

REGISTRATION PACKAGE

Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon

April 23 – 26, 2026

Edmonton, AB

Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

Festival Coordinators:

Peter Eeles, Leda Tarnawsky, Joshua Pacholok, Mark Rachmistruk

sdf@shumka.com







Shumka Dance Festival 2026

Shumka Dance Centre
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Web: shumka.com/shumka-dance-festival

November 2025

Dear Ukrainian Dance Community:

We are excited to invite you to the Shumka Dance Festival at Edmonton's prestigious Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, taking place from **Thursday, April 23, to Sunday, April 26, 2026.** This festival promises again to be a vibrant celebration of Ukrainian dance, showcasing the immense talent, creativity, and dedication within our community. The festival will now kick off on Thursday evening and continue through Sunday afternoon.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for the inaugural Shumka Dance Festival in 2025 and a warm welcome to all the new clubs joining us in 2026! We're also grateful to everyone who took the time to complete our participation survey. Your feedback, from dancers, parents, instructors, vendors, and volunteers, has been incredibly valuable. **Based on your input**, we plan to address several key areas for improvement, including reducing the impact of Ticketmaster fees, providing better-value admission options, streamlining the arrival process, refining category organization, expanding nearby food choices, and enhancing communication regarding competition show finalists. We are committed to making this event a memorable and rewarding experience for dancers, instructors, and families alike.

Please review the enclosed registration details and official rules carefully before completing the registration, which you can access here. Note that the email address used for registration will serve as the primary contact for all communications, including schedules and updates. **Registration opens on November 1, 2025 and closes at 11:59 PM on January 9, 2026.** Entries are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis upon receipt of payment. Entry fees are due with registration.

We anticipate releasing the first draft of the schedule by February 13. Participants will have two weeks to review and provide feedback. A second draft will follow on February 27, with an additional week for final review. The final schedule will be published on March 13.

At the conclusion of the festival, attendees will receive a link to an evaluation form, and we highly encourage everyone to complete it, as your feedback is invaluable in helping us improve the festival experience each year.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Peter Eeles, Leda Tarnawsky, Joshua Pacholok, Mark Rachmistruk
SDF Coordinators | sdf@shumka.com

Official Rules

REGISTRATION

- The registration is available here.

- Registration opens on November 1, 2025 and closes at 11:59 PM on January 9, 2026. Entries are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis with payment, and all special scheduling requests should be made within this period. No entries will be accepted after the January 9 deadline. After initial scheduling, clubs will be able to review and correct any spelling errors, address scheduling conflicts, and report any cancellations of dancers or routines.

- **Excel Workbook:** Clubs download a dedicated Excel registration workbook from our website. Follow instructions on the "Registration Information" sheet. Use one sheet per routine, labeled sequentially (e.g., Entry 01, Entry 02, etc.). Complete only the boxed fields. Once entries are added, fill out the Summary Sheet and email the completed excel workbook file to sdf@shumka.com.

    - **Summary Sheet:** Fill in "Club Contact Information" with basic club details, such as address, primary contact, and instructor names. In "Fees Calculation," enter the number of solos, duets, and dancers in small and large groups; the form will calculate total fees automatically. Complete only the boxed fields.

    - **Performer Master List Sheet:** Create a single roster of every dancer from your club who may appear in any routine. List each dancer only once, even if they appear in multiple routines. Ensure spellings here match the names you use on each Entry Form Sheet.

    - **Entry Form Sheets:** Each routine entry needs its own sheet. Enter the routine name, length, category, region of Ukraine, and dancer composition. List participants with birthdates and ages to determine the age category. Complete only the boxed fields.

*On the registration form, clubs are asked to indicate if they wish to be considered for the Sunday afternoon competition show, pending qualification.

FEES

- Solo: $27.00 per dancer
  Duet: $25.00 per dancer
  Small Group: $18.00 per dancer
  Large Group: $18.00 per dancer

- Entry fees must be submitted with registration and are calculated using the summary sheet included in the registration process.

- Refunds will only be issued for medical reasons and on a case-by-case basis. However, if we must cancel the Shumka Dance Festival, all registration fees will be fully refunded.

- For **cheque payments**, you may either drop them off in person or mail them. Cheques should be made payable to "Ukrainian Shumka Dancers." Please place cheques in an envelope and be sure to clearly state the name of the dance club, either on the envelope itself or in an accompanying note. Address the envelope as

follows: Shumka Dance Centre: 10515 111 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5H 3E8. For **Visa or MasterCard payments**, please contact June Eeles at our office at 780-455-9559 ext. 1. **For e-transfer payments**, fees should be sent to june.eeles@shumka.com. Please include a message with the e-transfer that clearly states the name of the dance club to ensure proper tracking of payment.

