

Artspectrum  
52 Monterey Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48203-2590

Dear Competitor,

Thank you for your interest in competing at The American Lindy Hop Championships (ALHC) this year. This year we look forward to an exciting and entertaining convention. Following this letter you will find:

- a Competition Entry/Waiver Form
- General rules
- Rules for each division

Please read the entire application including the rules, glossary and waiver. Several of the rules have changed. Choose your division(s) carefully. For example, entering Open Showcase does not necessarily mean that you are doing dips, tricks and/or air steps. After you have read the rules and waiver complete the **Competition Entry Form**. Be sure to sign and date the waiver. If, for whatever reason, you compete and have not completed the waiver you will be deemed not to have danced and your placement will be irrevocably lost. So be sure to complete the waiver.

Entries with more than two contestants must complete the **Additional Contestants** sheet being sure to include the signatures of each contestant.

All contestants are required to purchase a weekend pass at the time the application is submitted. All entry fee(s) must be included with your signed application. Applications must be received no later than October 13, 2003. Once completed please mail them to: Artspectrum, Attention: ALHC, 52 Monterey Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48203-3590. Submitting this form does not guarantee your entrance into the division. Most of the divisions have entry limits. Therefore until your application has been received and confirmed you have not been admitted. Contestants will receive an email confirmation when entry forms have been processed. Submitting forms early is a good idea.

These forms may not be use to register for any of the levels Jack and Jill. Registration for those divisions may only be made on the day it is scheduled to take place. Look for deadlines in the ALHC program.

Competitors' meetings will be scheduled over the course of the weekend. Attendance is mandatory by at least one member of the performance team. The drawing for dance position for each division will be done at the meeting just prior to your division. All forms must be turned in by this time. These forms will be used to begin the drawing. You must, also, give your music to the Stage Manager.

Thank you again for your interest in ALHC. We look forward to seeing your at this year's event. Please free to call (800-647-9464, 313-790-2311) or email [info@artspectrum.org](mailto:info@artspectrum.org) any questions you might have after reading the rules and forms.

Paulette Brockington  
Event Director

### The American Lindy Hop Championships Competition Entry Form

Please indicate the category you wish to enter:  Showtime Not At The Apollo  Champions' Strictly (by invite only)  
 American Showcase  Blues  Cabaret  Classic  Fast Dance  Junior  
 Masters  Open Showcase  Pro/Am  Strictly Lindy  Team  Hip Hop Lindy

Please print legibly.

Dancer 1  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Now below write your name phonetically or use rhyming words.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone (with area code) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work phone (with area code) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Juniors please complete: Your age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's contact info \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please print exactly how you want your name listed in print.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer 2  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Now below write your name phonetically or use rhyming words.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone (with area code) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work phone (with area code) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Juniors please complete: Your age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's contact info \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please print exactly how you want your name listed in print.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Group entries must complete the above information for all contestants on the separate **Additional Contestants Form**.

Please read the following waiver carefully. No application will be accepted without the signature of all competitors. An additional form is provided for entries with more than two participants.

#### WAIVER

I understand that Artspectrum/The American Lindy Hop Championships (ALHC) intends to record my participation in the events/competitions on videotape, film and in photographs. I expressly grant ALHC the unlimited right and authority to use any such recording in any and all media by whatever ways or means with no obligation to me. Such recordings are the sole property of ALHC. On behalf of my heirs, I agree to forego, and expressly waive and release any and all rights for damages that I or my heirs might have against ALHC or its agents for any and all injuries and damages I might suffer by participating in the contest or in traveling to and from its location.

I have read all the rules contained in this application and the above waiver, fully understand them, and agree to comply with their contents.

Signature Dancer 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Dancer 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

I purchased my weekend pass(es) through  studio  club  mailing  email

Indicate name of studio or club here: \_\_\_\_\_

I purchased my weekend pass online; or,

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ 3-day weekend pass(es) at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per pass. (Note: Juniors receive \$10.00 off the weekend pass.)

