

# Appropriateness

StarQuest is a family oriented competition experience and we support the following guidelines regarding inappropriate routines.

*"Choreography, costuming, and/or the use of dance themes such as rape, suicide, murder, sex, domestic violence, anorexia, and dark undertones chosen and/or presented to competition audiences with a lack of "artistic discretion" is considered inappropriate. StarQuest fully appreciates the art form, creativity and desire to heighten world awareness of these themes through dance but deem it inappropriate to present them to audiences that include children of varying ages. We know this is extremely subjective and sensitive. We will individually address these performances as they surface at each particular event. An entry that is ultimately deemed inappropriate by our judges will be adjudicated only. We urge all studio owners, teachers, and especially parents to keep performances thematically and choreographically appropriate."*

"Select", "Classic" & "Nova" routines that our judges deem as inappropriate will be announced as "*Adjudicated Only*". This means that although the routine will receive its true adjudication level of Platinum Plus, Platinum, High Gold, Gold, High Silver, or Silver it will NOT be eligible for Top Score Awards. The performers in the routine will not have points deducted and will still get their well deserved adjudication award for their execution of the routine. However, the routine will remain completely ineligible for Top Score consideration. This penalizes the routine for inappropriateness but NOT the performers in the routine. We believe this is an important distinction because it is up to the Studio Owner and the Choreographer to ensure that the routine is family oriented.

We still encourage all choreographers and studios to push boundaries but to always have a heightened awareness of the age range of the audience. Appropriateness begins in the studio and StarQuest will do its best to help maintain it. We know that some of you may find the decision of the judges to be too lenient while others may find their decision to be too strict. Either way, we are resolved to improve the competition experience for everyone. We are already seeing positive results.

Your Tour Managers heighten the judges' awareness of this issue every single weekend. We have 3 different judges in every city and they have diverse tastes and styles. Appropriateness and scoring accuracy are our top priorities. We look forward to another incredibly positive and "family oriented" season. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to share with us any thoughts or ideas in this regard.

If you have ANY question about the "appropriateness" of one of your routines please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you and have a great season!

**Steve Wappel**  
CEO, StarQuest Productions