GROUP SIZES AND TIME LIMITS

- **Group Size:**
  Solo: 1 dancer
  Duet: 2 dancers
  Small Group: 3-9 dancers
  Large Group: 10+ dancers

- **Time Limit suggestions:***
  Solos: 2+ minutes
  Duets: 2+ minutes
  Small Group: 4+ minutes
  Large Group: 5+ minutes

- *The Shumka Dance Festival will not enforce strict time limits on dance routines and therefore there will be no fines for going overtime. However, to ensure smooth scheduling, we kindly request that all clubs provide the exact duration of each routine upon registration and/or update the durations during the schedule review process.

AGE

- To determine the age group of an entry:
  1. Add up the age of all dancers in the group,
  2. Divide that number by the number of dancers in the routine,
  3. Drop the decimal point from the total. So, if the average comes to 14.7, drop the decimal = 14, so this routine will perform in the 13-14 category.

- Age categories are as follows:

3 – 4 years	7 – 8 years	11 – 12 years	15 – 16 years	Adults
5 – 6 years	9 – 10 years	13 – 14 years	17 – 18+ years	

- Every effort will be made in year two to ensure dancers are grouped and evaluated within their appropriate age ranges.

MEDALS & AWARDS

- Medals will be awarded to routines as follows:
  Platinum: 95% – 100%
  Gold: 90 – 94 %
  Silver: 85 – 89%
  Bronze: 80 – 84%

- After medals are awarded to each group in the adjudication category, only the top three scores will be announced, with the following awards presented to these groups:
  1st place gold ribbon: highest mark
  2nd place silver ribbon: second highest mark
  3rd place bronze ribbon: third highest mark
  Choreography award: recognizes a routine in each session that demonstrates exceptional creativity, originality, and cohesion in choreography, as selected by the instructor feedback adjudicator.

DANCE CATEGORIES

**The Shumka Dance Festival allows participants to enter the same group multiple times within each category. Since all participants receive medals and there's no direct competition, dancers have the flexibility to perform as often as needed.

- **Ritual dances**, or obriadovyi dances, have roots in pre-Christian Ukrainian traditions and were integral to ceremonial practices. These dances were closely tied to nature worship and key life events such as birth, marriage, and harvest. Over time, ritual dances evolved into highly stylized and symbolic movements, often accompanied by chants or songs, reflecting the beliefs and rhythms of ancient rituals. ***This means any choreography from any region of Ukraine based on seasonal or calendar events is classified in the ritual dance category.*** Some specific examples include: Vesnianky (spring songs and dances), Kupalo (associated with the summer solstice), Obzhynky (the harvest and haying rituals), Koliadnyky (performed during Christmas), and Wedding dances (performed during wedding ceremonies to bless the couple and wish them prosperity).

Ritual: Solo Male	**Ritual: Duet Male**	**Ritual: Small Group Male**	**Ritual: Large Group Male**
Ritual: Solo Female	**Ritual: Duet Female**	**Ritual: Small Group Female**	**Ritual: Large Group Female**
	Ritual: Duet Mixed	**Ritual: Small Group Mixed**	**Ritual: Large Group Mixed**

- **Character dances**, or siuzhetni dances, are narrative-driven performances that tell a story or depict a scene through expressive choreography. Unlike ritual or social dances, these dances rely on pantomime and theatrical movements to convey their plot, often without the use of spoken words. Drawing inspiration from daily life, folk tales, and various professions, character dances use mime, humor, and highly stylized dance steps to bring stories to life. ***This means any choreography from any region of Ukraine that has a narrative, story, or characters is classified in the character dance category.***

Character: Solo Male	**Character: Duet Male**	**Character: Small Group Male**	**Character: Large Group Male**
Character: Solo Female	**Character: Duet Female**	**Character: Small Group Female**	**Character: Large Group Female**
	Character: Duet Mixed	**Character: Small Group Mixed**	**Character: Large Group Mixed**

- **Social dances**, or pobutovi dances, are lively folk dances that originated from the daily life and celebrations of Ukrainian communities. These dances reflect the joy of social gatherings, often performed during events like weddings, festivals, and village evenings. Rooted in the traditions of the Kozaks, social dances celebrate community, strength, and vitality. ***This means any choreography from any region of Ukraine that is not based on the seasons or has a narrative is classified in the social dance category.*** Some specific examples include, but are not limited to, the following: Hopak, Kozachok, Kolomyika, Hutsulka, Arkan, Polkas, and all regional dances not based on the calendar or has a narrative (Volyn, Polissia, Buko, etc.)

