



**COMPETITION AWARDS &
SCORING PHILOSOPHY**
2020 Regional Tour

OUR SCORING AND AWARDS PHILOSOPHY

At Kinetix we want to help you push yourself to be your best before you focus on comparing yourself to your peers. In that spirit we have devised a new way to look at scoring and awards in the dance competition industry.

All routines are adjudicated and given an award placement, with consideration given to the performance level of the routine, the age group, and the style. Award Placements are chosen based on the following criteria:

TECHNIQUE	basics ◊ lines ◊ strength ◊ control ◊ true to category style
PRESENTATION	stage presence ◊ showmanship ◊ connection ◊ confidence
EXECUTION	precision ◊ musicality ◊ timing ◊ rhythm
DESIGN	choreography ◊ creativity ◊ difficulty ◊ music & costume ◊ appropriateness

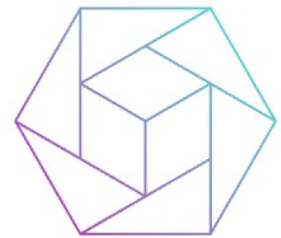
We have developed an adjudication system by which judges are solely focused on the routine performing and are able to record their feedback through an organic system of award placement, not based on numerics or overly complex scoring scales. Our judges are trained to recognize the elements for each routine and how those fall under a certain award placement level, given the judging criteria, with the greatest emphasis placed on the Technique and Presentation elements

This allows our judges to give feedback specific to each routine in a vacuum, without having to remember the scores given previously, or attempting to anticipate what is yet to come. Our method provides dancers with clear feedback, detailing exactly how they did in relation to themselves based on the Kinetix standard award levels. To that end our category awards are not ranked. Our hope is this will drive and inspire dancers to push themselves to achieve the next level. Not because they want to beat others, but because they want to beat themselves. They want to be better as dancers each time they take the stage.

OUR GOALS AT KINETIX

- To incentivize dancers to grow and explore outside of their comfort zones
- To restore the meaning and value in earning an award
- To provide fair evaluation of overall routines and thoughtful nominations by judges
- To nurture the developing dancer and support all dancers along a continuing path of achievement
- To encourage dancers to reach for the next level
- To create a system that allows our judges to focus on dancing, not numbers
- To share artistic pursuits with one another in a supportive and growth-focused forum

To teach good sportsmanship, enrich dance education, uphold the true spirit of competition, ignite self-motivation, strengthen the bonds of artistic community and, above all, support the wellbeing and growth of every dancer on our stage.



OVERALL AWARDS

Our unique adjudication approach allows the judges to review, in a timely manner, routines they feel should be considered for the Overall Awards. This insures routines are not overlooked during a long set of mixed routine types or lost due to the limitations of a numerical system and its inherent margin of error. Determining overall awards then becomes a more thoughtful and accurate process giving more weight to the judges' collectively informed view regarding which routines stood out and should be recognized. Though our category awards are not ranked, our judges do rank the Overall Award winners in the competitive division. However, the showcase Overall Award winners are not ranked.

The number of Overall Awards given is based on the number of entries competing in a given age division and level, and merit of each. For example, if the judges feel that out of 55 competitive teen solos, nine soloists stood out as deserved of overall recognition, then they will rank those nine soloists 1–9. If the judges feel that out of 43 showcase level junior small groups 12 stood out as deserving overall recognition, then those 12 routines will be awarded Overall recognition for their division. By allowing the judges to hand select the stand out overall performances, instead of dictating a certain number each time, we protect the purpose of such awards. Overall Awards should have weight behind them. They should be earned, not just given out because they were the only routines in a certain set.

SPECIALTY AWARDS

In addition to our award level system and overall awards, we have included specialty awards and recognitions to exhibit and highlight the incredible talent and amazing performances on the Kinetix stage. We bestow three very special group awards to both the 11&under and 12&over age divisions, which are The Choreography Award, The Entertainment Award, and The Cinematic Award. These awards are open to any group routine whether competitive or showcase, whether an overall award recipient and no matter what award level was achieved. The winners of these awards will be featured on our YouTube page.

The Highlight Award is another honor not constrained by levels, divisions, etc. This award is bestowed by the judges for a moment or phrase in a performance that is deserved of being highlighted. Kinetix Regional Highlight winners receive recognition at the award ceremony.

The Emerging Artist Award is exclusively reserved for our showcase level and is bestowed upon top showcase entries the judges felt showed outstanding merit and potential, while exhibiting the emergence of our future standout artists.

