

Brussels Dance Contest 2025

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The “BRUSSELS DANCE CONTEST” 2025 edition, an international solo competition for contemporary dancers, is organized by the Antigone Asbl association, based in Brussels, Belgium.

The Semi-Final will take place on October 18 and 19, 2025 in Brussels, in the large Studio of the Ultima Vez Company, rue des Etangs Noirs 97, 1080 BXL.

The Final will take place on November 23, 2025, at the Centre Culturel d'Uccle, 47 Rue Rouge, 1180 Brussels, Belgium.

Candidates are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses in Brussels.

PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

The aim of the “BRUSSELS DANCE CONTEST” is to promote contemporary dance and to help talented dancers to start a career and build a professional network.

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

The competition is open to contemporary dancers of all nationalities, **aged between 18 and 32** on the day of registration. Registration is open from April 15 to May 15, 2025.

Registration documents and video material required for the preselection must be submitted by May 15, 2025 (12:00 noon, Brussels time, UTC+2).

Failure to meet the above deadlines may result in a refusal to enter the competition.

Candidates may apply as many times as their age allows. If a candidate has already taken part in the “BRUSSELS DANCE CONTEST”, he/she may enter again if he/she is still within the age limit.

REGISTRATION FEE

Candidates must pay a non-refundable registration fee of 20.00 euros. This sum must be paid by bank transfer to the account of Asbl Antigone or by PayPal before May 18, 2025.

We will confirm receipt of the registration fee by e-mail.

JURY

The jury of the competition is composed of contemporary dance professionals and choreographers. The list of jury members can be consulted at www.brusselsdancecontest.com. (Juries are usually confirmed only a few weeks before the selections).

N.B. In previous editions of the competition, we have welcomed : Tijen Lawton, Elias Lazaridis (Eastman), Iñaki Azpillaga (Ultima Vez), Iris Bouche, Filip Van Huffel Kunsthumaniora Hedendaagse Dans), Victor Launay, Brandon Lagaert (Peeping Tom), Orianne Vilmer (La Fabrique de la Danse), Leif Finrhaber, Hun Mog Jung (Peeping Tom), Dara Tombroff, Thierry Smits (Thor cie), Helder Seabra, Vittoria de Ferrari Sapetto, Leslie Mannès, Jos Baker, Sarah Mck Fife, Cruz Isael Mata, Ludovica Riccardi (Charleroi Danse). ..

The jury will evaluate the candidates according to the following criteria:

- * Technical level, control and coordination
- * Performance and ease on stage
- * Structure of choreography
- * Scenography, use of space, originality
- * Charisma, emotion, fluidity

AWARDS

All finalists will receive a diploma for their participation in the competition final.

The list of prizes can be consulted at www.brusselsdancecontest.com (prizes are generally not confirmed until a few weeks before the selections).

N.B.: In previous editions, the prizes offered were composed of (for information only):

- *Jury Awards / The opportunity to choreograph and/or perform a twenty-minute piece at the next edition of the Festival Antigone; A training module of your choice from the current season's courses for choreographers equivalent to an amount ranging from €600 and €2000 incl. tax (offered by La Fabrique de la danse / Paris); participation in a 5-day professional workshop offered by Ultima Vez; a photo shoot offered by the competition management; participation in The Peeping Tom Kitchen...*
- *Public Awards / The opportunity to choreograph and/or perform a ten-minute piece at the next edition of the Festival Antigone; a photo shoot ...*

During the evening of the Final, a vote will be organized with the public present that evening to award the Public Award.

New, this year, we will be awarding 3 prizes instead of 2 in previous years:

Jury Award (1) / Best Performance
Jury Award (2) / Best Choreography
And the Audience Award.

The 3 Awards (juries and public) may be combined, which means that the same candidate can receive all the prizes.

AWARDING PRIZES

The jury is free to decide whether or not to award the prizes, depending on the finalists' results.

