

# Showstopper

# RISINGSTAR

## SOLO PROGRAM



**A new addition to our competitions:** the "Rising Star" Solo Program—created for dancers aged 11 years and younger who want a positive and supportive environment to perform their solo on stage, with a focus on building confidence, gaining stage experience, and helping dancers develop their skills before moving on to higher competition level.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### **Who Can Participate:**

- ☆ Dancers aged 11 years and under.
- ☆ Dancers with less than 3 hours of weekly training.
- ☆ Dancers looking to gain more stage experience before competing at a higher level.

### **Why Rising Star?**

- ☆ Provide a platform for young dancers to perform in a fun and encouraging environment.
- ☆ Foster confidence and stage experience while helping dancers develop their skills.

### **Performance Guidelines:**

- ☆ Each dancer can perform one solo routine.
- ☆ Maximum solo length: 3 minutes.
- ☆ Dancers in this program cannot perform a solo in other competition levels (Shine, Advanced, or Competitive), but may be a part of a duet/trio or group routines at any level.

# SCORING AND CRITIQUES

The Rising Star program uses a uniquely structured three-tiered scoring system that emphasizes personal development, motivating continuous improvement and preparing dancers for higher-level competition.

- ☆ **Three-Tiered Scoring System:** Dancers are placed in one of three star tiers—**3-star, 4-star, or 5-star**—based on performance.
- ☆ **Slider Scale Evaluation:** Within each tier, dancers are assessed on a slider scale, showing their progress without numerical scores or direct comparison to others.
- ☆ **Custom Score Sheet:** Dancers receive feedback showing their star tier and progress within that tier, helping track growth year to year.
- ☆ **Video Critiques:** Judges provide constructive video feedback to highlight progress and guide dancers toward future success.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Dancers will **not** compete directly against each other or be ranked against each other – there are no overalls. The program goal is **personal achievement** and **individual accomplishment**.

## **Award Ceremonies:**

Each dancer in the Rising Star Program will be honored on stage at their award ceremony. They will receive:

- ☆ Rising Star Trophy (with a 3-star, 4-star, or 5-star ranking)
- ☆ Rising Star Special Edition Medal
- ☆ Certificate of Accomplishment, celebrating their performance and efforts

*Rising Star Awards will be presented during scheduled award ceremonies.*



# RISING STAR SCORING TIERS

The Rising Star program uses a unique three-tiered scoring system that encourages growth and development at each level, celebrating the progress of each dancer while guiding them toward future success in competition.

*Below are the descriptions of each tier and what it means for a dancer to place within that star tier:*



## **3-Star Tier**

This tier is awarded to dancers who are building their foundational skills. Dancers at this level are gaining confidence on stage and working on mastering basic techniques. Judges will focus on encouragement, highlighting areas of improvement such as musicality, timing, and overall stage presence. Receiving a 3-star score means the dancer is on the right path and making great strides in their competition journey.



## **4-Star Tier**

Dancers who achieve the 4-star tier demonstrate noticeable improvement and stronger execution of technique and performance quality. At this level, dancers are more comfortable on stage, showing better control of movement and understanding of choreography. Judges will note areas where they excel and provide guidance on refining more advanced techniques. A 4-star score indicates that the dancer is progressing well and approaching readiness for more advanced competition.



## **5-Star Tier**

The 5-star tier is the highest tier within the Rising Star program. Dancers receiving this score exhibit great technical skills, confident stage presence, and a high level of performance quality. At this level, dancers are not only mastering their current abilities but also demonstrating readiness to take the next step into true competition-level solos. Achieving a 5-star score signals that the dancer is ready to graduate from the Rising Star program and move into Advanced Level solos with confidence.

# BENEFITS OF RISING STAR

## **The Competition Experience:**

Designed specifically for dancers with limited competition exposure, this program offers a supportive structure that allows dancers to still experience the excitement of performing on the Showstopper stage.

## **Focus on Experience and Achievement:**

This program highlights personal achievement and stage experience, making it a perfect opportunity for young dancers eager to perform.

## **Skill Development:**

Helps dancers gain comfort with solo performances, build confidence, and enhance their stage presence in a supportive, non-competitive setting.

## **Encouragement-Based Feedback:**

Judges provide constructive feedback that emphasizes positive growth and development, preparing them for the next level of solo competition.

# PROGRAM Q&A'S

## **Why is this program only for younger dancers?**

This program is focused on creating a foundational experience for younger dancers to build confidence and gain stage experience early in their journey. We believe fundamental dance development is for the dancers at a younger age. Those who are just starting out at a more mature age have a greater understanding of body awareness and self expression making them ready to compete a solo at the advanced level.