Other specialty awards that may be given out at a Kinetix regional event include the X Cube, The SOAR award, the Judges Select option in solo competition, as well as the prestigious Artistry in Motion Award (AIM Award). The AIM Award is chosen by the judges from the top competitive groups of the weekend, for both the 11&under age division, as well as the 12&over division. ****NEW**** this season we will also be awarding the Top Showcase award for both 11&under and 12&over groups. These awards are detailed in our Rules and Regulations along with more information on the specialty awards mentioned above.

WHY CHANGE THE INDUSTRY STANDARD?

After years of hearing concerns from studio directors and teachers, listening to parents and dancers feedback, and witnessing industry methodology first-hand as a producer, Kinetix creator, Heather Epps, felt the recurring issues with the current method of adjudication had to be solved. Scoring systems have not evolved much over the years. Performance levels have been added, age ranges divided, categories expanded, seemingly endless ways for routines to win awards have been manufactured, and yet the numerics and score ranges haven't seen nearly as many alterations, if any. In some instances, the number of routines has exploded, yet the process to properly evaluate and rank these routines with fair oversight has not adjusted to the increased numbers. The range of artistry and abilities of young dancers has reached its greatest breadth in industry history. But yet again, the award levels by which determinations are made have not been adjusted accordingly.

Increasingly, we've witnessed two major phenomena: First, current scoring systems don't always allow for a large quantity of entrants to be properly evaluated and distributed across an adequate scoring range, thus we see an extreme aggregation of dancers around a tenth of a point and countless ties. Second, the value of awards becomes increasingly diminished over time as too many awards with too many ties are doled out to try to keep everyone happy. Ultimately, Heather Epps felt both of these issues hurt the dancers' competition experience, so she decided to search for a new way. In starting Kinetix, she knew copying and pasting the awards systems of the past was not moving us forward, especially given the new technologies at our fingertips. Epps decided to address the issues above by throwing out the playbook and rebuilding the method by which we critique and recognize young artists.

THE KINETIX APPROACH

Our fresh, thoughtfully developed approach to adjudication combines both competition and showcase. One of the most rewarding aspects of a competition weekend is the confidence that taking the stage and performing can instill in young people. Before they know how they scored, before they see their teachers' or parents' faces, dancers' hearts are filled with a surge of accomplishment, a rise in self-esteem, and unmistakable joy as the stage lights blind them to other's reactions to their performance. For the novice dancer, this confidence and pride is of particular importance and cannot be nurtured enough.

Because of a unique computer program we have developed with the ideal of cultivating dancers' vital senses of self, our judges are able to provide qualitative assessments of routines verses the traditional quantitative score. This approach offers a balance of subjective and objective feedback in a more communicative way than a numeric score system. This is why our category awards are not ranked. Each routine is judged on a universal scale based on the four criteria areas, taking into consideration the age division of each routine, to determine the award level placement. Teachers and dancers then receive feedback on the routine with a clear breakdown of each criteria element and the level the judge felt was achieved by the routine.

In developing our methodology, we created 9 award levels as a way for dancers to track their growth and push themselves to achieve more each time they take the stage. Our award levels offer achievement paths for all dancers, whether competitive or showcase. By utilizing an accreditation system, dancers can truly assess abilities and be inspired to reach toward the next level.

WHY ONLY 2 PERFORMANCE LEVELS?

Kinetix focuses on a universal scale of accreditation, for all the reasons previously mentioned. Having assessed the skill and experience level of most dancers attending competitions, we feel that there are truly 2 types of dancers at these events, Showcase and Competitive. The showcase dancer is ultimately a performer that is either just beginning their dance education, still developing their dance fundamentals, and/or more strictly focused on the personal and developmental benefits of performing with feedback, rather than a competitive ranking against their peers.

We do provide guidelines for what makes a dancer showcase versus competitive using the number of hours of dance taken weekly. However, we do not restrict dancers from dancing in either division. Our hope is that dancers find our structure to be one that encourages them to push themselves, to strive for the next level, and to explore outside their comfort zone.

We feel that showcase dancers deserve the chance to perform and receive feedback similarly to competitive dancers. We view our showcase division as a stepping stone to the competitive division. For this reason, we have chosen to recognize overall showcase dancers in each age division without ranking them. For the showcase dancer, we want to nurture their sense of accomplishment and help them feel the support of their peers without focusing on who is the "best of the best." They are by definition not competitive dancers, thus we choose to provide a more supportive means of highlighting the top showcase division dancers.

