

Diwali Dance Fest 2025: Overall Itinerary

Thursday

Parade Rehearsal

Time	Buses Depart between 5:00 PM - 5:10 PM sharp from Coronado Springs Resort (Resort Map)! Your detailed schedule will have your exact bus timeline. Rehearsal will start at 5:40 PM sharp ! (Pickup Spot ; 5 min walk from Rooms) Before the bus pickup, we will have a mandatory Director Meeting in the bus pickup area at 4:15 PM, where you will receive your Showcase wristbands! If you are unable to make it, please let your liaison know ASAP.
Location	Rehearsal / Mela Location: Contemporary Convention Center

Rehearsal Details

Every studio will have a different order of events. Specific times & order will be on your detailed schedule.

1. Everyone will enter through Room 1, where participants and directors will receive their gift bags.
2. We will then do a quick Welcome and guide all the Dancers through Stretches.
3. We will then split into two Rehearsal Rooms - the front half of the parade will practice the Parade in Room 1, and in Room 2 the studios in the back half of the parade will be guided to either take their **studio picture** or to have their **8 minute stage rehearsal**. After an hour, we will switch Rooms.
4. The rehearsal will end at approximately 8:20 PM. At that time, you can then change into your Mela outfits (if preferred) and you will walk to the next ballroom to enter the Mela. **The Mela is in the same Convention Center as the Rehearsal.** The Mela will go from ~8:30 PM - 11:30 PM.

Room 1: Parade Rehearsal (~1 hour); Exact Parade order & placement will be done during this time

Room 2: Showcase Rehearsal (**exactly and only 8 minutes**) & Studio Picture (**exactly and only 1 minute; you can give 1 phone to the DDF Staff member who will take one quick picture for you**)

What to Bring to Rehearsal

Wear Your Studio Gear! Bring Your Tan Jazz Shoes, Studio Sign for Pictures, and **wear your Mela Wristbands** (Yellow Wristbands already sent to you)!

Feel free to bring a change of clothes for the Mela if you would like to change!

Other

We will be giving out the hair flowers for all the girls at the Rehearsal as well as Director earrings.

No parents or guardians are allowed at rehearsal. This is for directors and participants only.

During your stage rehearsal, we will play the showcase tracks we received for showcase rehearsal. Please bring a backup just in case!

Guests are invited to the Mela! We will have buses available for Guests to come to the Mela, leaving the hotel at ~7:50 PM and ~8:30 PM. If they do not make that bus, they will have to uber. Personal cars are not allowed.

We will have buses running back to the hotel starting ~9:30 PM till when the Mela ends. If you do not get on the bus, you will have to find your own transportation back to the hotel.

Friday

Showcase

Time	Buses will depart for dancers and directors from 4:50 PM - 5:15 PM. (Pickup Spot; 5 min walk from Rooms) We will be providing Veggie Subway sandwiches & chips to all dancers before the Showcase. One representative from your studio must come grab these by ~4:15 PM (exact location will be shared in WhatsApp)! All other guests should take Disney buses or their own transportation to ensure they reach the theater before the park closes at 6:00 PM. Theater Doors Open: 6:10 PM Showcase Begins: 6:30 PM
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Location	Finding Nemo Theater in Animal Kingdom; You must be in Animal Kingdom Park before it closes at 6pm!
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Showcase Details

Here is a [Link](#) to the Stage Dimensions as previously shared.

At the beginning of the Show, Directors will line up backstage for a Special Entrance! Your schedule will have which side of the stage to line up on and the time. After your entrance, you can join your dancers back in the audience.

When it is your turn to go backstage, you will be directed by DDF staff. Participants will be asked to leave their belongings in the seats. You will have approximately ~6 minutes On Deck and ~6 minutes Side Stage before you go on. You will get ~1 minute to set up and you will assign someone to give Shaily the queue to start the music when ready.

Showcase Order

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rhythmic Arts Dance & Music Center2. Aerodance3. Center for Performing Arts & Learning4. Dance 4ever5. Danceversify Artistry6. Devyani School of Cultural Arts7. DFD Academy8. Kahini Dance Company9. Kalakriti Academy of the Arts10. Kulture Kool11. Live 2 Dance12. Mayura Dance Academy13. Mokshaa Dance Academy | <ol style="list-style-type: none">14. Mythili Dance Academy15. Nartan Rang Academy16. Natesa Bollywood Dance Academy17. Natya Anjali18. Pranavam School of Dance19. Rangeela Dance Company20. Rhythm Dancers21. Rhythm Roots22. Rhythmaya23. Richmond Indian Dance Academy24. Shiva Thandava Cosmic Temple of Dance25. Taal New Zealand |
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Other

Dancers & Directors will enter through backstage, which will not require a park pass. They can change their park pass to another day through the app. Guests will need to be registered for Animal Kingdom and enter through the entrance.

