**What is the RAD Dance Challenge?**
In January 2019, the Royal Academy of Dance USA will hold the Dance Challenge Competition. Candidates will be judged on their performance of a ballet solo, or ensemble choreographed by their RAD teacher. Each level will be judged separately.

**Day 1:** Non-syllabus class focusing on technique and a second class with a run through of competition pieces and feedback from the faculty member. Classes will be conducted by a leading RAD Tutor. Levels 1 & 2 will have their technical rehearsal and competition performance.

**Day 2:** Warm up class, dress rehearsal, and performances of solos and ensembles in front of an adjudicator and audience followed by the presentation of certificates, prizes, and awards. Levels 3 & 4 will have their technical rehearsal and competition performance.

Candidates will be assessed on the following criteria for solos and ensembles: Technique (secure posture and weight placement, use of turn out, coordination of the whole body, sustained and balanced movements, ability to demonstrate a range of harmonious lines through the whole body), Music (rhythmical accuracy and timing, response to phrasing, atmosphere, and dynamics) and Performance (ability to interpret and express varying artistic qualities and styles).

The announcement of two winners per level, one solo and one ensemble, at the discretion of the judge, will take place after the performance. Two Grand Prize Solo Winners at each venue will be selected.

**Who is Eligible?**
The competition is multi-level and is open to all RAD students up to age 19 (ages listed are determined based on a date of January 1, 2019). Competitors must be studying with an RAD Registered Teacher. The competition will take place over two days. Four levels will be as follows:

- **Level 1:** Candidates studying RAD Grade 4 & 5—must be 14 years or under
- **Level 2:** Candidates studying RAD Grade 6—8—must be 16 years or under
- **Level 3:** Candidates studying RAD Intermediate Foundation or Intermediate—must be 16 years or under
- **Level 4:** Candidates studying RAD Advanced Foundation, Advanced 1 or Advanced 2—must be 19 years or under

**When is the Competition?**
The 2019 competition is held on January 19 & 20, 2019. Completed registration and payment must be received by the Academy Office by Friday, October 26, 2018 to compete.

**Where is the Competition?**
Dancers attending from the Academy will compete in Long Beach, CA. A list of recommended hotels will be provided by RAD USA upon registration.

**What Does This Cost & What Does That Include?**
- Registration fees as detailed below:
  - Registration/Class Fee: $100
  - Solo (each): $108 ($86 if you are an RAD member)
  - Ensembles (2+): $57/dancer
- Four 60-minute lessons with Mr. Needham as well as coaching and any necessary preparation for the duration of the competition/workshop: $260
- Travel/lodging expenses for Mr. Needham to attend (amount will vary depending on how many dancers participate and will be assessed after October deadline accordingly; estimates are as follows):
  - 1—4 registrants: $300 each
  - 5—9 registrants: $200 each
  - 10+ registrants: $100 each

Additional out of pocket costs will vary depending on transportation and lodging choices and costume needs of each dancer—these arrangements should be made on your own and are the responsibility of each parent.

**How to Register**
Registration will be completed entirely through the NAU Community Music and Dance Academy. All registration paperwork and payment must be made no later than October 26, 2018 in order to be eligible. Registration forms and the release form can be found in this packet. All forms and payments should be submitted to the Academy Office, who will be responsible for forwarding them to RAD. A burned CD and MP3 file of each student’s music selection must be turned in with the registration paperwork by the application deadline.

Private lessons may be scheduled during the Thanksgiving or winter holiday breaks or on weekends but will not begin until the entire fee schedule and all necessary forms have been completed and submitted to the Academy Office.

**Checklist**
- Registration Form
- Registration Payment:
  - Check made payable to: “Royal Academy of Dance”
- Music Information Form
- CD with music selection
- MP3 song file emailed to Academy office
- *Lesson & Coaching Payment
- *Travel & Lodging Supplemental Payment

*Checks made out to “NAU Academy”; debit/credit payments also accepted
RAD Dance Challenge Competition Guidelines

Choreography and Attire
- Teachers should choreograph an original ballet solo not exceeding 1 minute and 30 seconds
- Steps and movements should be made up from vocabulary appropriate to the candidates’ RAD level
- Ensembles MUST BE comprised of candidates who are currently studying in the same level; i.e. Level 1, 2, 3, or 4
- Choreography or costumes should not make reference to characters, storylines, or films that are under copyright.
- Candidates may wear a simple costume and props may be used if appropriate, however, no masks may be worn. Costumes must not make reference to characters from films or musicals that are under copyright.
- Candidates should wear their normal ballet class uniform during classes.
- Solos and ensembles MUST be original, choreographed by the student’s RAD teacher signing the registration form.
- Choreography MUST be ballet. Dance can have contemporary elements but it must NOT be a contemporary dance per se.
- Pointe work must be relevant to levels in which pointe work is included in exam settings. However, pointe work is entirely optional.

Music
- Music does not have to be classical.
- Music should not exceed 1 minute and 30 seconds for solos and 2 minutes and 30 seconds for ensembles.
- Music must be taken from a recording which has been purchased legitimately or could be an original composition by the student/teacher or a collaborator.
- Candidates must send an exact recording of their music with their registration and also bring an additional copy with them with any cuts or faces already included. This should be handed in at registration on Day 1.
- There should be no “internal” cuts to the music as this will likely constitute infringement of copyright.
- Music must be in CD audio format. You may choose any kind of music; however, if your music contains lyrics, this should not include any offensive, sexist, or racist material.
- The following information must accompany the music submission:
  - □ How will your piece begin—before music, after music, with music?
  - □ How will you communicate this information clearly to the sound operator?
  - □ How does your music end?

Observation
No observation is allowed on Day 1. An audience of teachers, family, and friends are welcome to attend performances on Day 2. Tickets will be available at the door at a charge of $20 each.