We in no way diminish the effort, courage, or talent of our showcase dancers. Quite the opposite, we feel that by applauding the best efforts and performances in that division as a group of overall recipients, those dancers are given more time to grow and explore before stepping into the competitive division.

By the same token, we feel that competitive dancers deserve to have the most thorough possible evaluation when determining the overall winners. Competitive dancers are ready to be ranked according to the judges' feedback and the top routines bestowed overall honors. Our system strives to correct the numerous ties that weigh down many current scoring systems, as well as only bestowing overall awards to routines the judges feel deserve this accolade, not just because there was a certain number in that division. We created a system by which the judges have the ability to quickly review and rank overall routines, after everyone has performed, breaking free of numeric scoring restraints, and more precisely presenting the judges' assessment of all competitors in a division.

AWARD LEVEL ASSESSMENT

All dancers are placed onto the Kinetix award spectrum. There are no fixed rules that set competitive dancers apart from dancers who take fewer hours on our award scale. We have 9 award levels at Kinetix, starting at Level 1, with Level 9 being our highest award and generally reserved for the rare performance that demonstrates total mastery both in technique and presentation.

Our judges assess each routine and determine where it falls on our scale of nine accreditation levels. During the performance, our judges can solely focus on this assessment and providing helpful verbal commentary to competitors. New technology allows for levels to be determined and overall selections to be culled using the judges' feedback, while never having to enter a single arbitrary numeric value or notation of a specific level. This allows for a true adjudication of the routine's merit and skill based on Technique, Presentation, Execution, and Design within each age division.

KINETIX AWARD LEVELS

LEVEL 1	Routines receiving Level 1 awards typically demonstrate room for improvement in all areas of our judging criteria, including Technique, Presentation, and Execution. Level 1 dancers are often new to dance and especially to competition. Dancers show a strong need for improvement in technique and are just beginning their development in stage presentation. At Level 1, we seek to offer encouraging feedback to dancers focused on how to improve dance basics and overall confidence.
LEVEL 2	Level 2 award recipients are viewed as emerging dancers. Their technique is developing, but other areas have room for growth. Typically at this level, dancers are focusing on their core skills, starting their stage performance journey, and beginning to explore their dance fundamentals.
LEVEL 3	Dancers placing in Level 3 show growth since their emergence in dance and are developing into young performers. These dancers more consistently exhibit proper balance, alignment, flexibility, and control. Dancers demonstrate and have an understanding of basic rhythms. Execution and performance values are good, with a solid developing technique for their age.
LEVEL 4	At Level 4, dancers show a satisfactory proficiency in technique, execution, and presentation. Certain criteria areas may shine over others, but in general Level 4 dancers are showing consistency, competency, and commitment that stands out from more developing levels. Choreographically, these performances are evolving in their artistry. Overall, dancers demonstrate the competencies required of the style they are performing and core technique.
LEVEL 5	Achieving Level 5 means dancers have built upon their dance foundations, and show fluency in the dance style performed, proper execution of technical elements, and a commitment to overall performance. Performers demonstrate an awareness of the body in space, a higher degree of ability to control the body, and an understanding of directing and projecting energy. Stage presence is confident with strong execution skills, artistic high notes in design, and appropriate level of difficulty for the age group.
LEVEL 6	Level 6 dancers are very good across the board in performance, endurance, and technique. They show an understanding of more complex and sophisticated rhythmic patterns and phrasing. Dancers have a clear technical and artistic musicality overall. Dancers perform the style of the chosen genre with the appropriate movement qualities and dynamics, exceeding the fundamentals of the genre. Choreographically, the overall design is very good, having achieved a balance of difficulty and creativity for the dancer's abilities.
LEVEL 7	Achieving Level 7 marks a level of excellence that exceeds mere technical ability and knowledge. Dancers execute movements with adept awareness spatially, qualitatively, and musically. They demonstrate complex rhythms and dynamics with seamless transitions and sophisticated phrasing. Stage presence brings into play a level of connectivity not seen in novice performers, and an uncanny showmanship that can't be ignored.
LEVEL 8	At Level 8, dancers are clearly both technically and artistically accomplished, with formidable skill in the style performed. Categorically, these performances are exemplary and show the depths of commitment to the art of dance by the young artists performing. The impeccable technique of these dancers aids every aspect of the routine, but the honest presentation and overall artistic concept sets dancers apart at this achievement level.
LEVEL 9	The rare level of mastery achieved by dancers at this point in their pre-professional careers is reserved for our Level 9 dancers.

