



Dance Parade New York FAQ

1) When and where does the Dance Parade New York take place?

Dance Parade New York will take place on Saturday, May 22, 2010, rain or shine. The parade begins at 1:00 PM and culminates at 3:00 PM in Tompkins Square Park. A post-parade festival will take place in the park from 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

2) What does Dance Parade New York celebrate?

The parade is designed to celebrate the history of dance. The order of the parade reflects the history of dance, with the earliest forms African/Japanese/etc up through to modern times. By showcasing various different genres, cultures and styles, the parade unifies the world of dance. It also provides the general public the opportunity to experience and participate in a day of dance.

3) What is the mission?

New York City has been a birthplace for dance and art; Dance Parade New York aims to honor the various dance communities and their historical roots. Dance Parade's mission is: to promote dance as an expressive and unifying art form by showcasing all forms of dance, educating the general public about the opportunities to experience dance, and celebrating diversity of dance in New York City by sponsoring a yearly city-wide dance parade and dance festival. For a more description, visit: http://www.danceparade.org/EE/index.php/about/the_vision/

4) What is the history behind the parade?

The first Dance Parade New York is a non-profit which began in 2006 with a display of 37 styles, 75 dance groups and 2,321 participants. Now in its fourth year, the parade expects that it will showcase 70 styles, 200 groups and 10,000 participants.

5) What is the parade route?

The Parade will start on Broadway at 20th Street, travel south through Union Square, turn east on 8th Street through St. Marks and culminate in Tompkins Square Park in the East Village. A map of the route can be viewed and printed at http://www.danceparade.org/EE/index.php/about/parade_route/

6) What is the post parade festival in Tompkins Park?

The festival will include a myriad of free dance performances, workshops, lessons and social dancing. A program for the festival will be posted closer to the event.

7) Do I need tickets to view the parade or the festival?

No, the full day's events are free to the public.

8) How do people sign up?

Those interested in joining the parade can register online at www.danceparade.org, under the "participate" tab, as either an individual or a group.

9) What is the line of march?

All participants who that are registered for the event will receive specific details closer to the day of the parade. Floats need to check in at 10:00 AM and dancers should arrive no later than noon. Line up will take place on 20th and 21st Streets, between 5th and Park Avenues.

10) Where is the best place to view the parade

For best viewing of the parade, we recommend Union Square and Astor Place. A grand stand will be available for press, sponsors and donors on the South East corner of Saint Marks and 4th Avenue, between 3rd and 4th avenue.

11) What time should I show up to view the parade?

We recommend you arrive at least 30 minutes previous to the start time if you plan to view the parade at the starting point. Depending on weather and traffic the flow of the parade is constantly changing, therefore we recommend you arrive at your preferred viewing time by the start of the parade.

12) Where can I eat along the parade route?

If you'd like to eat at one of the many restaurants along the parade route we recommend making reservations in advance. There are many restaurants with outdoor seating along the route. There is a Farmer's Market in Union Square or you might also reference www.opentable.com or www.menupages.com

13) Who are the Dance Police?

The New York Dance Police (NYDP) is a playful brigade of uniformed dancers that patrol the parade route and festival ensuring that the public is adequately populated with dancing participants and onlookers. When an officer finds someone not dancing, they are questioned and ticketed with a coupon to a local dance school!

14) Is it possible to jump into the parade on the day of?

No, all participants must be registered beforehand in order for the parade to be in accordance with insurance and police regulations.

15) How did the New York City Cabaret Laws effect the creation of Dance Parade New York?

The [Cabaret Law](#), which originated in 1926 and was largely forgotten until early 1990s, was resurrected by Giuliani's administration to address drug problems in urban nightclubs. However, it inadvertently caused many legitimate dance oriented establishments to be fined and shuttered. Judge Michael Stallman of the New York Supreme Court ruled in 2006 that dance could not be differentiated from aerobics and therefore was not considered an expressive form of art. Hence, unlike music, film, theater, poetry, and fine art, social dancing was not protected by the state's Second Amendment Freedom of Expression clause.

In an effort to demonstrate that dance was indeed expressive, Greg Miller enlisted civil rights attorney Norman Siegel, former head of the New York Civil Liberty Union, to obtain a parade permit for 75 organizations to celebrate many diverse cultural and movement forms as possible: a dance parade.