



Imperial Society of
Teachers of Dancing



Why enter students for ISTD Performance Awards?

Empower your dancers. Celebrate their individuality. Support their growth.

The ISTD Performance Awards offer a flexible, inclusive and inspiring way to recognise and develop performance skills in dancers of all ages and abilities.

What are Performance Awards?

Performance Awards are **non-technical examinations** focused entirely on performance skills. They are designed to:

- Encourage **creativity and self-expression**
- Build **confidence and stage presence**
- Develop **audience awareness and musicality**
- Celebrate **individual artistry** across all dance styles

They are suitable for **any genre**, including ISTD and non-ISTD styles and fusions.



Why should teachers enter students?

1. **Inclusive and accessible**
No prior qualifications are needed. Open to dancers aged **5+**, with no upper age limit.
2. **Flexible and creative**
Teachers can choreograph freely, explore new styles, and tailor dances to suit individual learners.
3. **Supports progression**
With **six progressive stages**, students can build performance skills over time, from foundational confidence to more refined artistry.
4. **Encourages retention and motivation**
Students receive **certificates, badges, and examiner feedback**, helping them feel recognised and inspired to continue dancing.
5. **Easy to integrate**
Awards can be delivered in **person**, via **livestream**, or as **recorded exams** – ideal for mixed exam days or remote learners.
6. **Enhances transferable skills**
Performance Awards help develop discipline, teamwork, resilience, and emotional expression - skills that benefit students beyond the studio.

Entry overview:

- **Categories:** Solo, Duet, Trio, Group
- **Assessment:** Based on 10 performance criteria
- **Result classifications:** Pass, Merit, Distinction
- **Booking platform:** Quest (ISTD members only)

Ideal for:

- Students who may not be ready for technical exams
- Exploring new genres or creative choreography
- Mixed-ability groups and inclusive dance settings
- Building confidence in less experienced dancers



Find out more

Visit istd.org/performanceawards or contact the Examinations Team for guidance and support.

