WELCOME

Immerse
Artists Experience



MEREDITH
PENNINGTON
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

Welcome to Immerse Artists Experience. We are truly honored that you have chosen to be part of this experience and entrusted us with an important part of your artistic journey. Whether this is your first year attending or you are returning to continue your growth with us, we are thrilled to welcome you into the IAX community.

As America's Premier One-Day Dance Convention, Immerse Artists Experience was created to provide dancers with more than exceptional training. Our mission is to create meaningful opportunities for dancers to learn, connect, and grow in a positive and encouraging environment.

Our motto, ***CONNECT. EXPLORE. THRIVE.***, is at the heart of everything we do.

- ***CONNECT*** with world-class faculty and fellow dancers who share your passion, dedication, and ambition.
- ***EXPLORE*** new styles, new challenges, and new possibilities within your artistry and personal development.
- ***THRIVE*** in an uplifting atmosphere that encourages confidence, discipline, individuality, and excellence both on and off the dance floor.

Throughout the day, dancers will train with elite faculty, connect with other passionate artists, and be encouraged to step outside their comfort zones in a supportive and motivating environment. Every detail of this event has been thoughtfully planned to create an organized, professional, and memorable experience for every attendee.

Inside this welcome packet, you will find everything you need to prepare for an incredible day, including the class schedule, location details, important expectations, lunch break information, and helpful reminders to ensure you make the most of every moment.

If you have any questions, we are happy to help. Account holders may contact our office directly. Dancers and families registered through a studio should contact their studio owner for assistance and communication regarding the event.

Most importantly, we hope you leave feeling encouraged, motivated, and proud of what you accomplished throughout the day.

Thank you for being part of the Immerse Artists Experience family. We look forward to welcoming you for an unforgettable day filled with dance, connection, and inspiration.

With gratitude,
The IAX Team


SETH


SOLACE


RICHARD


MELISSA


JUSTIN


CEDRIC


COLE


RICHY


OLIVIA


WILLIAM


HANNAH


SHELBY

VENUE

GATEWAY CONVENTION CENTER
One Gateway Drive
Collinsville, Illinois 62234
618.345.8998

www.iaxdance.com

WELCOME TO IMMERSE ARTISTS EXPERIENCE!

We are thrilled to welcome you to Immerse Artists Experience in **ST. LOUIS (Collinsville)**! Our entire faculty and staff are truly honored that you have chosen to join us. Get ready for a day filled with dynamic, engaging classes and an unmatched IAX vibe!

Throughout the day, you can expect positive energy, incredible choreography, interactive technique sessions, and an encouraging atmosphere. To make the most of your experience, please review this welcome packet in advance. It contains all the essential details for your IAX event. Being prepared in advance will allow you to relax, enjoy the day, and make the most of everything IAX has to offer.

Thank you for choosing IMMERSE (IAX) and WELCOME!

REGISTRATION

Doors open at 7:00 AM. We kindly ask that attendees do not arrive earlier than 7:00 AM. Check-in will take place in our lobby near the IAX Pop-Up Shop on **Sunday morning from 7:00–7:20 AM**.

We ask that **one representative per account** visit the registration table to receive dancer ID numbers and wristbands. Wristbands are for studio owners, teachers, and observers only. Each dancer's name will be on the back of their number. Account holders will receive their registered attendee list via email before the event; **no printed list will be provided onsite**.

Dancers registered through their studio **do not need to visit the check-in table**. Instead, they should check in with their studio owner, teacher, or assigned studio representative. We recommend studios designate a meeting time and place in advance to distribute wristbands and numbers. **Dancers should bring safety pins** to attach their numbers.

Please note: Immerse Artists Experience hosts **private events**. Everyone in attendance — including dancers, teachers, studio owners, studio representatives, and observers — must be registered and agree to the terms and conditions found on our website and in our waiver.

WAIVERS

All attendees (dancers, teachers, studio owners, studio representatives, observers, etc.) are required to electronically sign the **"Release and Waiver of Liability and Use of Likeness Agreement"** before the event. *Studio owners cannot sign waivers on behalf of students, teachers, or observers. Each waiver requires an individual email address as the legal identifier.*

Waivers are due by the Wednesday before your event. To preview the waiver, visit: iaxdance.com/tour/waiver/

A waiver link will be emailed to the **account holder from Dance Bug Support** two weeks before the event. The account holder is responsible for forwarding the link to all registered attendees. The process is simple and quick.

A **signed electronic waiver is required** to receive wristbands and enter the event. **Please do not print, email, or bring a paper waiver to the event.** All waivers must be electronically signed through the **Dance Bug link** by the deadline.
event. All waivers must be electronically signed through the Dance Bug link by the deadline date.