## **Will Rising Star solos be judged?**

While Rising Star solos won't be scored in the traditional competitive sense, dancers will still receive valuable feedback from our judges. The focus will be on positive reinforcement, skill development, and building confidence rather than comparison or ranking.

## **Is the Rising Star program still part of Showstopper competitions?**

Yes, the Rising Star program is fully integrated into the Showstopper competition schedule, just like any other routine. It will be available at all Showstopper competition events, giving young and beginner dancers the opportunity to perform on the same stage and experience the excitement of the event alongside other competitors.

## **Why can't performance-level dancers do solos anymore?**

We believe that solo performances require a certain level of skill and readiness to ensure dancers feel confident and capable on stage. Removing performance-level solos allows us to focus on helping dancers grow into more advanced levels where their hard work and development can truly be showcased.

**How does this program help dancers progress to higher competition levels?**

Rising Stars is designed to encourage personal growth, allowing young dancers to gain stage presence, improve technique, and build self-confidence. The program creates a strong foundation, helping dancers prepare to compete at advanced or competitive levels when they're ready to take the next step.

**Why isn't there a competitive element?**

The Rising Star program is designed to provide a stress-free, nurturing environment focused on growth rather than competition. By introducing constructive feedback and a tiered scoring system, dancers can celebrate progress while preparing for future competitions. The goal is to build confidence and foundational skills without the pressure of direct competition.

**Will Rising Stars dancers still get the same stage experience as other dancers?**

Absolutely! Rising Stars dancers will perform on the same Showstopper stage as our advanced/competitive dancers. They'll experience the thrill of performing under the lights, hearing supportive applause from the audience, and feeling the excitement that comes with a live stage performance. Every dancer who participates in this program receives a trophy, medal, certificate, judges critiques, and recognition during award ceremonies.

**What about my young, novice dancers who want the same experience as before?**

We feel novice level dancers will truly find benefits in participating in this program while still receiving the same Showstopper experience. Instead of competing against other dancers they will compete against themselves so they can really focus on personal development and self accomplishment. For those dancers who do want to compete against others, we encourage them to challenge themselves this season and compete their solo at the advanced level.

**If my dancers participate in Rising Star can they still compete in group routines with other dancers not in the program?**

Dancers in Rising Star may be a part of a duet/trio or group routines at any level without it effecting the groups level. For those dancers who want to challenge themselves with an advanced level solo, we are allowing a percentage of advanced level soloists to perform in a performance level group. For every five dancers in a performance-level group, one may be from an advanced level. However, small groups with 9 dancers may have up to a maximum of 2 advanced level dancers.

**Will this program water down the competitive spirit of the event?**

Rising Star is not meant to detract from the competitive aspect of the event. Instead, it serves as a stepping stone for young dancers to build skills and confidence in preparation for more advanced competitions, while still receiving the same Showstopper experience we know and love. By nurturing younger talent, we are helping to raise the level of competition in future years.



# REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2025

IN THE STUDIO CENTER  
SELECT RISING STAR FROM  
LEVEL DROPDOWN WHEN  
REGISTERING DANCERS

*ShowStopper*

# A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER

To Showstopper Family & Dance Community,

For over 47 years, we've been dedicated to creating the best experience imaginable for dancers and studios. Our love for dance and commitment to the dance community drive everything we do. Each season, our goal is to make your Showstopper journey even better than the last, with a focus on the growth and development of every dancer.

After much thought, we decided to remove performance-level solos from our competition lineup to make sure that when dancers step on stage for a solo, they're truly ready to showcase their skills with confidence, while competing against other dancers at their skill level. We believe that with the right development, dancers can feel proud and prepared for that special moment. Our goal is to ensure that every solo reflects each dancer's hard work, growth, and readiness to take the stage and feel amazing doing it.

We've had many heartfelt conversations with teachers, studio owners, and parents, and we sincerely appreciate your feedback.

We understand the importance of giving novice dancers the opportunity to perform, so we created the Rising Stars program.

This program allows young and beginner dancers to build confidence, prepare for higher competition levels, and experience the excitement of performing on the Showstopper stage.

We're excited for what's ahead and can't wait to see your dancers continue to grow, thrive, and feel their best on stage! Thank you for trusting us to be part of your dancers' journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Roberts". To the left of the name is a simple line drawing of a heart.