COMPETITION PROCESS

The competition takes place in **four phases**: the registration period, two elimination rounds and a final round:

PHASE 1 - REGISTRATION from April 15 to May 15, 2025, noon (12:00, Brussels time, UTC+2)

PHASE 2 - SELECTION ON VIDEO for the semi-final / from June 1, 2025

PHASE 3 - SEMI-FINAL on October 18 and 19, 2025

PHASE 4 - FINAL on stage, in front of the jury and audience, November 23, 2025

PHASE 1: REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION / APRIL 15, 2025, TO MAY 15, 2025, NOON (12:00, BRUSSELS TIME, UTC+2)

Each candidate must register through:

ONLINE FORM (first read the **Instructions** below before completing the form) – “Preferred method”
Or by sending your application by e-mail to the following address:
brusselsdancecontest@gmail.com

Composition of the Mail:

Subject of e-mail: BDC 2025, Last name, First name

Email content:

1/ Last name, first name, date of birth, address (+ country), e-mail address, telephone number

2/ YouTube/Vimeo links towards two videos:

- **VIDEO A**: a sequence of 1-3 minutes showing your work in the studio, in contemporary dance (either an improvisation that reflects your work and personality, or a choreographed solo/ no extracts from shows/ free choice of music).
- **VIDEO B**: a brief presentation of yourself, your background and your dance.

ATTENTION: *Do not forget to give us the passwords to access the videos if needed.*

Attachments:

1/ A recent portrait photo

2/ An up-to-date CV

3/ A copy of your identity card

➔ INSTRUCTIONS

➤ Details VIDEO A File

This video file must contain all the elements requested below. Otherwise, the application may be excluded by the selection jury.

- Make sure the image quality is good.
- Avoid backlighting.
- Ensure good lighting conditions. Turn on the studio lights.
- Upload the video to a platform like YouTube or Vimeo. (“Wetransfer” files not accepted).

Content of VIDEO A

A 1–3-minutes video showing your studio work in contemporary dance: either an improvisation or a choreographed solo that reflects your work and personality. This video should give a good idea of the candidate's technical ability and artistic expression.

Clothing for VIDEO A

Wear light-colored or colorful outfits, so that body lines and steps are clearly visible. Avoid baggy outfits.

➤ Details VIDEO B file

This video file must contain all the elements requested below. Otherwise, the application may be excluded by the selection jury.

- Please ensure that the image quality is good.
- Make sure the lighting is good.
- Prefer waist or bust shots.

Content of VIDEO B

A short video presentation (1 to 3 minutes maximum): In English or French, introduce yourself to the camera and explain in a few words what your artistic projects are, and/or what inspires you as a dancer. Do you already have ideas for a theme for your solo, etc.?

Registration deadlines

Registration is open from April 15 to May 15, 2025. Application documents and video material for pre-selection must be received by May 15, 2025, at noon (12:00 noon, Brussels time, UTC+2).

Candidates must pay a non-refundable registration fee (administrative costs for processing your application). This sum must be paid by bank transfer to the account of ASBL Antigone or by PayPal, before 18/05/2025.

There are two ways to make the transfer:

1/ BANK TRANSFER

Registration fee: 20.00 euros

Beneficiary: Antigone ASBL

Beneficiary address: Rue Henri Maubel 75, 1190 Brussels, Belgium.

IBAN: BE47 6718 4739 2980

BIC: EURBBE99

Bank: Europabank S.A.

Bank address: Chaussée de Waterloo 674, 1180 Uccle, Belgium.

Communication: BDC 2025 - Candidate's first name and surname

2/ PAYPAL

Registration fee: 20.00 euros by PayPal

Communication: BDC 2025 - Candidate's first name and surname

Mail: brusselsdancecontest@gmail.com

Applications that are incomplete or submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

PHASE 2: SELECTION ON VIDEO

VIDEO SELECTION / MAY 15 TO JUNE 1, 2025

We will select a maximum of 35 candidates. Decisions are final. Candidates will be informed of the results of the video selections no later than June 2, 2025. The selected candidates will be allowed to continue in the competition and take part in the Semi-Final, to be held in Brussels on the weekend of October 18 and 19, 2025.

The semi-finalists will have around 5 months to create their respective solos, which they will present at the Semi-Final in Brussels.

PHASE 3: SEMI-FINAL

SEMI-FINAL / OCTOBER 18 AND 19, 2025

The semi-final will take place over three days in the presence of the Jury.

DAY 1 (9 a.m. – 6 p.m.)

- Reception of candidates
- General instructions on how the semi-final will be run
- Collective warm-up for all selected candidates.
- Workshop (1) on Sarah Mck Fife Company's repertoire, given by the choreographer herself.

A jury will be present throughout the day to observe the work.

- Workshop (2) given by choreographer Edouard Hue, who is traveling especially for the occasion. Learning a choreographed sequence to be presented to the jury at the end of the day.

DAY 2 (9 a.m. – 6 p.m.)