I want to add \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday night pass(es) at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per pass.

Enclosed find my check or money order in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please charge my credit card.  Discover Card  Visa  Master Card  American Express

CC# \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Print name as it appears on your card. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

### AMERICAN LINDY HOP CHAMPIONSHIPS ADDITIONAL CONTESTANTS FORM

Please **PRINT** all applicable information. The cutoff date for receipt of your application is based on the date of final receipt of all necessary information. Group entries must include information on the additional contestants and provide their signatures below. You may photocopy this form as needed to complete your group entry.

Please indicate which Division(s) you wish to enter:    Cabaret       Team

In the event that your team or group places in one of the above divisions to whom should your check be issued?

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#### WAIVER

I understand that Artspectrum/The American Lindy Hop Championships (ALHC) intends to record my participation in the events/competitions on videotape, film and in photographs. I expressly grant ALHC the unlimited right and authority to use any such recording in any and all media by whatever ways or means with no obligation to me. Such recordings are the sole property of ALHC. On behalf of my heirs, I agree to forego, and expressly waive and release any and all rights for damages that I or my heirs might have against ALHC or its agents for any and all injuries and damages I might suffer by participating in the contest or in traveling to and from its location.

I have read all the rules contained in this application and the above waiver, fully understand them, and agree to comply with their contents.

**Dancer 3 :** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Dancer 4 :** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Dancer 5 :** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Dancer 6 :** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Dancer 7:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Dancer 8:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Dancer 9 :** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Dancer 10 :** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPETITION RULES

### GENERAL RULES

**ENTRY** All divisions, except CABARET and TEAM, are open only to a couple consisting of one male and one female dancer. Contestants competing as a couple may, therefore, compete in only one of the following: AMERICAN SHOWCASE, CLASSIC, OPEN SHOWCASE, STRICTLY LINDY, HIP HOP LINDY, JUNIOR, CHAMPIONS' STRICTLY LINDY or PRO/AM. Contestants entering one of the above divisions may also enter CABARET or TEAM. Please note that a couple may not enter more than two divisions unless are participating in the Cabaret or Team divisions. Select your best choice for a competitive division.

Individuals entering a couple's division listed above may enter additional divisions with a different partner. Once a division has filled couples may be wait-listed by request for their first choice for a division. In addition individuals are limited to appearances in a maximum of 4 couple divisions.

Contestants entering either AMERICAN SHOWCASE, CLASSIC, OPEN SHOWCASE, STRICTLY LINDY or BLUES must be a minimum of eighteen years of age by the date of the competition unless otherwise noted. Contestants in TEAM, CABARET, PRO/AM or one of the JACK & JILL contest must be a minimum of thirteen years of age by the date of the competition. OPEN JACK & JILL is open to all competitors regardless of age who have entered any and all divisions. Jack and Jill competitors may register themselves only at the event on a first come first served basis. The order of appearance for each entry for all divisions will be selected at random. The drawing will take place at the competitors' meeting. Should you miss a competitors' meeting your space may be irrevocably lost. Contestants failing to appear on the floor when their names are called during the competition will be scratched from the judges sheets. Finals may be held in any division, if required, due to the number of entries at the discretion of the judges. Any changes regarding finals will be announced at the competitors' meeting. All divisions must have a minimum of five entries for it to run and/or award prize monies.

**MUSIC** Contestants in divisions other than STRICTLY LINDY, the JACK & JILL divisions and the AMERICAN SHOWCASE are responsible for their own music. Music that makes use of more than one tempo is permissible. Heavy metal and hard rock music are prohibited as choices. Select the music to which you will dance. Turn it in at the competitors' meeting. All music must be on CD. CDs should be labeled with the contestants' names and division. We suggest you prepare copies at different speeds to appropriately compensate for any speed changes resultant of the equipment or power supply. Every effort will be made to allow contestants to test their music on the equipment which will be used during the actual competition. You are responsible for your music. You must pick up your CD at the conclusion of your division, or at the end of the event, from the Stage Manager. ALHC is not responsible for returning your music.

