event (September of the prior year).
 - b. Students with Less than seven (7) months:

With written permission from the former teacher if the student has studied with the teacher of record for a period of less than seven (7) months prior to the event.
 - c. The **Title Winner must remain** with the DMNE teacher who signed the application for the remainder of the title year for guidance in preparing for Nationals and holding the New England Title.
6.
 - a. Entrants into the Miss Dance of America, Teen Miss Dance of America, Junior Miss Dance of America and Petite Miss Dance of America Scholarship Competitions must be female, or have completed their transition to the female gender, single, never married, never had a marriage annulled, not pregnant, childless and never been convicted of a crime.
 - b. Entrants into the Mr. Dance of America, Teen Mr. Dance of America, Junior Mr. Dance of America and Master Dance of America Scholarship Competitions must be male, or have completed their transition the male gender, single never married, never had a marriage annulled, childless and never been convicted of a crime.
7. Contestants must have attended one DMNE event during the current season: Open Scholarship Auditions, Annual Convention or Winter Workshop, to be eligible for Solo Titles.
8. All Title Winners are expected to represent DMNE Chapter 5 by attending the National Solo Titles competition.
9. If a Title Winner cannot represent DMNE at the National Solo Titles competition, the 1st runner-up will take his/her place and assume the title. The original title holder will then relinquish all rights to the title and will return all winnings to the Board of Directors.
10. Title Holders will return to relinquish their title at next year's DMNE Solo Title Competition under the same teacher of record who submitted their original application.
11. Entrants into the Petite and Master Dance division must be at least 7 years of age and not more than 9 years of age.
12. Entrants into the Jr. Miss and Mr. Dance division must be at least 10 years of age and not more

- than 12 years of age.
13. Entrants into the Teen Miss and Mr. Dance division must be at least 13 years of age and not more than 15 years of age.
 14. Entrants into the Miss and Mr. Dance division must be at least 16 years of age and not more than 23 years of age.
 15. All ages are determined as of June 1, 2023.

Section 2 – Rules

16. All entrants will adhere to the standards set by Dance Masters of America, Inc., and adopted by DMNE Chapter 5, Inc. The standards are as follows:
 - a. Inappropriate or sexually suggestive movements should not be part of any performance in any DMNE competition and should be evaluated as such and scores should be lowered accordingly.
 - b. Costuming such as thongs, bikini bottoms or tops that allow exposure of private body parts or that is not age appropriate, should be evaluated as such and scores should be lowered accordingly.
 - c. Vulgar, profane or suggestive language in music is not acceptable for our family audiences. Music that is unacceptable or not age appropriate should be evaluated as such and scores should be lowered accordingly.
17. A maximum of 2:50 minutes will be allowed for a talent presentation.
18. Fire, swords, knives or live animals on stage are prohibited. Props are allowed, however smoke or props that are connected to an electrical outlet may not be used. Contained dry ice is not acceptable. Studios are responsible for getting props on and off the stage. There is a one (1) minute time limit for prop set up. After that time period, a five (5) point penalty will be assessed.
19. Props, scenery and stage sets will only be permitted if they are functional and are an integral part of the choreography and any hotel fees for cartage and/or storage will be the responsibility of the Teacher of Record.
20. No props may block the wings, crossovers or hallways.
- 21. MUSIC:**
 - a. Entrant's music should be uploaded to Dance Comp Genie.
 - b. Member Teachers should have a back up in their possession during the Solo Titles Scholarship Competition (IPods work well)
22. All decisions of the judges are final. Adjudicators score sheets will be the sole property of DMNE. The teacher of record will receive a copy of the tabulation sheet and their video critiques following the Solo Title Competition event.

Section 3 – Required Attire for Solo Title Scholarship Competitions

23. Interview

- a. Entrants will be required to sit before the judging panel for a three (3) minute interview (Miss/Mr. Dance – five (5) minutes).
- b. Females are required to wear a daytime dress or business type suit for the Interviews. Male entrants are required to wear dress shirt and tie with either, dress slacks or business type suit for the interviews.
- c. The judging criteria includes: appearance, projection, grammar, knowledge of dance, the ability to express oneself and self-confidence.
- d. The Interviews are scored with a point value of 1-15.

24. Title Competition Audition Classes

- a. Scores from the November 2022 scholarship audition classes will be used. Entrants were required to take a minimum of three classes and a maximum of five classes.

25. Solo Talent

Costuming for the Solo Talent portion of the competition is the responsibility of the entrants. Please keep in mind that DMNE has set certain standards that the Adjudicators will be following.

- a. The talent portion of the competition will have a point value of 1-100.
- b. Singing, baton twirling, playing a musical instrument, pantomime or audible taps on CD's are not allowed.
- c. Props must be removed quickly and promptly as courtesy to other contestants, and a clean sweep of the stage if necessary.

26. Awards Presentation

- a. All Title Holders and entrants are required to participate in the Awards Presentation. Entrants will not be judged on their attire.
- b. Entrants will be required to participate in the Awards presentation in their interview attire.

