

Taaza 3.0 Bollywood-Fusion Judging FAQ

Q: Are numbers important on stage? Like how do you recommend balancing skilled dancers vs the number of dancers on stage? Do you see having a big team as an advantage over a small team?

- Big teams can get away with a lot more... more critical with bigger teams cuz often times stage use is a lot less... make sure you utilize the stage properly... small teams it's all good...
- If you are just using ppl to fill the stage, make sure they are clean and not just there
- In small teams you can make such creative formations; you can expand the stage and do moving formations; shrink boundaries with markers and side markers.... Use all of the space
- Don't try to fill the stage with dancers that cannot execute

Q: Will the judges weigh the complexity of choreo more than the cleanliness of choreo?

- Varies per judge; values complexity a lot more and wants to see more creative choreo. EXECUTION has to be there as well.
- More creative choreo is weighted higher but if we can't see what you put on stage (not clean) then it doesn't matter
- Don't put something complex for the sake of it → has to be clean and tell a story
- Scale back choreo depending on ability and prioritize cleanliness

Q: Do the judges prefer to see more styles of dance with less success in execution or fewer styles of dance that are executed to their full potential?

- Fewer styles and execution at full potential is preferred; don't try to force 6 different styles if you are not good at it. Stick to two to three that you are amazing at. This shows that you can identify strengths
- If you are going to do a style, do it properly and execute it strongly.
- Stick to what you are good at!!! Don't throw random things in there that are not needed.

Q: Would you like to see the team sing ALL the songs - whether it's a male or female singing the song? How do you feel about girls singing (mouthing) male vocal songs while dancing?

- Everyone should be standardized throughout. Everyone should sing all the songs as it adds a lot to the set (more enjoyment). It doesn't matter if you are singing male or female, just sing it all
- They don't care about the gender of the singer. Just keep facials and keep it standardized (facials should be prioritized)

Q: Is counting out loud on stage okay? Mostly for purposes of when music accidentally goes out.

- Prefers no counting; it takes away from the music. It makes judges think that you don't know your set. By performance time, you should love and know your set. Points will be taken off if you are counting
- The entire team should know the counts by performing time; even if you don't have music you should not be counting

Q: Is it preferred to have more dance with fewer voiceovers if it means the story makes a little less sense or vice versa?

- Whatever makes sense in the set and the story; if less voiceovers makes sense with the theme then go with that. As long as everything is cohesive then awesome. Don't have a lot of empty dialogue. If you're having a lot of dialogue, make sure you are dancing
- Production has less points so focus on choreo; but still, make sure everything is cohesive
- If you are sacrificing dialogue, and the story is gone that is not good

Q: How can a team manage several different dance styles/moods yet maintain a consistent identity and intuitive flow from beginning to end (avoiding "choppiness" between segments)?

- There is always a way to connect things; having moving parts helps connect two pieces... having running will cause choppiness
- There is a way to incorporate dance styles in transitions
- Try to make choreo the vibe of the preceding segment
- Make segments flow into each other; try to keep things moving and have segments flow into one another
- Do not have half assed transitions; transitions are part of the set; sets the stage of what is happening next on stage; keeps things more coherent
- Have a vision for your set and make sure things flow with theme and choreo and mix (story should make sense as well)
- Set flow is important

Q: What's the most important thing you're looking for? What do you think is the most important thing on the rubric?

- it's about the impact and how we feel from your story. It's about how the whole piece resonates (doesn't have to be sad or inspiring.. It can be anything); that is what will make you remembered and cause judges to fight for you
- the cohesiveness of the set... takes my attention away... can't take my eyes off
- Being immersed in the set. Should feel like one cohesive set
- Immersion is so important; facial power and loving the music (it's so good; I can't take my eyes off and I don't have to write notes) constant flow of flowing the set

Q: What is your personal pet peeve as a judge?

- When all transitions are just running off stage and flat-backed... don't do it
- Running off and on stage is stupid bro... that is o 2010
- Bad technique for each dance style (bhangra and classical)

- Not taking risks on stage... expects dancers to evolve... experiment... don't do just do what you are good at
- Repetitive choreo... build-up to segment with no climax; You better hit it and make sure it pays off
- All guys teams loving to do crumping segments? IDK what that is.. Why would u do this? It's like you like following trends ... if you do it, make it interesting.
- If you are using a prop, don't just throw it off... disrespectful to the prop...dont step on it... respect the classics
- Forcing stage movement... distracts from the set
- Make the stunt matter.... Dont do it just for hype... it should not be unnecessary

Q: Rubric aside, what do you personally see as a deciding factor between placing teams that are neck and neck and why?

- It's about overall creativity; is the choreo creative? Is the set flowing? Being consistent? If only three pieces hit but the rest of the set is meh this is not good
- Comes down to emotion... it ends up being more about the impact the team had on the judges; how did you make the audience and judges feel...its more about the impact
- Teams identify... if you only do the circuit trend. Each team should have their own personality and what did your team bring in that was extra special. How did the team represent themselves? This identity causes judges to fight for that team. The set made us feel something
- The creativity of the set... did you try to push the boundaries of the set?
- If cleanliness is taking away from the segment, and taking away from the story. Creative and impact are very important

Q: How much do you value elements of fast and slow choreo?

- Valued a lot
- Teams that had dynamic choreo are placed a lot higher; utilize different tempos
- Plays a huge role
- The ability to make a mix vary is really cool... there's gotta be ups and downs
- Set up big moments using dynamic choreo

Q: What are you guys looking for in Bhangra?

- Make sure your technique is good! Hit your butt bro
- Bring full energy and reference technique in the bhangra circuit

Q: Thoughts on having just leads on stage? Do you prefer costume changes or having more ppl on stage?

- 1-2 Meaningful costume changes add a lot... but if you are doing costume changes after every piece, it may not be good
- Make sure if the stage is empty people are dancing
- Rather have ppl on stage and only 2-3 costume change.... Make the costume changes drastic not just like a hat or vest

- Everything should have a meaning behind it; try to make sure people aren't standing there doing nothing

Q: Would you guys think it's distracting that the dialogue is on the backdrop?

- It's tough because dialogue can get lost

Q: If mistakes are made on stage?

- Recovery as fast as you can... judge won't notice if you can play it off. Be a smart dancer
- Facial expressions give it away if you mess up
- Have backup plans