

ISSUE 1 | OCTOBER 23-26, 2025

PRESS PLAY

A NEW ERA

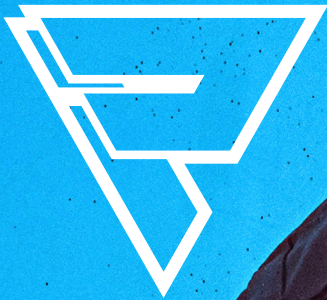
THE PREMIERE

Season One

FEATURING

RANDI KEMPER

Hip-Hop



GRAND OPENING!

Los Angeles

PLAY BOOK

Your EXCLUSIVE backstage
pass for the weekend.



161851919-1612125

A NEW ERA OF DANCE EVENTS.

WELCOME TO PRESS PLAY

We're so excited to finally Press Play on this journey with you! After months of planning, dreaming, and building, Press Play Dance Convention is officially here. This event was created with one simple

mission: to bring dancers together, share unforgettable moments, and celebrate the joy of movement. None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our teachers, staff, families, and most importantly... you, the dancers who showed up ready to move, learn, and connect!

Have a great weekend!



Ray Leeper &
Danny Lawn
Directors



2025-2026 TOUR DATES

NOV. 7-9
MIAMI, FL

NOV. 21-23
TORONTO, ON

DEC. 5-7
MEADOWLANDS, NJ

JAN. 9-11
CHICAGO, IL

JAN. 23-25
DENVER, CO

JAN. 30-FEB. 1
DALLAS, TX

FEB. 6-8
DETROIT, MI

FEB. 13-15
PHILADELPHIA, PA

FEB. 20-22
SEATTLE, WA

FEB. 27-MAR. 1
KANSAS CITY, MO

MAR. 6-8
MANCHESTER, NH

MAR. 13-15
HOUSTON, TX

MAR. 20-22
ATLANTA, GA

MAR. 27-29
SANTA CLARA, CA

OCT. 23-26
LOS ANGELES, CA

APR. 10-12
ANAHEIM, CA

APR. 17-19
BUFFALO, NY

APR. 24-26
ORLANDO, FL

MAY 1-3
PHOENIX, AZ

MAY 7-9
PROVO, UT

NATIONALS 2026

JULY 6-12
LAS VEGAS | MGM GRAND

WHO IS **PRESS PLAY?**

THE DIRECTORS



RAY LEEPER
Director/Jazz
@therayleeper



DANNY LAWN
Director/Jazz
@dannydlawn



MANDY MOORE
Director of
Dancer A&R
@nopenother

THE ARTISTS



RICKY UBEDA
Contemporary
@rickyubeda11



JABU GRAYBEAL
Tap
@jabuworld



ERICA KLEIN
Contemporary
@erica_klein



EZRA + RYLEE
Ballroom
@ryleearnold1
@ezra.sosa



AL BLACKSTONE
Musical Theatre
@alblackstonechoreo



PHIL WRIGHT
Hip-Hop
@phil_wright_



ELLIE + AVA
College Dance Team
@elliewagner13
@avawagner22



RANDI + HEF
Hip-Hop
@randi_kemper
@hefaleka



KELLY SWEENEY
Jazz Funk
@kellysweeney1



**BENOIT-SWAN
POUFFER**
Contemp. Ballet
@benoitswanpouffer



**PARIS
CAVANAGH**
Contemporary
Fusion
@pariscav



**JIM
NOWAKOWSKI**
Ballet
@jimnowakowski



**SPENCER
DENNIS**
Contemporary
@SpencerDennis_
mvmnt



**SAMMY
MCFADDEN**
Hip-Hop &
Dance Team
@sammy__mcfadden



**MELISSA
MCGHEE**
Collegiate Head
Coach
@mmcgree65



PRESS PLAY IS IN CREATION MODE

HEY! READ THIS!

Experimenting, innovating, refining, and reimagining what a dance convention can be. In our first few cities, we're trying fresh concepts, new technology, and creative experiences designed to make your weekend unforgettable. We're open, honest, and obsessed with making this the best experience possible. So jump in, explore, and tell us what you think — your voice helps shape what comes next.

Have feedback? Chat with one of our Directors (Ray & Danny) or our CEO (Brad) during the event, or email info@pressplay.com at anytime — we'd love to hear from you!

#PressPlayYourPart PHOTO CHALLENGE

HOW IT WORKS

Collect the moments that make Press Play unforgettable! Complete all 4 photo prompts below during the weekend, then create an Instagram post or carousel showing your photos.

YOUR MISSION

1. Capture a candid moment at the Opening Night Party
2. Strike a pose on a Press Play Step & Repeat
3. Take a pic with a dancer from another studio
4. Snap a photo with your favorite Press Play Merch

HOW TO ENTER

Post your completed photos as a carousel (or collage) on Instagram.

Tag @pressplay and use #PressPlayYourPart + #PressPlayLA in your caption.

Bonus: Share one of the photos to your story and tag us for extra credit!

PRIZE

One #PressPlayYourPart Winner will be selected randomly at The Rewind and will receive one free regional Workshop scholarship, plus a feature on our Instagram story!

LOS ANGELES

VENUE

Loews Hollywood Hotel

1755 Highland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90028

[\(323\) 856-1200](tel:(323)856-1200)

[Directions](#)

Parking: The most economical option is self-parking at the Ovation Hollywood entertainment complex attached to the Loews Hotel, priced at \$25 per day. Loews valet parking is also available for added convenience at \$55 per day. Press Play does not have any parking validations for any lot.

