



UNIVERSA

EPIC
UNIVERSA

GRAND Finale

Hilton

April 10 - 11

HILTON ORLANDO 2026

Registration is OPEN

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IMPORTANT DATES

10/1/25

Early Pricing
Registration
Opens

2/16/26

Early Pricing
Registration
Deadline

4/1/25

Last Day to
Register with
On Time Pricing

1/1/26

Spectator
Packages
Available
for Purchase

3/20/26

Last Day to
Purchase
Park Tickets

What to expect at the...

STAGE 8 DANCE GRAND FINALE

✦ ATHLETE WELCOME PARTY

NEW THIS YEAR! Join us for the Athlete Welcome Party from 5:00 - 7:00 PM on the Promenade. Athletes can kick off the event with music, games, exciting giveaways, and plenty of fun! It's the perfect chance to celebrate, connect, and get energized before competition begins.

✦ OPENING NUMBER PERFORMANCE

Each program can select dancers to participate in the Opening Number Performance. Take part in this unique opportunity to perform on stage with dancers from every program!

NEW THIS YEAR! Cash scholarships will be guaranteed to select dancers who participate and will be announced for each age group during Saturday's awards sessions.

✦ SOLO TITLE COMPETITION

NEW THIS YEAR! ALL dancers who compete a Solo at the Stage 8 Dance Grand Finale will be required to participate in the Title Competition for the chance to be named Stage 8 Performer of the Year. The Solo Title competition is offered for all ages and performance levels (Premier and Rising Talent). Dancers will compete their solo and participate in an improv competition and brief interview.

✦ NATIONALS GALA

Join us for food, festivities, and fun on Saturday Night!

✦ TOP-NOTCH PRODUCTION

Featuring an elevated stage, stage lights, high-quality sound, and projection screens, the Stage 8 Grand Finale is a top-notch production that aims to enhance the dancer experience and make the event as memorable as possible.

✦ FUN IN THE HEART OF ORLANDO

Located just minutes from Universal Orlando Resort and International Drive, dancers and families can enjoy all the excitement the city has to offer. Plus, take advantage of discounted Universal park tickets when purchased through Stage 8!



BLOCK SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

- » Team/Group Prelims
- » Solo/Title Competition
- » Opening Number Rehearsals

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

- » Team/Group Finals
- » Solo/Title Competition
- » Opening Number Performance

****SOLO/TITLE COMPETITION REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE AT CAPACITY**

****NEW THIS SEASON: ALL SOLOS (BOTH PREMIER & RISING TALENT) ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOLO/TITLE COMPETITION**

****DUET/TRIO REGISTRATION WILL BE OFFERED IF CAPACITY ALLOWS. THESE DIVISIONS WILL BE OPEN FOR REGISTRATION CLOSER TO THE EVENT DATE, IF SPACE IS AVAILABLE.**

Your team does NOT need to earn a bid to attend the Stage 8 Dance Grand Finale. We feel it is important for all teams to be able to showcase their hard work from the season. Teams who attend any Stage 8 Dance Brands events throughout the season have a chance to earn a bid to the 2026 Stage 8 Dance Grand Finale. See bid information on page 4.



BID INFORMATION

PLATINUM BID

- ★ Guaranteed Advancement to Finals on Day 2
- ★ One Time Dancer Registration Fee waived for each dancer on the receiving team
- ★ Routine Performance Fee waived for each dancer on the receiving team
- ★ \$200 Per Dancer Hotel Stipend at the Hilton Orlando*see details below

GOLD BID

- ★ Guaranteed Advancement to Finals on Day 2
- ★ Routine Performance Fee waived for each dancer on the receiving team
- ★ \$100 Per Dancer Hotel Stipend at the Hilton Orlando*see details below

SILVER BID

- ★ Guaranteed Advancement to Finals on Day 2
- ★ Routine Performance Fee waived for each dancer on the receiving team

BRONZE BID

- ★ Guaranteed Advancement to Finals on Day 2

Note: The amount of dancers competing at the Regional event where a bid is earned will be the amount of dancer credit that will be received for the Grand Finale. If less dancers compete at the Grand Finale, you will receive credit for only the dancers taking the stage at the Grand Finale. Example: 20 dancers compete at Regionals, but only 15 compete at the Grand Finale. You will receive credit for the 15 dancers attending the Grand Finale.

OTHER IMPORTANT DETAILS:

- The number of bids awarded at each Stage 8 Dance Brands event can be found [HERE](#)
- Guaranteed Advancement to Finals means a team will compete in the 1st round on Day 1 and regardless of placement, will advance to Finals on Day 2.
- Teams can upgrade their bid. Example: Junior Jazz earns a gold bid, then at another event earns a platinum bid. The Junior Jazz will drop their gold bid and upgrade to platinum.
- A dancer who earns multiple bids for different teams will receive the highest bid they earned, and each additional bid will cover the Routine Performance Fees with the exception of a bronze bid.
- A minimum of the top half of each division will advance to finals. In divisions of 3 or less, all teams will move on to finals.
- If your team does not have a bid and they place higher than a team with a bid, it does not guarantee your advancement to finals.
- **NEW THIS YEAR!** Hotel stipend received with platinum and gold bids are total per dancer. These are not accumulative. Dancers will only receive the amount for the highest bid level earned. The hotel stipend is valid for the Hilton Orlando under Stage 8's group block and will be received after hotel check-in is completed.