Section 4 – Solo Title Application

The following must be entered in the DMNE Dance Comp Genie no later than February 1, 2023:

27. A completed 2023 DMNE Chapter 5 Solo Title Application form;
 - a. Accompanied by the entry fee payment in full;
 - i. Female contestants: \$150.00.
 - ii. Male contestants: \$150.00.
 - iii. Only studio checks from DMNE member teachers will be accepted – no personal checks.
28. A completed 2023 DMNE Chapter 5 Solo Title Contestant Interview form.
 - a. A typewritten rather than hand-written form is recommended. These are read by the judges.
29. An essay (optional but recommended) should be written on the following topic: ***“Why do you dance? Elaborate on how it has changed or affected your life”***. The essay must be typewritten, **200 words maximum** and the entrants name should be on it.
30. Headshot and Dance shot Pictures should be uploaded to Dance Comp Genie
 - a. One (1) colored 5x7 high resolution vertically posed head shot photograph (no hats, crowns or head ornaments).
 - b. One (1) colored 5x7 high resolution vertically posed dance shot picture (taken in dance attire – no costumes). The full body shot should be a pose that complements ... action shots not recommended. These are for identification purposes for the judges only.
 - c. A solid white professional background must be used.
 - d. Pictures sent via email will not be accepted.
 - e. Entrants have the option of submitting a one page typewritten bio included with their interview form. Please do not make reference to your Teacher of Record, Teacher(s) of Recognition, Choreographer(s), or the name of your dance studio. Your bio should include interesting facts about yourself that you would like the judges to know. Teachers and Parents are responsible for proofreading the bio before submission.

Section 5 – General Information

31. Individual photos of our winners will be taken by our professional photographer on stage at time of crowning. Group pictures will be taken on

stage immediately following the competition. Parents and teachers are asked to wait until these group photos are completed before entering the stage area.

32. Briefing and Contract Signing

- a. A briefing session will be held immediately following the talent competition and photo session with the incoming Title Holders, teacher of record, and parents. What to expect at Nationals, what should be improved upon and invaluable pointers, are some of the areas that will be covered for the new Title Holders to prepare for the National Finals.

33. Awards

The following awards will be presented:

- a. **Essay Award:** presented in each age division to the student with the best essay.
- b. **Interview Award:** presented to the contestant in each age division with the highest interview score. Ties will not be broken.
- c. **Class Awards:** presented to the highest scoring dancers in each class in each age division. Ties will not be broken.
- d. **Title Winners:** DMNE Chapter 5 will pay the entry fee to the National Miss and Mr. Dance Competition, transportation (up to \$300.00), leotard fee, hotel accommodations and the banquet ticket at the National Convention, for the student representing this Chapter at the National Miss/Mr. Dance Competition. DMNE Chapter 5 will pay \$1,000.00 to each of the winners in the Petite/Master, Jr. Miss/Jr. Mister, and Teen Miss/Teen Mr. Dance divisions. This money is to be used only for national entry fee, transportation, hotel, leotard fee, and banquet ticket at the National Convention for the student representing this Chapter at the National Petite/ Master, Jr. Miss/Jr. Mr., Teen Miss/ Teen Mr. Dance Competition. If she / he is unable to attend the finals, the winner will forfeit their title and any right to that title. The first runner-up will automatically be given the title and all rights to that title, as long as they participate in the National Solo Titles to be held in 2023 Atlanta, Georgia. In the event of ties for the winner, they will be broken first by their talent score, then class score, then interview, and if there is still a tie by secret ballot by the judges.
- e. In addition, title winners in each age division will receive: Crown (female), Medallion (male), Sash (female), Jacket, Trophy and flowers.
- f. The DMNE Teacher of Record on the Chapter 5 Titles Entry Form is required by National's Rules to attend the National Convention and Competition with their title holder. The Teacher of Record is expected to stay through the banquet. The Teacher of Record will receive a total of \$1000.00 to help defray the cost of attending the national convention. (Regardless of how many winners the Teacher of Record may have.)
- g. Title winners are expected to fulfill their obligations throughout the year as Title Holder as set forth by Chapter 5. A contract will be signed immediately after winning the Title. Responsibilities are communicated through our Chapter Liaison.
- h. Past title holders of a particular age division are able to compete again in that age division. A Title Holder may not compete and relinquish a title in the same year. She / he must wait one year after relinquishing their title in order to compete in the next age division.
- i. Contestants who do NOT win the Title may compete at DMA Nationals PAC without prequalifying as long as they receive a high silver score or above.
- j. Title Winners will give a 3 minute Farewell Speech (that has been approved by your Teacher). This will be pre-recorded in a Video Presentation with pictures from the events. This will be submitted to the Titles director by January 29th and must be approved by the Board of Directors.
- k. Title Winners may not participate in the November Scholarship Auditions during the year of their reign.

Host Hotel:

Residence Inn/Fairfield Inn by Marriott
250 Second Ave
Waltham, MA
781-202-5140

*reference code DMNE to receive your special rate of \$119 + tax
Reservations must be made by February 17, 2023.*

**Contact: Ann-Marie Carlomagno, Solo Titles Director
46 Stonybrook Lane, Shrewsbury, MA 01545
508-414-1804/ amcpacer64@yahoo.com**

Questions and phone calls from member teachers only please – no parents.

**Thank you for supporting
Dance Masters of New England!**