

March 4, 2026

## New Ekka Dance Eisteddfod sets the stage to showcase and reward Queensland talent

Dance schools across Queensland now have the chance to win more than \$8,000 in prizes and showcase their talent at the inaugural Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) Dance Eisteddfod.

Entries open today, inviting dance schools and studios to put their best foot forward at the 2026 Ekka with routines that demonstrate energy, creativity and the ability to engage an audience.

The competition celebrates entertainment, showmanship and performance impact rather than being age-based or technical. Dancers can perform across a variety of styles including jazz, contemporary, hip hop, lyrical and musical theatre.

The winning school will receive a suite of incredible prizes, including the opportunity to perform live at Dreamworld with complimentary entry. They will also enjoy a masterclass with top Brisbane choreographer Nerida Matthaiei, whose recent work includes *The Great Gatsby* at QPAC, as well as free entry into the Brisbane Performing Arts Challenge.

Judging the competition is Tamara Sinigaglia, who brings more than 30 years of experience in the entertainment industry. Her career includes performing in the ensemble cast of the Australasian tour of the musical *42nd Street*, serving as dance captain at Warner Bros. Movie World, and currently starring as a lead performer at the Australian Outback Spectacular.

Head of Ekka Entertainment and Education Tony Laffan said the competition was a fantastic opportunity for dance schools and studios to showcase their creativity and performance skills on a major stage during the Ekka's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"The competition is about giving dance schools and studios a platform to shine and inspire the audience at Queensland's largest annual event," he said.

"With significant prizes and unique performance opportunities on offer, we're excited to see the energy, passion and talent Queensland dancers bring to the stage as we crown the inaugural Ekka Dance Eisteddfod Champion."

Finalists for the Ekka Dance Eisteddfod will be selected based on video submissions showcasing their best routines. Each finalist school will perform live at the Ekka from 8–16 August, with a 20-minute performance spot to present up to five individual routines.

The Ekka extends its thanks to our valued supporting prize patrons: Dreamworld, Brisbane Powerhouse, Phluxus Dance Collective, Fresh Promotions, The Photo Studio, and Brisbane Performing Arts Challenge.

Video submissions close on Sunday 26 April 2026. To enter, visit  
<https://www.ekka.com.au/entertainment-program/entertainment/ekka-dance-eisteddfod/>

*The 2026 Royal Queensland Show presented by the Bank of Queensland (BOQ) is celebrating a remarkable milestone this year – the 150th anniversary of the state’s biggest and most loved event. For generations of Queenslanders, the Show is an iconic and cherished tradition that epitomises a true sense of community spirit. Since the first show in 1876, the Ekka has been proudly revered for bringing the country to the city each year and forms a rich part of Queensland’s social and cultural heritage.*

**Follow us on socials for exciting updates on what’s planned for the Ekka’s 150th celebrations.**



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