

# SO YOU WANT TO DANCE

## INFORMATION PACK

Your stage is waiting.

2011

EST.

15

YEARS OF  
EXCELLENCE

Over £10K+

ANNUAL PRIZES

3

PRO JUDGES PER  
EVENT

£30K+

TOP SCHOLARSHIP  
AT OUR GRAND FINAL

## FOUNDERS & DIRECTORS



Hi, we're Jodie-Anne and Gaynor - two sisters from Leeds who started dancing at the age of two and have never looked back. From our years working as professional dancers and teachers, we saw the need to create a safe, guided, and fun space for performers to shine and push the boundaries of their comfort zones.

In 2011, we held our first-ever event in Canterbury at The Gulbenkian Theatre. That first competition was electric, and that was enough for us to know we were onto something special. Year by year, we added new venues, new events, and new opportunities.

SYWTD is now one of the UK's most established competitions, and as of May 2026, has entered its 15th year.

We built every bit of it from a shared love of dance and a belief in young talent, and we can't wait to share that with you

## ABOUT

So You Want To Dance is one of the UK's biggest and longest-running dance competitions. It is a place where every dancer gets a real stage, real judges, and a real opportunity to shine.

We treat every competitor with the same respect, care and professionalism, whether it's their first performance or their tenth. Dance schools return to us season after season because they trust us and because their students go home inspired.



Professional judges · Theatre venues · All styles welcome · Over £10,000 in prizes every season

Here's why dance schools and families choose us year after year

# WHAT MAKES SYWTD DIFFERENT



## WHY CHOOSE SYWTD?

### Industry professional judges

Every judge is currently working in the dance world, from West End musical stars and professional dance college tutors, to backing dancers on tour, cruise ship performers and actors. These are the people who can genuinely shape a dancer's future.

### Theatre Venues Across the UK

We don't do function rooms. Every SYWTD event is held in a professional theatre venue with proper stages, proper lighting, and proper sound. The environment that prepares dancers for the real world.

### Written Feedback From The Judges

Every routine receives written feedback from one of our judges. Real, constructive guidance that teachers and dancers can take home and act on.

### All Styles. All Ages. All Welcome.

Ballet, tap, jazz, modern, acrobatics, street, commercial, contemporary, lyrical, song and dance, vocal and national. Every style has a place on our stage.

### Always Run on Time

We know your day is precious. Our events are meticulously planned and always run to schedule.

### Always A Good Time - We are known for bringing good vibes and making the audience laugh



## OUR SPONSORS

### THE BRIGHTON ACADEMY

One of the UK's most respected professional dance training colleges. The Brighton Academy provides one of our judges at every event\* and sponsors our Grand Final scholarship. Several So You Want To Dance alumni are currently training at The Brighton Academy

\*Except when unable to due to TBA shows and auditions  
**MEPA**

MEPA is a dynamic college dedicated to fostering creativity, performance and excellence in the arts. With a strong focus on developing talent in musical theatre, singing, dance, and acting, MEPA award a full three-year funded scholarship at our Grand Final.

We are also delighted to be able to offer a series of funded associate and summer school places, as well as workshops from sponsors:

- **Sam Stanley Associates**
- **Kimberly Wyatt Dance Academy**
- **Base Dance Studios**

**£10,000+**  
Cash prize fund  
across the season

**£30,000+**  
The Brighton  
Academy 3-year  
scholarship

**West End**  
Workshops with  
industry professionals

**Taster Weeks**  
At professional  
dance colleges

Everything you need to know about entering

# HOW IT WORKS

## ENTRY PRICES 2026

**Solos £24**

**Duets and Trios £12.50 per dancer**

**Troupes £11 per dancer**

\*Once an event is full, a 10% deposit secures your place. Full fees are due 8 weeks prior to the competition date.

*Prices will increase in 2027 Solos £25, Duet/Trio £14 & Troupes £11*

## Genres

- Classical Ballet,
- Lyrical, Contemporary
- Tap
- Modern, Jazz,
- Street and Commercial
- Song & Dance, Vocal & Musical Theatre
- Acrobatics,
- National

## FORMATS

**Solos - Duets - Trios - Troupes**

## ROUTINE TIMING

**Solo: 2 minutes maximum**

**Duet / Trio: 2.5 minutes maximum**

**Troupe: 4 minutes maximum**



## AGE CATEGORIES

Age Group	Age
Tiny	5 and under
Mini	6 – 8
Junior	9 – 11
Inter	12 – 14
Senior	15-17
Adult	18 and over

Age is determined by the dancer's age on the day of the competition. For duets, trios and troupes, age is based on the average age of all performers.

## RULES

- All entries must be submitted online through your dance school
- Entries are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Solo performers may not repeat the same genre more than once
- Troupes must have a minimum of 4 dancers
- Music and costumes must be appropriate for family viewing
- All routines are scored by 3 judges, with written feedback provided by one judge per routine
- Routines placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd, or scoring 245+ marks will qualify for a National Final. Mini and Novice dancers who score 230 will also qualify in their sections

## SPECTATOR TICKETS

Spectator tickets are available for all SYWTD events. Come and support your dancer on a real theatre stage. Visit [soyouwanttodance.uk/tickets](https://soyouwanttodance.uk/tickets) for pricing and booking. Some tickets will be available at the door.

## CHAPERONES & SAFEGUARDING

- All dancers are the sole responsibility of their dance school
- All entrants under 16 must be chaperoned by a dance school-nominated adult
- All named chaperones must have current DBS clearance details registered with SYWTD prior to the event
- 1 free teacher/chaperone wristband per 10 competing children
- Only registered chaperones will be permitted backstage

1. Register Online , 2. Enter Your Routines , 3. Confirm & Pay , 4. Compete on Stage , 5. Win Prizes!

The moments that make it all worthwhile

# PRIZES, AWARDS & WHAT PEOPLE SAY

## PRIZES & SCHOLARSHIPS

### GRAND FINAL TOP PRIZE

## 3-Year The Brighton Academy Scholarship | Worth £30,000+

### Annual Cash Prize Fund

Over £10,000 across the season

### West End Workshops

With industry professionals

### Professional College Taster Weeks

Experience life at a dance college

### Dance Intensive Courses

### Participation Medal

Every troupe performer will leave with a medal

### Placing Medals

For 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> in every category

## HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE GRAND FINAL

Every routine that places 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, or scores 245+ marks, earns a place at the SYWTD National Final.

## SPECIAL AWARDS

All dancers are automatically considered for all special awards; there is no extra fee.

- Highest Scoring Solo In Each Age Range
- Standout Solo, Duet & Trio and Group
- Best Choreography
- Host Award
- Most Promising Dancer
- Judges' Special Award
- Overall Winner of the Day

## WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT SYWTD

"I've made the most incredible memories at SYWTD over the years! You have watched and helped me grow from a young, scared little dancer to now the principal of my own school, and I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunities you have given my students and me over the years.

Your last competition in March was honestly one of the best days of my entire life! I didn't realise that dreams like this could even be possible for me, but you made them come true, and I will be forever grateful."

Eleanore Clark Dance Company



## GET IN TOUCH

dance@soyouwanttodance.uk

07723 616 442

Mon / Tue / Fri 9am-4pm

## REGISTER NOW — ALL 2026 DATES ARE OPEN

soyouwanttodance.uk · All styles · All ages · Real stages · Real judges · Real prizes