**TIME LIMIT** Couple division entries will be allowed a minimum of two (2) minutes and a maximum of three (3) minutes. Please time your performance accordingly. There will be no time warning. There will be a penalty for a time

violation. STRICTLY LINDY, TEAM, AMERICAN SHOWCASE, CABARET, FAST DANCE and JACK & JILL time limits are different -- see Division Definitions for applicable time limits.

**RESTARTS** No restart will be allowed for a contestant who is dissatisfied with his/her music, timing or performance. A music system break down, a broken shoe strap, broken heel, torn dress strap, and like objective problems may justify a restart. Whether a restart will be allowed will be determined by the Chief Judge.

**COSTUMES** Costumes are not mandatory. However, appropriate attire and/or costumes may enhance your performance. Appropriate attire does not include jeans or sweat clothes.

**RULES VIOLATIONS** An infraction of the rules may cause loss of placement. In severe cases the violation(s) may cause disqualification.

**COMPETITORS' MEETINGS** All competitors are required to attend the meeting which precedes their division as follows: Thursday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 pm, Friday, Oct. 24 at 5 pm, Saturday, Oct. 25 at 12:00 pm.

### JUDGING GUIDELINES

**JUDGES DECISIONS** Judges decisions are final. Protests will not be allowed.

**SCORING** Most judging panels have seven judges. The first contestant having a majority of first place markings is assigned first place. If the above criteria is not met first place will be determined by relative placement. In the event of a three-three tie the chief judge's marking will be used as the tie-breaker.

The following are fundamental factors of dancing on which all competitors will be judged:

- VARIETY & CHOREOGRAPHY** You are evaluated on what you do, whether choreographed or spontaneous. This means: how the dance is arranged to the music starting with your entrance, moving into the body of the number, concluding with your exit or ending; musical interpretation; variety; contrast of rhythms; and style with a variance in difficulty. Longer is not necessarily better. Keep things short and sweet.
- EXECUTION & TEAMWORK** The judges look at how well you do what you do: flow; partner interaction; smooth transition from one pattern to another; using good styling, body, hand and footwork.
- PROJECTION & SHOWMANSHIP** That extra quality which holds the audience's attention. The polish, extra degree of professionalism or flair.
- DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY** Above the norm: Your execution of very difficult movements and steps requiring intricate and agile moves.
- TIMING & BASIC RHYTHM** Timing is everything: Timing is the identifiable link between the dancer and the music. Dancing in time with the music, remaining in time throughout the performance and how well the dancers relate to the variety of rhythm and tempo changes is essential.
- LINDY CONTENT** Please take into account when designing your dances that at this competition Balboa and Collegiate/Vintage Shag are not considered swing dances. Therefore their figures are excluded when determining Lindy content percentages.

**COMPETITION DEFINITIONS** Please note: Terms that are used in the following section are understood by ALHC to mean:

**Lindy Hop** is a couple's dance that has an eight count basic interspersed with six count steps and amalgamations from ten to twenty counts or more.

**Acrobatics** require a person to use one's own momentum to perform a stunt while maintaining some kind of contact with the floor.

**Aerials** require a person to use their own momentum to perform a trick or stunt in the air. It is not aided by a partner.

**Air Steps** are partnered tricks or stunts involving momentum that cannot be performed without a partner.

**Drops** occur when one partner's head is lowered below the waistline of his/her partner. A drop may be assisted or unassisted. Assisted means the performer requires his/her partner's help during the descent or ascent. Unassisted means the performer supports his/her own body weight.

**Lifts** require one to remove their partner's feet from the floor whether slightly, knee level, waist level or overhead.

## DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

**CLASSIC** Lifts and air steps are not allowed. The emphasis is on footwork, arm work, team work, style and timing rather than on acrobatics. A couple may make separate entrances/exits, but must join together within sixty-four (64) beats of their entrance. Time and judging starts at the first movement of the performance with or without music. Once contact is made they must keep it except on spins and turns. Both dancers must keep one foot on the floor at all times. Side by side and/or Swing Era jazz steps are permissible for a total/ maximum of sixty-four (64) beats within the dance, contact need not be maintained. This does not include the entrance. A minimum of eighty percent (80%) recognizable Lindy is required. Twelve (12) couples may compete in this division.

**OPEN SHOWCASE** A minimum of sixty percent (60%) recognizable Lindy is required. Spins, lifts, drops, air steps, aerials, Shag, Balboa, side by side routines and other interpolations are all allowed., but may not constitute more than forty percent (40%) of the routine. Twelve (12) couples may compete in this division.

**STRICTLY LINDY** This division encourages couples to get on the floor and dance as they would in any social setting. Music is selected by ALHC. The emphasis is on footwork and dancing ability, not tricks. Choreography and costumes are not allowed. Lifts and air steps are not allowed. Drops and short breakaways are allowed. A minimum of eighty percent (80%) recognizable Lindy is required. The division will be run in three heats of six couples each. Each couple will dance for forty-five (45) seconds individually, then all five will dance for one and one-half (1 ½) minutes. All couples who have danced may be asked to dance in a final heat if deemed necessary by the Judges. A limit of eighteen (18) couples will be permitted to compete in this division age 17 and older.

**TEAM** A Team must have a minimum of eight (8) dancers. The team may consist of any combination of genders. A minimum of sixty percent (60%) recognizable swing dancing is required. Spins, lifts, drops, air steps, acrobatics and side by side routines are allowed. Team formations are emphasized. However heavy metal and jazz music not in the swing idiom are not allowed. Teams dance for a minimum of three (3) minutes and a maximum of four (4) minutes. Individuals may compete on no more than two teams. Ten (10) entries are allowed in this division.

**CABARET** This division is open to any style of dancing. Entrants may consist of an individual, a couple, a team, or a group consisting of any combination of genders. Couples consisting of a male and female partner are prohibited from performing a swing routine. There are no other restrictions as to content, but all dancers must have total involvement in the choreography. Music that uses more than one tempo is permissible. Any combination or style of aerials, lifts or drops are allowed. Dancers have a two (2) minute minimum and a four (4) minute maximum. Remember less is more. A limit of fifteen (15) entries will be allowed in this division.

**PRO/AM** Couples must consist of one professional and one amateur. For this competition a professional is defined as a dancer who is either a full-time teacher, teaches on the national swing circuit, has won a major competition, or is generally recognized as a national level competitor. An amateur is everyone else and may include dancers who qualify as advanced dancers, are regional part-time instructors, or are recognized as outstanding dancers in their local community. If you question your eligibility please check with the Chief Judge. A professional may dance with up to three (3) amateurs. Only the amateur will be judged. Classic rules apply. This division is limited to twelve (12) couples.

**JUNIOR** Showcase Division rules apply except for the age of the competitors. Junior competitors must be between the ages of ten and nineteen. Youths twelve to fourteen may not do air steps. Juniors fourteen and a half to seventeen may do air steps. Those eighteen or older may enter only if dancing with a partner 18 or younger. The division is open to twelve (12) couples.

**CHAMPIONS' JACK & JILL** Leaders and followers sign up individually. The division is limited to thirty (30) couples. Partners are chosen at random, by the luck of the draw. Music is selected by ALHC. You may be required to dance with more than one partner. This division is open by invitation only to those who have won or placed in a national or world level Lindy competition.

**ADVANCED JACK & JILL** Leaders and followers sign up individually. The division is limited to thirty (30) couples. Competition will be held in three (3) heats of ten (10) couples each. Partners are chosen at random, by the luck of the draw. Music is selected by ALHC. You may be required to dance with more than one partner. Individuals may be chosen to dance in a finals heat, if needed. **This division is for seasoned competitors.**

**OPEN** Leaders and followers sign up individually. Any level of dancer may enter. You may be required to dance with more than one partner. Individuals may be chosen to dance in a finals heat, if needed by the judges. In that case partners are picked at random. Music is selected by ALHC.

