

IDTA HEARTBEATS

December 2009

Showcase of Stars

This year's Showcase of Stars was a HUGE success! We revamped our program to coincide with the national pageant held in Irvine, California. Some of the changes that occurred were a Friday night master class taught by Thayne Jaspersen from "So You Think You Can Dance?" There was a Saturday morning meet-n-greet breakfast with the Miss Contestants. The miss contestants were judged by Thayne and Kyle Hill who played "Chistry" in Wicked. There was a re-competition of the top 15 contestants. It was a busy but awesome day and we want to thank all competitors, coaches and fans for supporting this event!

Congratulations to the 2009 Showcase of Stars winners....

Miss Dance Drill Team Illinois – Emily Kulacz, Peotone High School

Teen Miss Dance Drill Team Illinois - Lindsey Tucker, Downers Grove North High School

Junior Miss Dance Drill Team Illinois - Carrie Eilerman, Highland Junior High

Solo Flag Illinois - Kathryn Wise, Frankfort High School

Top Illinois Duet - Angie Sabaduquia & Rachel Brewer, Clinton High School

Top Illinois Trio - Madi Laney, Jannah Stone & Emily Wellen, Highland High School

IDTA Regional Contest January 9, 2010

Orella Gansmann: Contest Coordinator

IDTA will be hosting the January 9 Regional Contest at Belleville East High School

When Mascoutah found it would be unable to host their contest due to the construction of the new high school, IDTA tried to find a way to keep that date with a contest in the metro east area. Fortunately, Belleville East offered their facility with IDTA hosting the contest. Belleville East will be involved with the concessions, but other aspects of the contest will be handled by IDTA.

All entries should be sent to:

Orella Gansman
1502 Hampton Ct.
Belleville, IL 62223

Flash Drive Judges Critiques

Don't forget that Switzerfilm will be providing coaches with feedback of the judge's comments simultaneously with the video of the routine at certain contests this year. Below is the list of contests that will provide this service so please remember to bring your own flash drive to the contests listed or if you forget, there will be flash drives available for purchase on the day of the contest.

December 13th - Belleville East

January 9th - Belleville East

January 16th - Edwardsville

January 23rd - Rolling Meadows

January 30th - Clinton

February 13th - Triad

February 20th - Navy Pier (tentative)

February 27th - Highland

February 27th - Downers Grove North

Facebook

Don't forget to request IDTA as your Facebook friend and get minute to minute updates about the organization!

Deadline for Sate Programs is February 1ST, 2010! **Kim Romero**

ATTENTION ALL COACHES!!! In order for your team to be included in the State program you MUST submit your team picture and bio in the following format before February 1st– NO LATE ACCEPTANCES.

Please email bio and photo to kromero@highlandcusd5.org

- team bio must be typed as a Microsoft Word document
- the bio may NOT be more than a 1/2 page long
- use Times font – size 12
- include the following items:
 - School Name
 - Team Name
 - Coaches
 - Captains
 - brief bio
- 5x7 Picture (saved as a JPEG – 300 resolution) **labeled with school name**
NOTE: If the photo has been taken by a professional, you MUST send the picture release

If you have any questions or concerns, email the above address. Any pictures and bios received after February 1st will not be used!

NOMINATIONS AND RESUMES FOR OFFICER POSITIONS DUE JANUARY 31st

The positions that will be vacant for the 2010-2012 term are President, Judging Coordinator, Special Events Coordinators (2) and Southern Board of Director. You may refer to your IDTA Constitution and By-Laws for the description and duties of each position.

Please email your nominations and resumes by January 31, 2010 to Tara Zobrist at tzobrist79@hotmail.com. Resumes should be limited to 200 words or less and written in sentence form, not as a list.

The unofficial ballot (with names and resumes) will appear in the February edition of the HEARTBEATS.

Contest Hosts

In response to some sending me information regarding a specific contest to be posted on the IDTA web site, I would like to explain what was decided by the officers at our last meeting.

Since the web site has been redesigned and we think much more user friendly, we decided not to setup links to individual contest information. The basic information is on the contest schedule along with the host email, etc.

Once a contest's schedule has been set (know some change even after that) that will be included with Cyndi's reminders that she provides before each contest.

