# **Derby Dance Battles – What to Expect?**

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## **What kind of battle is Derby Dance Battles?**

We have two categories, **Beginners** and **Advanced**, which are straight **knockout battles.** They involve two individual dancers competing against each other in a one-on-one battle (1v1). The loser is knocked out of the competition and the winner continues to the next battle. This goes on until there’s one winner in each category.

There are no qualifies for this competition, you can sign up via derby theatre website for either beginners or advanced battle. Entry fee is £5 per person.

\*Please note the **Beginners** category is for dancers who never participated in a battle before. If you previously took part in battles or other solo/duet dance competitions please choose the advanced category.

## **Technicalities explained…**

Individuals dance one at a time in the middle of the dance floor, surrounded by the audience and other dancers. There is a chosen number of times each dancer gets to dance, called rounds. There will be 2 or 3 rounds in each battle, best of three wins and continues to the next battle. Each round will feature a different song in one of the styles – hip hop, street, amapiano, afro, dancehall.

Dancers go back and forth, doing their rounds, until they have finished and then the chosen panel of judges individually decide who they believe won the battle by pointing at their personally chosen winner. The judge can vote a tie by doing an X with their hands when they can’t choose the winner.

## **Music and rounds explained…**

If you start first, you will get 1min of music for your turn, then the DJ will rewind so your opponent gets the same fragment of the song. On the next round, your opponent will start first with a different song and you will go second to the same fragment of the same song. Who begins the battle is decided by a flip of the coin, spinning the bottle, rock paper scissors etc to ensure impartiality. The Host will give you a 3…2…1 when you’re about to finish your turn.

## **Examples of one-on-one battles:**

[Paradox vs Rochka TOP 6 Hiphop Forever - Summer Dance Forever 2019](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzHOD9t1fKM)

[Marie Poppins vs Ivvy [top 8] // stance // RED BULL DANCE YOUR STYLE MIAMI 2021](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUKrxK3WH-A)

[SARA 🇪🇸 🇨🇴 vs NEPO 🇮🇳 | stance x Red Bull Dance Your Style World Finals 2022 4k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOWcwJ6a9Jg&list=RDmOWcwJ6a9Jg&index=1)

# **Judges – What They Do & How Will I Be Judged?**

## **Who are the judges and what is their job?**

Judges are usually well-known, respected dancers who have earned their place on the panel through years of competing and winning, or from being known for their contribution to the dance scene. We chose **Joy, Chimelle and Kendice** to be the judges of this competition for their expertise and experience in multiple styles, taking part in various competitions, performances or contributing to the local dance scene.

Competitions always have an odd number of judges to avoid ties; this time we have a panel of three. Each judge only has one vote in each battle and the winner of a battle is the dancer who gets the most votes.

The judge can vote a tie by doing an X with their hands when they can’t choose the winner. In an instance of a tie…

* **FOR BEGINNERS**

The dancers do one more round after which each judge must pick one winner. Only one tie is allowed per battle.

* **FOR ADVANCED**

The dancers do another round and will continue to do this until the judges come to a decision that isn't a tie.

A tie in a battle can happen in two ways:

1. A judge can use their individual vote as a tie and the other two judges vote separate ways
2. All judges decide on a tie

If all the judges, apart from one, vote a tie, then the dancer who gets that one vote is the winner.

## **What are the judges looking for to determine the winner?**

To make their decision, judges usually all have a general criterion which consists of about eight elements that they all look at. For Derby Dance Battles, we decided on 4 for Beginners and 6 for Advanced.

**Musicality**

How well a dancer connects with and expresses the music through their dance.

**Foundation**

Showcasing mastery of the basic moves in their style.

**Character**

How well a dancer expresses their personality through their dance.

**Execution**

Performing moves in a clean and secure way, without messing up.

**\*Style**

If a dancer showcases a way of moving that’s unique to them.

**\*Originality**

Coming up with fresh variations on existing moves, or completely new, and creative moves, and ways of moving that the judges haven't seen before.

**\*Only in advanced battle**

When the battle is a straight one-on-one knockout competition, judges will take the whole criteria into account, with each judge deciding for themselves which elements carry more weight than others.

## **Judge showcase**

At Derby Dance Battles we asked the judges to perform a battle themselves to showcase their skills to the audience and dancers. Each judge will get one minute on the dance floor to showcase their style to the song chosen by the DJ. The host will use the audience reactions and applause to help determine the winner of the judge battle.

This one is purely for fun, to showcase the rules and etiquette of the battles and for the judges to have some fun! You, as an audience member, don’t need to concern yourself with technique and musicality to decide who you want to win, just enjoy the showcase and pick the person you like watching the most!

If you have any questions, please contact Kasia Cichocka, Derby Theatre Communities Assistant Producer on **dtcommunities@derby.ac.uk**