

Artspectrum
52 Monterey Street
Detroit, MI 48203-3590

Dear Competitor,

Thank you for your interest in competing at The American Lindy Hop Championships (ALHC). Our dates are October 23-26, 2008. This year's ALHC will be held at the Hilton Stamford Hotel, One First Stamford Place in Stamford, Connecticut. 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, if you want to do lead/follow dancing enter Strictly Lindy; or if you have choreography with no lifts or throws enter the Classic Division; or, if you have lifts, throws and less than 80% Lindy content enter Open Showcase.

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 **September 25, 2008**. Once completed please mail them to: Artspectrum, Attention: ALHC, 52 Monterey Street, Detroit, Michigan 48203-3590. Submitting this form does not guarantee your entrance into the division. Most of the divisions have entry limits. Therefore contestants will receive an email confirmation when entry forms have been processed.

Submitting forms early is a good idea.

These forms may not be used to register for any of the levels of Jack and Jill. Registration for those divisions may only be made on the day each 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. At this time you may, also, give your music to the Stage Manager.

Thank you again for your interest in ALHC. We look forward to seeing you at the coming event.

Please free to call 313-790-2311) or email askartspectrum@yahoo.com with any questions you may have after reading the rules and forms.

Paulette Brockington
Event Director

The American Lindy Hop Championships Competition Entry Form

Please print legibly.

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. Please note: Weekend passes are not refundable. After the entry deadline entry fees are not refundable except when divisions are canceled.

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 _____
Name of your studio or club

I purchased my weekend pass online (Online Order # _____); or,

Please send me _____ weekend pass(es) at \$ _____ per pass. (Note: Call or check website for prices.)

Entry Fee total _____ (Couples' divisions \$60/cpl.; Cabaret solo/duo \$60, 3-5 \$90, group \$125; Team \$125)

Enclosed find my check/money order for \$ _____. Please charge my credit card. Discover Visa Master Card
CC# _____ exp. date ____/____ PIN _____ (found on back of card)

*Print name as it appears on your card. _____

Billing Address _____ Cardholder Signature _____

Mark the divisions you wish to enter: American Showcase Team Cabaret Classic
 Strictly Balboa Champions' Balboa Junior (no charge) Masters Open Showcase
 Blues Pro/Male Amateur Pro/Female Amateur. Strictly Lindy Cats' Corner

Then fill out the following:

Dancer 1
Name _____ Now below write your name phonetically or use rhyming words.

Social Security number _____ - _____ - _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Province _____
Country _____ Postal Code _____
Home phone with area code _____
Mobile phone with area code _____
Email _____
Junior's Age _____ Parent's name _____
Parent's contact information _____
Print name exactly how you wanted it listed in print. _____

Dancer 2
Name _____ Now below write your name phonetically or use rhyming words.

Social Security number _____ - _____ - _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Province _____
Country _____ Postal Code _____
Home phone with area code _____
Mobile phone with area code _____
Email _____
Junior's Age _____ Parent's name _____
Parent's contact information _____
Print name exactly how you wanted it listed in print. _____

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

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 who do you want your check be issued?

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, TEAM and PRO/AM, 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, JUNIOR, CATS' CORNER (formerly Champions' Strictly) MASTERS or STRICTLY BALBOA. Contestants entering one of the above divisions may, also, enter CABARET or TEAM. Select your best choice for a competitive division.

Please note that a couple may not enter more than one division they unless are participating in the Cabaret or Team divisions. Entering a Balboa Division plus a Lindy Division or Blues is allowed. 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 or OPEN SHOWCASE must be a least eighteen years old by the date of the competition unless otherwise noted. Contestants in TEAM, CABARET, PRO/AM or one of the JACK & JILL contests must be at least ten years old 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 three entries for it to run. A minimum of five couples will be required to award cash.

MUSIC Contestants in divisions other than STRICTLY LINDY, the JACK & JILL divisions, the AMERICAN SHOWCASE preliminaries and CATS' CORNER are responsible for their own music. Music that makes use of more than one tempo is allowed. Heavy metal and hard rock music are prohibited as choices except in the CABARET division. Select the music to which you will dance. Turn it in at the competitors' meeting. All music must be on 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 due to the change in 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 end of your division 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, 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. A restart will only be allowed by the Chief Judge.