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WRISTBANDS

All **observers and studio staff** registered to attend will receive a wristband. Wristbands must be worn and **visible at all times** during the event.

Parent/guardian observers may only enter their dancer's **designated ballroom** during classes. Rooms will be routinely checked to ensure dancer safety. Anyone **without a wristband** will be kindly asked to leave the room.

Observer wristbands will only be available for purchase at the event for $50, **if space allows**. To purchase one, the buyer will be asked security questions and must sign a waiver. **Dancers must wear their number at all times.** This serves as their pass into the ballroom.

WRISTBAND COLOR CODE

Black wristbands will be issued to studio owners and teachers, while blue wristbands will be given to observers.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Dancers are expected to be kind, supportive, respectful, and on time. They should demonstrate strong work ethic and good sportsmanship throughout the event. It is our goal for everyone to have fun, grow, and make friends in a positive and uplifting environment.

It is expected that all observers will be respectful and courteous at all times. Please refrain from talking during classes or causing any disruptions. Observers should find a chair and remain seated during all class sessions. ***Sitting on the floor is not permitted.***

Although we discourage young siblings from attending as observers, we understand that it may sometimes be necessary. **Wristbands will be required for young siblings if they occupy a chair.** Like all observers, **young siblings may not sit on the floor**, and **spreading out blankets or creating floor setups is not allowed**. All attendees must remain seated in chairs during classes. If a young sibling becomes restless or disruptive, we kindly ask that you step into the lobby to help maintain a focused and respectful environment for the dancers.

DANCERS, PLEASE DO NOT PLACE PERSONAL ITEMS IN THE CHAIRS. ALL CHAIRS ARE RESERVED FOR REGISTERED OBSERVERS. If chairs have not been placed along an air wall, this indicates that **personal items should not be stored in that area.**

CHANGING AGE DIVISIONS / REGISTRATION UPDATES

Please take a moment to review your registration, including age divisions, to ensure all information is correct. Any changes or corrections must be submitted no later than one week before the event. Changes cannot be made during the week of the event. If a dancer needs to be moved to a different level on the day of the event, the request must come directly from the studio owner and must be made by the second class of the day. Level changes are only possible if space allows. No adjustments can be made to rooms that are sold out.

FOOD AND DRINK POLICY

Immerse Artists Experience does not provide food or beverages. All attendees are responsible for bringing their own water bottles and purchasing their own lunch. Please note that, in accordance with venue regulations, food, sports drinks, and sodas are not allowed inside the ballrooms at any time. Only water is permitted.

www.IAXdance.com

CONCESSIONS / LUNCH INFORMATION

Concessions will be available for purchase at the Gateway Convention Center between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM, located in the lobby. Observers are encouraged to purchase lunch for their dancers before classes are dismissed. Please note that cash and credit cards are accepted forms of payment.

Dancers may bring their own lunch as this venue does allow outside food.

GATEWAY CONVENTION CENTER CONCESSIONS

$2 - Granola Bars, Danish, Candy Bars, Cookie, Chips:
$4 - Fruit and Yogurt Parfait, Popcorn, Pizza (per slice), fries;
$6 - Pretzel with Cheese Sauce, Chicken Tenders, All Beef Hot Dog;
$8 - Hamburger, Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Nachos Supreme;
$5 - Four Cheese Toasted Ravioli, Chicken Mini Tacos, Pretzel;
$3 - Drinks (water, tea, soda, power aid, small coffee);
$5 - Drinks (large coffee).

Chick-fil-A sandwiches ($8) and Chicken Salad Chick Classic Carol croissant sandwiches ($7) will be available for purchase while supplies last.

PARKING

Parking at the Gateway Convention Center is free.

PHOTO / VIDEO POLICY

For the safety of our dancers, the protection of faculty choreography, and to minimize distractions, **photography and video recording by attendees is strictly prohibited in all classes**, regardless of device type (including cell phones and cameras). This policy will be **actively enforced**. Our faculty and staff reserve the right to remove anyone found recording or taking photos without permission — **no refunds or credits will be issued**.

Attendee photography is permitted only during **scholarship announcements**. If an instructor chooses to allow video recording during class, they will announce it at the appropriate time. Please note that **photos with faculty will not be available after class**, as they are on a tight schedule. Opportunities to take **photos with faculty will be offered during the lunch break and after the event**.

