



**COVID UPDATE 3/13/20 4:00pm PST**

Dear Friends,

Today, at 12pm PST, President Trump declared a National Emergency due to COVID-19. As a result, many K-12 schools are being closed across the country. Yesterday, California Governor Newsom followed Washington and Oregon states, banning gatherings with 250 or more attendees and many states are implementing the same protocols. A gathering is defined as "Any event in a space in which appropriate social distancing of three feet or more cannot be maintained". Hollywood Connection events fall into this category. While some states have not instituted these bans yet, both these events attract studios from various regions where bans are taking place. **Therefore, with everyone's health and safety in mind, we have made the difficult decision to cancel both St Louis March 20-22 and Las Vegas March 27-29 events.** However, we are already working with our host hotels to reschedule the events for late spring. Please give us some time to evaluate all of our options and we will be sure to notify you when we have more information.

We know how hard you have worked to prepare for competition, and we are so disappointed that we won't get to see how much progress you have made this season. The hardest part is not seeing all our friends and colleagues because we were so looking forward to dancing with each and every one of you.

During this confusing and stressful time, we want to remind everyone to remain strong! It's important to do what is in the best interest of our dance community. We encourage you to be your best selves, put differences and politics aside, and support one another for the greater good.

To our beloved studio owners! Hang in there. This too shall pass. Stay healthy and vigilant in keeping your studios a place where children feel safe. Be the leader they know and love. Your dancers will be looking to you for guidance and support.

To all our dancers out there, WE LOVE YOU! We will do everything we can to reschedule and make this up to you. We can't wait to see you shine on stage. Keep practicing and stay in ballet and tap classes, because those are the foundations of your training.

To all the dance moms and dads out there...we know this has been a stressful time for you and we thank you for your patience as we navigate and try to make sense of this situation. We hope you can continue to support your dance teachers and studios. Your children will need a sense of normalcy and your studio owners and teachers love your kids like their own. So please if at all possible, keep your children enrolled in their classes. It will do a lot of GOOD.

We do **NOT** anticipate this to affect our National Finals dates. We are thrilled to be hosting our Nationals in San Diego, CA!!! If you have plans to attend our National Finals, please let us know. If we cannot reschedule your regional event, we will create an option for your students to qualify for the competition, including all our special events and awards including Teen Company, ICON of the Year, Music Video Workshop and more.

**As for our Phoenix, AZ April 3-5 and San Diego, CA April 17-19 events, we will reevaluate and access each event as more information becomes available from each region. Since these events are in April, we are hopeful and optimistic that these events will be able to continue if the bans are lifted and schools re-open. As of today, these events are scheduled as planned. However, our first priority will be your health and safety, so these could be rescheduled as well.**

If you have a reservation in the HC block at **St. Louis Marriott Hotel**, your room will be automatically cancelled. If you booked your room using a third party (Travelocity, etc) you must cancel your own room. **St Louis Airport Marriott 314-423-9700**

If you have a reservation in the HC block at the **Westin Lake Las Vegas Resort and Spa**, please call the hotel directly to cancel your room reservation. **Westin Lake Las Vegas Resort and Spa 702-567-6000.**

All communication going forward will be directed to the studio owners or registered contact for your team. Please allow us to determine what our next steps will be. As soon as we have more details, we will share them with the studio owners and team directors. Parents, we love you and as much as we want to personally respond to each and every email, it's best that we communicate directly with the owners as this is the most efficient and timely way to get our information out to everyone. Parents, please refrain from calling or emailing our office so that we can manage the situation more effectively with the owners directly. If you are a registered independent, we will be in touch.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Wash your hands.

With Gratitude,

Kimberly Rhineland and Bill Bohl  
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