EVENT & HOTEL INFORMATION

Experience the perks of staying with us:



- ★ Room Rate Discounts
- ★ Free Transportation to Universal Orlando Parks
- ★ Reduced Daily Resort Charge
(Discounted from \$40 to \$29 per room per night)
- ★ 50% Off Self-Parking
(Discounted from \$39 to \$19 per day)
- ★ 15% Discount at Hotel Restaurants and Lounge
- ★ 10% Discount at the Hotel Spa
- ★ 25% Discount on Poolside Cabana Rentals

**[Click here](#) to book a room in the Stage 8 Dance
Grand Finale Room Block**



Competition & Host Hotel

Hilton Orlando
6001 Destination Pkwy
Orlando, FL 32819





PARK TICKET & BOX OFFICE PRICING

DISCOUNTED UNIVERSAL ORLANDO PARK TICKETS

- 1-Day 2-Park (Park-to-Park)** Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure **\$175**
**Excludes Epic Universe*
 
- 2-Day 3-Park (Park-to-Park)** Universal Studios, Islands of Adventure, and Epic Universe **\$300**
**Only 1 Park day may be used at Epic Universe*
  
- 3-Day 3-Park (Park-to-Park)** Universal Studios, Islands of Adventure, and Epic Universe **\$375**
**Move freely between all 3 parks, all 3 days*
  

DISCOUNTED UNIVERSAL ORLANDO PARK TICKETS & GRAND WEEKEND EVENT PASS

- 1-Day 2-Park (Park-to-Park)** Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure + Weekend Event Pass **\$245**
**Excludes Epic Universe*
  
- 2-Day 3-Park (Park-to-Park)** Universal Studios, Islands of Adventure, and Epic Universe + Weekend Event Pass **\$370**
**Only 1 Park day may be used at Epic Universe*
   
- 3-Day 3-Park (Park-to-Park)** Universal Studios, Islands of Adventure, and Epic Universe + Weekend Event Pass **\$445**
**Move freely between all 3 parks, all 3 days*
   

All park tickets are valid Tuesday April 7, 2026 - Thursday April 16, 2026. The last day to purchase tickets is March 20, 2026.

EVENT SPECTATOR PRICING (NO ONLINE PRE-SALE FOR EVENT PASSES ONLY)



Weekend Pass

Adult \$85 Child, Senior, Military & 1st Responder \$75

Day Pass (Valid Friday or Saturday)

Adult \$45 Child, Senior, Military & 1st Responder \$40



SOLO/TITLE COMPETITION FOR STAGE 8 PERFORMER OF THE YEAR

NEW THIS YEAR! The Title Competition is required for ALL registered soloists and is available for ALL ages and performance levels (Premier and Rising Talent).

Details:

- The Title Competition for Performer of the Year will take place on Friday and Saturday. Times for each age group will be announced on the preliminary schedule.
- The Title Competition consists of 3 parts:
 - Solo Routine: maximum 2:30 (2 minutes & 30 seconds). The Stage 8 Solo Score Sheet (100 points) will be utilized.
 - Interview: The dancer will introduce themselves, state their age and where they are from, and be asked 1 interview question. This interview will be scored out of a maximum of 50 points.
 - Improv: After the completion of the solo competition, the dancers in each age group will be invited on-stage to perform 6-8 8-counts of improv each. The improv portion will be scored out of a maximum of 50 points.
- Scoring criteria for Title Competition:
 - Solo Routine: 100 points. Weighted at 60% of total Title Score
 - Interview: 50 points
 - Improv: 50 points
 - Interview & Improv score will be totaled (out of 100 points) and weighted at 40% of total Title Score
- Dancers will wear the solo costume of their choice throughout all portions of the Title competition
- Performer of the Year Title Winners will receive *cash prizes and more!*

OPENING NUMBER PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Who can participate and when are selections due?

Each program can select up to 5 dancers per team to participate in the Opening Number. Please email the number of dancers representing your program in the Opening Number no later than Wednesday, April 1st to Molly@stage8dance.com.

What routine will the dancers perform?

Videos will be available on Stage 8 Dance Brands' YouTube channel for each age group to learn their section of the Opening Number routine. The age groups will be divided as tiny/mini, youth, and junior/senior. Dancers should learn their section of the routine before they arrive in Orlando.

What is the rehearsal schedule?

There will be two short rehearsals during the event. Rehearsal times for each age group will be announced after the final performance order is released. These rehearsals will be mandatory for dancers who are participating in the Opening Number. The attire for rehearsals is casual dance clothes that are comfortable with tennis shoes.

What is the genre/style of the Opening Number routine?

Showy, fun, and visual with no technical skills. As the ages increase, we might incorporate more intricate staging and movement without technical skills. We want this to be fun, entertaining, stress-free and memorable for the dancers!

What will the dancers wear for the Opening Number Performance?

Each dancer can select the costume of their choice to perform in.

NEW THIS YEAR!

Cash scholarships will be guaranteed to select dancers who participate and will be announced for each age group during Saturday's awards sessions! Dancers must be present at both rehearsals to be eligible for a cash scholarship.

If you have any questions, please email Molly@stage8dance.com. We look forward to seeing you in Orlando, FL this coming April and we cannot wait to make new memories with your dancers, coaches, parents, friends and YOU!



GALA

You're Invited

**Join us for food, festivities,
and fun!**

DATE: Saturday, April 11

TIME: 8 -10 pm

LOCATION: Florida Ballroom

TICKETS: \$40

**Click [here](#) to purchase
Gala tickets**

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