Scholarship

IDTA will be awarding multiple scholarships for the 09-10 season that will be presented at our 31st anniversary State contest March 13th, 2010. IDTA encourages and supports the development of performers in their pursuit of academic excellence. To be eligible for this scholarship

- Students must be a member of an IDTA team
- Students must compete with their team at a minimum of two IDTA regional contests
- Applicants must be a graduating senior for 2009-2010
- Seniors must have a grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale or a 4.5 on a 5.0 scale (verification required)

When applying for this scholarship you must include the following information

- Completed Application- (which is found on the IDTA website)
- Two letters of recommendation (one must be from the IDTA coach)
- Essay **two pages** in length, double spaced, 12 point font:
“Describe a performance that has had a great affect on you and why?”
- Official High School Transcript

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

- Scholarship packet must be postmarked by February 15, 2010
- Any incomplete application or failure to meet all requirements will render the applicant ineligible for selection and/or recognition in the state program
- IDTA will offer at least one \$1000.00 scholarship
- IDTA will offer at least one \$750.00 scholarship
- IDTA will offer at least one \$500.00 scholarship

All information regarding scholarship and the application process is located on the website and all applications will be sent to:

Christy Fisher
13180 Prairiegrass Ln.
Breese, IL 62230

Featured Team

Send in your pictures to Christy Fisher so your team can be recognized on the IDTA website. Attach the files as gif. or jpeg. And send them to Christy's email at Christy_fisher@hotmail.com

From the Judging Coordinator . . .

Judging Seminar

The annual training and re-training of the IDTA Judging Team took place November 21-22 in Clinton. Thirty-seven (37) ladies **and** gentleman gathered to learn the IDTA Judging system. Emphasis was placed on the correlation of verbal comments and written scores while focusing on the rubric established on each score sheet.

Sessions included how judges can offer constructive comments of how to better express the vision of the program and how to better improve unity and technique. Execution judges felt it was necessary to re-include a technique rubric on the back of the score sheet. (Cyndi will have this on the website soon.) Head Judges attended a detailed session of safety violations while Head Judge Assistants attended a detailed session on procedures of Ready Line.

Our vision this season is to educate and maintain consistency. We are all in this together – for the performers!

Introducing the 2009-2010 IDTA Judging Team . . .

Head Judges

Jeannine Bukowski
Lynn Gelatka
Cyndi Kraemer
Amanda Massey
Kris Mendoza
Kate Muhlstadt
Summer Riordan
Melanie Sprengel
Christine Taylor

Head Judge Assistants

Jill Bishop
Susan Dierker
Debbie Drake
Sue Kowa
Glenda Michael

Performance Judges – Execution

Jeannine Bukowski
Christy Fisher
Lynn Gelatka
Andrea Hayes
Cyndi Kraemer
Amanda Massey
Kate Muhlstadt
Summer Riordan

Welcoming to Execution

Bekah Bruce
Jessica Denham
Sarah Estes
Tiffany Flint
Jason Flodder
Joan Hamilton
Lyndsey Moore
Dawn Owen
Kazia Skorek
Barbie Tiesma

Performance Judges – General Effect

Amber Bolich
Chris Chiavola
Breeya Cordova
Christy Fisher – yes, she is doing both!
Jenna Frye
Kris Mendoza
Jennifer Mora
LuAnne Navarra
Melanie Sprengel
Christine Taylor

Welcome to General Effect

Yvonne Agnello-Adams
Nicole Emperor
Heather Maines- Smith
Lisa Moore
Stacy Pickens

We will miss several of our judges this season who have welcomed either new babies, new activities, or retirement to their lives. We look forward to seeing you during post-season contests as well as the 2010-2011 season!!

A Few Tips from the Judges for Strong Competition Routines . . .

- **Pom Category** – To create a strong routine, avoid repetitive arm motions, incorporate different body planes, highlight the pom during transitional moves, incorporate color contrasts/effects/layering, and avoid using the poms as an extension of the arm that creates no visual effect.
- **Pom/Dance Category** – To create a strong routine, avoid separating the dance and pom motions. Instead, attempt to create an equal blend of dance elements with creative pom effect – **simultaneously!**
- **Jazz Category** – To create a strong routine, attempt continuity within the style of dance chosen, attempt a continuous level of dance sequencing/phrasing throughout the routine, and incorporate the dance phrases in transitional moves. Remember, this should be a jazz style of dance.
- **Hip-Hop Category** – To create a strong routine, utilize upper and lower body movements at the same time, incorporate different body planes, avoid repetition of similar dance movements, and recognize the various beats within the song (musicality).
- **Contemporary/Lyrical/Modern Category** – To create a strong routine, emphasize the emotional connection among the performers and with the audience. This category is not just about modern/slow-style movements, it is about creating a routine that emphasizes the emotions/lyrics of the music. Remember to use key words of the music to help express the story line.
- **Kick Category** – To create a strong routine, avoid repetition of kicks/preps/heights/ landings, provide a design or effect with the direction of the kicks, use the kicks to pick up on the musicality, and avoid having more dance than kick. Being able to incorporate kicks while transitioning is also quite effective. Keep in mind that it is more difficult and more effective to strive for high kicks while maintaining a constant team height.