**BLUES** This Division gives couples an opportunity to perform other swing dance styles such as West Coast Swing, DC Hand Dancing, Carolina Shag, etc. and Swing Era blues dances to music rated below 125 beats per minute. Slow Lindy, swing air steps, acrobatics and aerials are not allowed. Lifts and drops are allowed within the dance. The operative word here is dance. This division is not a bump and grind contest. Be inventive. This division is open to twelve (12) couples.

**HIP HOP LINDY** This division gives couples an opportunity to mix 60% recognizable Lindy with Hip Hop. Spins, lifts, drops, air steps, aerials, Shag, Balboa, side by side routines and other interpolations are all allowed. However, side by side routines may not constitute more than twenty percent (20%) of the overall. Twelve (12) couples aged 14+ may compete in this division.

**MASTERS** This division is open to couples 35+ years of age. Showcase rules apply for twelve couples. However, Lifts, drops, air steps, etc. are not required.

**FAST DANCE** Any type of swing is allowed in this division. Collegiate Shag and Balboa are also allowed. Contestants dance to music 224bpm and faster for a minimum of one-and-a-half (1 ½) minutes to a maximum of two-and-a-half (2 ½) minutes.

**CHAMPIONS' STRICTLY LINDY** This division is open by invitation only to a limited number of national and world Lindy champions. This division will be run in one heat as a jam session.

**AMERICAN SHOWCASE DIVISION** This division is the culmination of a series of regional qualifying rounds. Contestants dance to music selected by ALHC in the preliminary rounds. Contestants will be judged equally in two rounds: one slow, one fast. Preliminaries will be danced in heats lasting one and a half (1 ½) minutes. Just as at the benchmark Savoy Ballroom competitions anything goes. All forms of appropriate lifts, drops and air steps are allowed with recognizable Lindy steps. Please note that timing, teamwork, footwork and lead/follow skills are the priority.

Finalists will dance individually in a slow round. Music for this round is selected by ALHC. Finalists will dance individually in a fast round. Music for this round is chosen by the contestants and must be a minimum of 208bpm. During the fast round contestants may dance for 2 minutes. Choreography is allowed. Each round will be judged equally.

This Division is open only to American citizens and permanent residents who hold a green card. According to placement, you may be awarded travel to the World Lindy Hop Championship. Those who have judged a qualifying contest for this year's semi-finals is not eligible to participate in a qualifying contest or the semi-final round.

This division is only open to couples from the regional qualifying rounds. However, competitors that competed at the previous year's World Championship may opt out of the regional preliminary qualification rounds proceeding directly to the semifinals.

**SHOWTIME (not at the Apollo)** This division is open to any style of swing dance. This includes Lindy, West Coast Swing, East Coast Swing, Carolina Shag, etc. and their variations. All types of lifts, drops, air steps, aerials, acrobatics and side by side patterns are allowed, but not required. Entertainment is paramount in this division. Time is limited to 2 to 3 minutes. Remember you must be entertaining. You must do a swing dance. Look at your routine. If you fulfill the requirements of any other division you are not eligible to participate in this one.

### SCHEDULE OF AWARDS AND PRIZES

#### AMERICAN SHOWCASE

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$1200
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$ 800
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$ 400
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$ 200
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$ 100

#### OPEN SHOWCASE, SHOWTIME, CABARET, CLASSIC

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$ 800
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$ 400
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$ 200

#### TEAM

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$2000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$1200
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$ 800

#### BLUES. HIP HOP LINDY, FAST DANCE, MASTERS

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$600
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$400
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$200

#### OPEN, ADVANCED, CHAMPIONS JACK & JILL and JILL & JACK

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$300
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$200
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$100

Junior Division awards will be based on scholarship fund-raising.