Please remember your wristbands!! You / your guests will not be let into the Theater without your wristband! **Directors, please wear your blue lanyards to the showcase!**

After the Show, you will be escorted out of the park with Disney Volunteers to take the bus back to the Hotel. If you drive to the Theater, you will be escorted to the parking lot and can drive your car back. If you want to leave the Showcase early, you will have to take your own transportation.

Saturday

Parade Day

Time	Parade Start Time: ~11:20 AM Buses for Dancers & Directors will Depart between 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM sharp outside Coronado Springs! (Pickup Spot; 5 min walk from Rooms) Guests will need to use Disney transportation / drive to Magic Kingdom before the parade. We recommend that they arrive at the park ~10:45 AM, so they can get through the entrance and be situated prior to 11:20 AM.
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Location	Disney's Magic Kingdom!
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First Half of Parade (Exact Order TBD at Rehearsal)

Rhythmic Arts Dance & Music Center
Aerodance
Mythili Dance Academy
Mayura Dance Academy
Danceversify Artistry
Shiva Thandava Cosmic Temple Of Dance
Kulture Kool
Rangeela Dance Company
Dance 4ever
Rhythm Roots
Devyani School of Cultural Arts
Pranavam School Of Dance

Second Half of Parade (Exact Order TBD at Rehearsal)

Richmond Indian Dance Academy
Kahini Dance Company
Taal New Zealand
Natya Anjali
Rhythmaya
Rhythm Dancers
Kalakriti Academy Of The Arts
DFD Academy
Natesa Bollywood Dance Academy
Nartan Rang
Center For Performance Arts And Learning
Mokshaa Dance Academy
Live 2 Dance

Parade Details

All dancers should be ready and dressed in their costumes by ~8:45 AM for the parade so they can get on the 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM bus! Dancers should wear something on top of their costumes and they should not wear their Jazz Shoes. They will bring their Jazz shoes to change into before the parade. They will also bring a change of clothes for after the parade. We recommend dancers **do not bring their phones with them. Directors are allowed to have phones.** They can use the drawstring bags that we will give them or other bags that **must be labeled.**

We will then transport all dancers & directors to the **front entrance of Magic Kingdom.** We will all together go through security screening, board Ferryboat or Monorails, and enter Magic Kingdom through Main Entrance using **Theme Park Tickets.** Everyone **must have their physical park pass copy!!** We cannot do anything if you or your dancer forget their park pass.

We will then walk everybody to a specific meeting location that will be outlined in your detailed schedule! At this point, they can use the restroom, as there will be no restrooms backstage.

Disney staff will then meet us at the individual meeting points and take us backstage. When we arrive backstage, your dancers can put their change of clothes down in one spot and change into their Jazz shoes. We will then call groups & start lining up the parade.

Here is a [link](#) to the parade route, as previously shared. After the parade, we will go back to the backstage area where each studio will get time to quickly change out of their costumes. **We will have water & snacks at this time.**

After changing, you will go back to your specific meeting location where you can meet your family / other guests who can bring the dancers their phones. Again, this will be written in your detailed schedule and can be shared with your guests.

Directors will be given a black bag, which they can use to hold any participant's medications / other essential items.

Those walking in the parade, please wear your Kurta, black pants, and black sneakers. If you are not in this outfit, you will **not be allowed to walk in the parade.**

Sunday

OPTIONAL Workshop Day

Time	Workshop Start Time: ~10:30 AM (~2.5 Hours Long) DDF Staff will escort workshop attendees onto Disney buses at 9:30 AM (Meeting Spot ; 5 min walk from Rooms; Closest Disney Bus Pick Up from Rooms)
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Location	Disney's EPCOT
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Workshop Details

DDF Staff will escort those attending the Workshop on Disney buses to EPCOT and walk with them to the workshop entrance. **A park pass day is required in order to enter EPCOT and complete the workshop.**

Once the workshop is complete, DDF Staff will meet those students outside the workshop area and wait with them until a parent or guardian comes to pick them up. Parents or guardians will need to use a park pass day to enter EPCOT and come pick up their children. We will share the workshop location with those individuals separately.

If a parent or guardian is unable to come into the park, DDF Staff will escort the dancers back to the hotel using Disney buses.