- **Musical Theater** – To create a strong routine, emphasize the **character** throughout the performance. Strive for a well-built outline with creative and memorable dance sequences. Attempt complete continuity within the style of dance / character selected.
- **Tall and Short Flag Category** – To design a strong tall **or** short flag routine, use a variety of flag work and manipulation to create different effects. Avoid repetitive motions. Manipulate the flag in multiple directions, incorporate different body planes, and include lower body movements while manipulating the flag. The flag should be the focus of interest during transitional moves. Flags are the “hero” of the routine – they should be in continuous motion.
- **Lyrical Flag Category** – To create a strong lyrical flag routine, emphasize the strong emotional connection among the performers and with the audience. This category is not just about modern/slow-style flag/dance movements, it is about creating a routine that emphasizes the emotions/lyrics of the music. Remember to use key words of the music to help express the story line. Even though teams may use tall **and** short flags, the tall flag must be used 75% of the length of the routine.
- **Color Guard Category** – To create a strong color guard routine, use a variety of equipment work and manipulation to create different effects. Avoid repetitive motions. Manipulate the equipment in multiple directions, incorporate different body planes, and include lower body movements while manipulating the equipment. The equipment should be the focus of interest during transitional moves. The equipment is the “hero” of the routine – it should be in continuous motion. Make sure that each piece of equipment has a purpose!
- **Tall Flag Show Category** – To create a strong tall flag show, strive for a showcase of flag/equipment use and not just a routine. Attempt the same level of achievements as tall flag with the possibility of using props, sabers, and rifles. Use a variety of flag work and manipulation to create different effects. Avoid repetitive motions. Manipulate the equipment in multiple directions, incorporate different body planes, and include lower body movements while manipulating the equipment. The equipment should be the focus of interest during transitional moves. The equipment is the “hero” of the routine – they should be in continuous motion. Even though teams may use multiple pieces of equipment, the tall flag must be used 75% of the length of the routine.
- **Steppers Category** – To create a strong steppers routine, avoid repetitive motions, incorporate different body planes, incorporate variety in tempos, manipulate props to create a variety of rhythmic effect, strive for triad (manipulation of formations while executing step sequencing and the use of props).
- **Solo Category** - To create a strong solo routine, stay true to the chosen style of dance. Be creative and original, attempt a continuous level of dance sequencing/phrasing throughout the routine, and incorporate the dance phrases in transitional moves. Avoid repetitive movements, incorporate different body planes, and use the entire “stage” (including the floor). Use ambidexterity (both sides of the body) with dance skills/phrases, and recognize the various beats within the song (musicality). Strive for professionalism with audience appeal and confidence. Attire/hairstyle should be appropriate and complimentary to routine.

Ready Line

- Performance Shoes - Dance, drill, and pom teams must wear athletic shoes or appropriate dance shoes that cover the toes and entire sole of the foot. The exception is to **allow** “Pedini-style dance shoes or others with heels of sufficient height to raise the bottom of the foot off the floor” to prevent injury and disease.
- Soft fabric chokers may be worn. These may have any type of clasp.
- Belts / Suspenders – do NOT need to be attached to costume. If teams choose to accessorize, they assume the risk that is involved. Costume accessories may fall off the performer ~ if this happens, pick it up, and keep on performing – just don’t step on or kick it!!
- As for tattoos . . . although the NHFS no longer has a statement regarding tattoos, IDTA judges still recommend that these be covered. This will bring more uniformity to your team’s appearance!!
- Fingernail Polish - Neither IDTA nor IHSA/NFHS prohibits the use of fingernail polish or acrylic nails. However, nail length must be short and near the ends of the fingers. Just like uniforms and hair style, nail polish (or the lack thereof) should be the same. A team should strive for uniformity!
- Suggestion . . . conduct a “mock” ready line check before leaving your dressing area!! This may ease the tension before “judging” occurs!!

Questions Regarding Safety of Moves or Appropriateness of Song Lyrics

I would encourage all coaches to send photos, videos, and/or, printed lyrics to me early!! Should a move be considered illegal, your team will have sufficient time to adjust the choreography. You can send a photo or video directly to my phone. Just contact me at kraemer65@aol.com and I will share with you the number. If you are unsure about the appropriateness of

a song, please send me the lyrics, and I will give a ruling in enough time for your team to make adjustments! Don't just be wary of the more recent songs, either!!

Choreography

As your competition routines are being choreographed, be cautious of moves that might be inappropriate for junior high or high school students. Be creative and original and appropriate!!

Coaches' Forums

If you have not viewed the on-line Coaches Forum presentation and taken the assessment, you will not be able to compete in IDTA post-season contests. Each team from a school must complete this process. You will receive a confirmation of completion from Cyndi within a few days.

Questions???

You are welcome to contact Cyndi, ckraemer65@aol.com, with any and as many questions regarding anything. However, please make sure that you have done some research before hand – you would ask the same of the students in your classroom!