COSTUMES Costumes are not mandatory. However, appropriate attire and/or costumes may enhance your performance. Do not wear jeans, jogging 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: Friday, Oct. 26 at 6:30pm, Saturday, Oct. 27 at 12:00pm and Sunday, Oct. 28 at 12:35pm

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 critical.

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

ADVANCED 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. Individuals may be chosen to dance in a finals heat, if needed. This division is for seasoned competitors.

AMERICAN SHOWCASE DIVISION This Division is open only to American citizens and permanent residents who hold a green card. 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 in the fast round. Please note that timing, teamwork, footwork and lead/follow skills are the priority. Finalists will dance individually in a slow round. Air steps are not allowed in the 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 - 3 minutes. Choreography is allowed. Each round will be judged equally.

BLUES Lifts and drops are allowed in this division which does not allow Lindy as content.

CABARET This division is open to any style of dancing. Entrants may consist of an individual, a couple, small or large group consisting of any combination of genders performing blues, tap, jazz, adagio, hip hop, etc.. Couples consisting of a male and female partners 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.

CATS' CORNER (formerly Champions' Strictly) This division is open to a limited number of national and world Lindy champions. This division will be run in one heat as a jam session anything goes.

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 to those who have won or placed in a national or world level Lindy competition such as NJC, ALHC, US Open or WLHC. Anything goes for content.

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 with the first movement of the performance with or without music. Once contact is made they must keep it except on spins and turns. 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 seventy-five percent (75%) recognizable Lindy is required. Twelve (12) couples may compete in this division.

JUNIOR Showcase Division rules apply except for the age of the competitors. Junior competitors must be between the ages of ten and seventeen. Youths twelve to fourteen may not do air steps. Juniors fourteen and a half to seventeen may do air steps. Winners are eligible to compete in the AAU Junior Olympics.

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.

OPEN J&J 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.

OPEN SHOWCASE This division is open to any style of swing dance. All types of lifts, drops, air steps, aerials, acrobatics and side by side patterns are allowed, but not required. Look at your dance. Showmanship, projection and content are important to this division. If your routine fulfills the requirements of another division, you are not eligible here. Twelve (12) couples may compete 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 or international 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.

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.

STRICTLY BALBOA This division encourages couples to get on the floor and dance as they would in any social setting. Music is selected by ALHC. Any form of Balboa and/or Balswing is allowed. Choreography and costumes are not allowed. There is no limit to the number of couples that may enter this division. A finals may be held if needed to determine final placement. Competitors in this division should be 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%) of any kind of 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 2 minutes-forty-five seconds to a maximum of four (4) minutes. Individuals may compete on no more than two teams. Ten (10) entries are allowed in this division.

THE AMERICAN LINDY HOP CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE OF AWARDS AND PRIZES

AMERICAN SHOWCASE

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

OPEN SHOWCASE, CABARET & TEAM

CLASSIC

1st Place \$ 800
2nd Place \$ 400
3rd Place \$ 200

1st Place \$2000
2nd Place \$1200
3rd Place \$ 800

MASTERS, BLUES

1st Place \$600
2nd Place \$400
3rd Place \$200

OPEN, ADVANCED JACK & JILL CHAMPIONS' JACK & JILL

STRICTLY LINDY, STRICTLY BALBOA

1st Place \$300
2nd Place \$200
3rd Place \$100

CATS' CORNER

1st Place \$350
2nd Place \$250
3rd Place \$150

The Junior Division receives medals and/or trophies. Winners receive no cash award but are eligible to move on to the AAU Junior Olympics in Des Moines 2009 with their AAU membership and entry fee paid by ALHC. **OTHER DIVISIONS** - Divisions need a minimum of three couples to run. A minimum of five couples is required to pay out prize money. All other awards, such as trophies, medals or jackets, will still be awarded whether cash prizes are awarded or not.