- Each candidate presents individually a **free, self-choreographed solo** to the jury. The candidate will have the opportunity to have a personal exchange for a few minutes with the members of the jury.
- The solo must be **between 3 and 7 minutes** in length.
- Free choice of music. The music must be on a USB key (to be taken with you the day 1).
- Unless special exception is made, **no big objects** or decorations are allowed.
- A maximum of 10 candidates will be selected to take part in the Final at the end of these 3 days of selection.
- During this 2nd day, the public is allowed to attend the presentation of the solos in front of the jury. Tickets will be on sale for €20.

After the 3rd phase, the finalists will have the opportunity to have an individual follow-up coaching session, either online or in the studio, depending on availability. Dancers will be coached and supported by a professional dancer and/or choreographer in preparation for the final round.

PHASE 4: THE FINAL

FINAL / SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Final in front of the jury and the public:

- Finalists present their self-choreographed solo, lasting between 3 and 7 minutes.
- The Final will take place during the Antigone Dance Festival 2025, on the stage of the Centre Culturel d'Uccle (CCU), Brussels.
- For the Final, dancers will present a choreography based on the one presented in the Semi-Final (save exceptions).
- A technical rehearsal on stage is scheduled for the day of the Final.
- Awards ceremony: the Jury Awards and the Audience Award will be given at the end of the evening.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/ COMPETITION RULES

Candidates are required to familiarize themselves with the instructions and competition rules set out in this document.

Payment of the registration fee confirms your acceptance of the competition rules, and all the information contained herein.

STAGE DIMENSIONS AND LIGHTING

The large theater hall of the Centre Culturel d'Uccle, with its 801 comfortable red velvet seats, among which 466 in the ground floor and 335 on the balcony, offers excellent visibility from everywhere. It also has a large Italian-style stage. The dressing rooms, located under the stage, can accommodate 60 artists. All are equipped with hot and cold water, make-up mirrors and four of them are equipped with a shower. Stage size: stage excluding backstage: 11 m wide x 12 m maximum depth. (We advise you to work on your choreography on a square space of 10x10 meters)

The competition events programmed on stage will take place in full light (no specific set of lights for each candidate, the lighting will be the same for all in order to avoid any discrimination between the candidates)

ACCESS TO THE STAGE AND BACKSTAGE

People accompanying the candidates and their teachers are not allowed to access the stage or backstage during the competition.

PHOTOGRAPHS, PHOTO RECORDINGS, VISUAL or AUDIOVISUAL RECORDINGS and THEIR DISTRIBUTION

Only people officially accredited by the competition organization are authorized to film or take photographs. Cameras, still cameras, cell phones and other recording devices of non-accredited persons will be confiscated in case of unauthorized use. All photographs, shots, visual or audiovisual recordings of all performances of the candidates, regardless of the means or medium used to make these recordings, are the property of the non-profit association Antigone. No visual or audiovisual recording of the candidates' performances may be made without the written consent of the president of the non-profit association Antigone. Candidates waive all rights to the above-described recordings made by Antigone ASBL or by a third party on behalf of Antigone ASBL, as well as to their reproduction, dissemination, distribution, retransmission, projection and broadcast by any means. Candidates acknowledge that these recordings may be used for commercial or advertising purposes, including advertising for third parties, regardless of the products or services to which this advertising relates. Candidates assign the rights described in this article to Antigone ASBL.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The candidates certify that they are authorized to practice dance by accepting the rules. The Brussels Dance Contest is exonerated from any responsibility in case of accident, illness or theft during the contest, the candidates having to provide themselves with adequate insurance.

RESPONSIBILITY

The organizers cannot be held responsible for any physical or material damage caused to or suffered by any person (candidate, accompanist), either during the competition or the rehearsals, or during the travel involved. The organizer of the competition and all his team, as well as the managers of the performance hall, decline all responsibility in case of theft or damage of any kind, for the candidates as well as for the accompanying people and the public. The candidates must be covered by their own civil liability insurance.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

Participation in the Brussels Dance Contest implies full acceptance of the rules. Failure to comply with the rules or any other inappropriate behavior will result in the direct elimination of the candidate concerned. The management reserves the right to make changes to the contest.

DECISION-MAKING BODY

The president of the association or his delegates are the only ones authorized to decide on any deviation from the competition rules. The decisions of the jury are final and without appeal, as well as the awarding of prizes.

Only the rules in French are authentic.

APPLICATION AND JURISDICTION

Belgian law is applicable

CONTACTS:

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Website: www.brusselsdancecontest.com

General Management / Antigone Asbl Administrator