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY – ONLY $7

To ensure a safe, stress-free, and professional environment, a **professional photographer** will be onsite to capture event moments and memories. Photos will be available for preview and purchase by clicking the **PHOTO** link on our website. These high-quality photos are available for **just $7 each**. Please allow up to two weeks for photos to be uploaded and made available online.

Each city's photo gallery is password protected. Please contact your studio owner or account holder for the password. The password was provided in your city's Event Information email.

PROFESSIONAL VIDEO EDITS – ONLY $20

See a class video or city recap on our social media and love it? Professional video edits are available for purchase! If you would like to purchase a class or recap video featured on our **YouTube, Instagram, or Facebook**, please email your request to: info@iaxdance.com

Videos are priced at **$20 each**. Once payment is received, the edited video will be emailed directly to you.

MINI BREAK

We recognize that younger dancers have different needs than older, more experienced attendees. Mini dancers will begin class at **8:15 AM**, allowing extra time for teachers and parents to settle them in.

There will be a 15-minute break for Mini dancers after the second class. This gives them time for a snack and restroom break. Studio owners are strongly encouraged to coordinate plans with their dancers in advance, as parents and teachers are responsible for their dancers during this time.

Older and more experienced attendees are trusted to manage breaks and personal needs responsibly throughout the event.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Our distinguished Immerse Artists Experience faculty will be awarding a variety of scholarships throughout the event. These may include:

- **IAX Elite** – Full scholarship for all cities during the current and following season, including the opportunity to assist
- **Outstanding Artist** – $75 scholarship for one city during the following season
- **Captivating Artist** – $50 scholarship for one city during the following season

Additional scholarships may also be awarded for the **San Francisco Tap Festival**, **TMilly**, **Broadway Dance Center**, **Millennium Dance Complex – Nashville**, **Performer's Edge Coaching**, **AOM,** and **Jo+Jax**.

The faculty will determine **which scholarships** and **how many** are awarded at each city. This will vary by location, and all scholarship decisions are final. Scholarships are **non-transferable**, have an **expiration date**, and **cannot be redeemed for cash**.

For more details, please visit: iaxdance.com/scholarships/

Studio Owners: Be sure to visit **iaxdance.com/special-offers/** for exclusive offers just for you!

www.IAXdance.com

FIRST AID

Basic first aid supplies — including band-aids, antibacterial cream, and ice packs — will be available at the **IAX Pop-Up Shop**. For serious injuries requiring medical attention, please call **911** immediately and notify the nearest Immerse representative.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget to **subscribe** to our YouTube channel, **like** our Facebook page, and **follow** us on Instagram, Threads, and TikTok! If you haven't already, sign up for updates at the bottom of our homepage: **IAXdance.com**.

MERCHANDISE

Be sure to check out all the latest IAX gear! We have t-shirts, hoodies, sleeveless hoodies, crewneck sweatshirts, shorts, sweatpants, beanies, belt bags, and socks available for purchase. Both **credit cards and cash** are accepted. Prices range from **$15 to $65**.

GENERAL GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

All general event guidelines and policies can be found on our website at **IAXdance.com** under the **INFO & FEES** section. To access this, hover over the **TOUR** tab and select **Info & Fees** from the dropdown menu.

For event-specific details, navigate to the **ST. LOUIS** page.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CONNECTIONS

We are excited to offer a meaningful connection between college and university dance programs and teams and the talented high school dancers attending IAX. This season, we will welcome **at least one college or university representative to your city** to observe our Senior Division classes and connect with dancers who may be interested in continuing their dance education at the collegiate level.

This opportunity is **completely free for both dancers and participating college and university programs**, and we are proud to create this connection and hope to grow the program each year, providing even more opportunities for dancers to discover programs, make connections, and explore their future in dance.

Q&A WITH SETH: PLANNING FOR YOUR DANCER'S FUTURE

Join Seth for an informal **30-minute parent Q&A session** focused on helping families better understand the opportunities and next steps available to their dancer. This open conversation is for **parents/legal guardians of dancers ages 15 and older, teachers, and studio owners** and will cover the different types of schools and programs dancers may consider, including **colleges, universities, conservatories, and performing arts schools**, as well as what it takes to pursue a professional career and what dancers and families can expect when entering the professional world. Come with your questions and leave with greater insight into the possibilities ahead.

Meet at the Pop-Up Shop immediately following the lunch break at 12:30 to participate.

2027 ST. LOUIS DATE AND LOCATION

We are thrilled to be returning to **St. Louis (Collinsville) next fall**! We will return to the Gateway Convention Center on November 7, 2027. Thank you for your tremendous support. We are honored to serve you this season and for many seasons to come. We're excited to continue growing alongside you in **St. Louis (Collinsville)**.