Social: Solo Male	**Social: Duet Male**	**Social: Small Group Male**	**Social: Large Group Male**
Social: Solo Female	**Social: Duet Female**	**Social: Small Group Female**	**Social: Large Group Female**
	Social: Duet Mixed	**Social: Small Group Mixed**	**Social: Large Group Mixed**

ADJUDICATIONS

- Participants are assessed solely on their performance. Elements such as music and costumes, which may not be directly controlled by the dancers, do not influence the mark. The adjudicator's decisions are final. Under no circumstances may anyone approach the adjudicator to discuss marks, results, or feedback. Any concerns should be directed to the Festival Coordinators and/or noted in the post-festival survey.

- In our second year, we are continuing with the special "teacher feedback" position, now enhanced based on feedback from last year's survey. This dedicated adjudicator provides a separate evaluation exclusively for instructors, offering insights and tailored suggestions to support teaching and choreography development. Feedback focuses on areas such as music appropriateness, costuming, choreography, formations, and lexicon alignment with regional and age-specific standards.

- This instructor feedback remains separate from routine adjudications and do not affect the scoring of routines. This option is available for small and large group entries. All teacher adjudications will be delivered directly to the attending teachers rather than to the club. If a teacher is unable to attend the festival, the sheets will be mailed directly to them.

- Video and written adjudications are offered.

COMPETITION SHOW

- The Competition Show will take place on Sunday afternoon at approximately 2 pm, with tickets available during the festival.

- Dances featuring performers aged 9 to 18 will be selected from the highest-scoring routines in the festival to compete for a $1,000 cash prize in a single showcase event.

- Each competition routine will be evaluated by a panel of three judges. The group with the highest overall score will receive the $1,000 cash prize and the 2026 Ukrainian Dance Cup. The second- and third-place groups will also receive cash prizes, $500 and $250, respectively. All performers who qualify and participate in the show will also receive recognition.

- A detailed Competition Show FAQ will be included in the Participant Package, outlining all rules, procedures, and event details.

FESTIVAL PROTOCOL

Festival Operations and Conduct

- Please ensure cell phones are turned off or silenced before entering the Theatre, and keep them stored in your pocket, purse, or bag during the event.

- Entry into the Theatre should be made during intermission breaks or between performances, as directed by the ushers. Please do not enter or exit while dancers are performing on stage. The only exception to this rule is for instructors, who may need to leave the auditorium at a moment's notice.

Complaints and Feedback

- All complaints must be submitted in writing to the Festival Coordinators at sdf@shumka.com. Any complaints made improperly, or attempts to directly approach the adjudicator, may result in the individual or club being asked to leave the festival.

- At the conclusion of the festival, attendees will receive a link to an evaluation form. We highly encourage everyone to complete this survey, as your feedback is invaluable in helping us enhance the festival experience each year. Instructors, please forward this evaluation form to your club's families.

Performance and Adjudication Rules

- Coaching during performances is strictly prohibited. Violations of this rule will lead to disqualification.

- Cameras and video recording devices are not allowed during performances but are welcome during the medal presentations.

- Dancers are expected to conduct themselves with professionalism and appropriate behavior at all times.

- While festival volunteers will be available to ensure smooth operations, instructors are responsible for preparing their groups and making sure they are ready to perform and proceed to the stage for adjudication.

Music and Technical Requirements

- A stereo system equipped with an auxiliary cord will be provided for use in both backstage rehearsal rooms. Instructors are responsible for managing their own music during rehearsals and performances. Please note that cassette tapes and CDs are not accepted.

- Please communicate any special technical requirements, such as music fades, to the Jubilee backstage music technician before your performance begins.

Props and Stage Setup

- Props can be loaded in directly via the backstage loading dock, or brought in through the front, whatever works best for the instructor.

- Props should be placed on stage before the routine begins and promptly removed afterward. No glitter or paper confetti is permitted. After use, props should be moved to the loading dock area to keep the backstage clear. Props may remain in the dock area during the festival but must be removed by the end of the event.

Backstage and Facilities

- The stage is 48 feet wide by 36 feet deep, featuring a Marley dance floor and a black traveler backdrop.

- Ample, professional dressing rooms are available backstage. A map, indicating the locations of dressing rooms, loading dock, practice rooms, and other key areas, will be sent out before the festival.

- The Green Room, located backstage, will serve as the instructor lounge throughout the festival. Full meals, snacks, and beverages, including coffee, will be provided for all instructors by a catering company. Please check in at the Green Room upon arrival.

Liability and Image Release

- Dance groups will be held accountable for any damages caused by their dancers and will be liable for any associated repair costs.

- By attending the Shumka Dance Festival, all dancers, instructors, and guests consent to the use of their images in festival-related photography and videography for advertising purposes.

FUTURE FESTIVAL DATES

We are excited to share the upcoming dates for future Shumka Dance Festivals:

April 22 – 25, 2027
April 6 – 9, 2028
April 19 – 22, 2029