EARLY RESERVATIONS FOR THE 2027 SEASON

Early reservations will run from May 1 through June 15.

Studio Owners: If you plan to make IAX part of your studio's required dance experiences next year, we encourage you to take advantage of this program by reserving your studio's spots with a **$300 deposit**. If you're unfamiliar with how our early reservation program works, please contact our office for more information.

Early reservations are available **only to studios attending as a group**, not for independent registrations.

Please note: **An early reservation is not required** to register or attend the event. **General registration opens July 1.**

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? WE ARE HAPPY TO HELP!

If you are registered through a studio, **please direct all questions to your studio owner**. While we deeply value every dancer and their family, our office is unable to accommodate individual calls from parents due to time constraints. Thank you for your understanding.

Studio Owners: If you have any questions, or receive questions from your families, please contact us directly. We're happy to assist you and support your families through you.

IMMERSE ARTISTS EXPERIENCE

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ST. LOUIS / COLLINSVILLE 2026 CLASS SCHEDULE

7:00am - 7:30am	REGISTRATION AND CHECK IN (1 representative per account please)

IAX POP UP SHOP WILL BE OPEN 7:00am - 4:30p

FACULTY INTRODUCTION AND WARM UP

MINI WARM UP - 8:00am in the Mini Room	**JUNIOR WARM UP - 7:45am in the Junior Room**
TEEN WARM UP - 7:45am in the Teen Room	**SENIOR WARM UP - 7:45am in the Senior Room**

CLASS SCHEDULE

TIME	SENIORS	TIME	TEENS	TIME	JUNIORS	TIME	MINIS
8:00 - 8:55	MUSICAL THEATRE - SETH	8:00 - 8:55	IMPROV - SOLACE	8:00 - 8:55	TECHNIQUE - RICHARD	8:05 - 9:15	8:05 Q&A with Meredith 8:15 HIP HOP - CEDRIC
8:55 - 9:50	TAP-MELISSA	8:55 - 9:50	MUSICAL THEATRE - SETH	8:55 - 9:50	IMPROV - SOLACE	9:15 - 10:15	TECHNIQUE - RICHARD
9:50 - 10:45	HIP HOP - CEDRIC	9:50 - 10:45	JAZZ - HANNAH	9:50 - 10:45	TAP-MELISSA	10:15 -10:30	BREAK
10:45 -11:40	IMPROV - SOLACE	10:45 -11:40	TECHNIQUE - RICHARD	10:45 -11:35	MUSICAL THEATRE - SETH	10:30 -11:30	CONTEMPORARY - OLIVIA
11:40 -12:30	LUNCH	11:40 -12:30	LUNCH	11:35 -12:30	LUNCH	11:30 -12:30	LUNCH
12:30 - 1:30	TECHNIQUE - RICHARD	12:30 - 1:30	TAP - MELISSA	12:30 - 1:30	CONTEMPORARY - OLIVIA	12:30 -1:30	JAZZ - HANNAH
1:30 - 2:30	JAZZ - HANNAH	1:30 - 2:30	CONTEMPORARY - OLIVIA	1:30 - 2:30	HIP HOP - CEDRIC	1:30 - 2:30	IMPROV - SOLACE
2:30 - 3:30	CONTEMPORARY - OLIVIA	2:30 - 3:30	HIP HOP - CEDRIC	2:30 - 3:30	JAZZ - HANNAH	2:30 - 3:30	TAP-MELISSA

3:30 SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

12:30 - 1:00 Optional Senior Division Parent/Legal Guardian, Teacher, Studio Owner “Planning for your Dancer’s Future” Q&A with Seth (meet at the Pop-Up Shop)

3:30 ALL DANCERS AND FACULTY - TEEN/SENIOR ROOM (air wall opens)

ST. LOUIS / COLLINSVILLE FACULTY

Cedric Botelho
Hannah Douglass
Melissa Tannús
Olivia Alboher
Richard Elszy
Seth Stewart
Solace
Read their bios at IAXdance.com/faculty/

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IMMERSE
ARTISTS EXPERIENCE

We sincerely appreciate your support of Immerse Artists Experience and are so excited to welcome you to **America's Premier One-Day Dance Convention!**

We hope you have an incredible day with us filled with exceptional training, new connections, inspiration, and opportunities to grow.

Be sure to mark your calendar for next year as we celebrate **Season 9 of Immerse Artists Experience!**

ST. LOUIS (Collinsville) • NOVEMBER 7, 2027

Thank you for being part of the IAX. We look forward to seeing you soon!