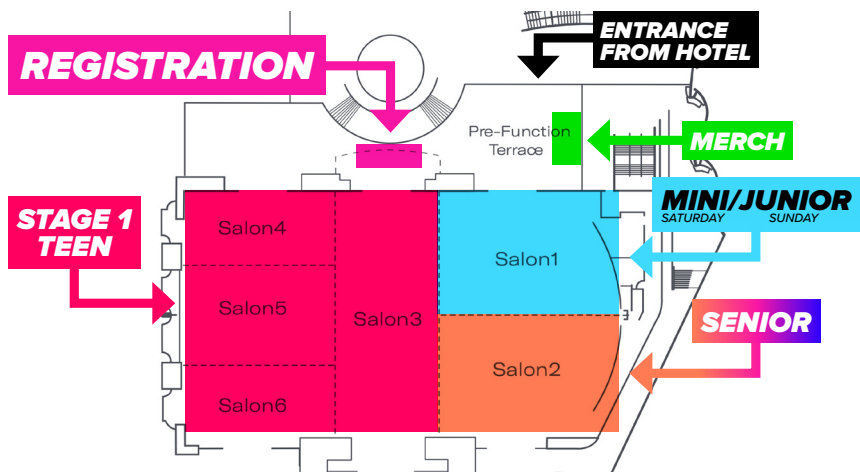
Food Options: The Loews Hollywood Hotel features a grab-and-go market called Bodega, located on the lobby level, offering coffee, drinks, salads, sandwiches, snacks, and more. Open daily from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For a sit-down option, visit Preston's, the hotel's breakfast and lunch restaurant on the second level, open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Loews is also part of a larger entertainment complex with plenty of additional dining options just steps away.

Pool: Bring your bathing suits! Located on the fifth floor, Loews' outdoor heated pool offers spectacular views.



RAY DOLBY BALLROOM

Hotel, 5th Level - Outside Entrance



HOLLYWOOD BALLROOM

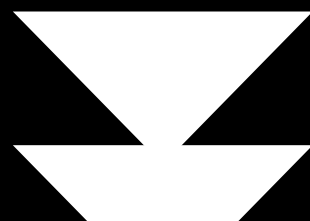
Hotel, Mezzanine Level



KNOW BEFORE **YOU GO!**

CHECK-IN, WRISTBANDS, SCHOLARSHIP NUMBERS & WAIVERS

- If you're attending with a Studio, there's no need to check in individually! Your Studio will handle everything for you, including wristbands, scholarship numbers, meeting times, and any other important information.
- Wristbands are required for entry to all classes Saturday & Sunday.
- Any Workshop room changes (if available) must be done with the approval of your Studio.
- Each dancer receives four scholarship numbers — wear one each day (Saturday & Sunday) during Workshop classes and have some backups just in case.
- Scholarship numbers aren't needed for Bonus Track classes on Friday, but are needed for Saturday.
- All attendees (Dancers & Teachers) must complete the Press Play waiver before participating. Your studio has the link, or visit the Q & Heyyy Desk on-site.



GRAND OPENING NIGHT PARTY

Friday, October 24, 8:30-10pm — Held in the Dolby Ballroom, Hotel 5th Floor

Kick off the very first Press Play Dance Convention with an unforgettable celebration — open to all Dancers, Teachers, Studio Owners, and Observers (wristbands required)! Join us for the Grand Opening Night Party, featuring a live DJ, contests, prizes, special performances, and surprise entertainment. Meet the faculty, connect with new friends, and help us make history as we celebrate the launch of a new era of dance events.

DRESS TO IMPRESS like you're stepping onto the red carpet — it's a premiere-themed night, and we'll be awarding Best Dressed to those who bring the most star power!

BONUS TRACKS

Our BONUS TRACKS are optional classes held throughout the weekend for dancers available and not competing during those times. Please refer to the event schedule for times and details. Our faculty understand that you may be moving between competition and classes, so don't stress about arriving a little late or leaving early. Any adult wishing to watch classes must have an Observer band.

LOS ANGELES HIGHLIGHTS:

DANCE TEAM EXPERIENCE

Friday, October 24, 4-6:15pm — Held in the back of Dolby Ballroom, Hotel 5th Floor

Get ready for game day! Join Ellie Wagner, Ava Wagner, and Sammy McFadden for a high-energy workshop packed with the styles and skills you'll see on top college dance teams. Then stick around for a talkback with Collegiate Head Coach Melissa McGhee—your chance to ask questions, get insider advice, and find out what it really takes to make your college dance dreams happen.

INSIDE PIVOT: A CONVERSATION WITH MANDY MOORE & MENTORS

Saturday, October 25, 11:45am-12:45pm — Held in the Senior Room (Dolby 2), Hotel 5th Floor

Join PIVOT creator Mandy Moore and mentors Benoit-Swan Pouffer, Al Blackstone, and Sammy McFadden for an inside look at Press Play's signature professional advancement program — PIVOT. Designed to guide dancers from passion to profession, PIVOT offers four exclusive intensives: PIVOT LA: Commercial, PIVOT NYC: Musical Theatre, PIVOT Europe: Concert Contemporary, and PIVOT University: College Dance Team.

Discover how this innovative program empowers the next generation of artists to refine their craft, explore career paths, and connect with industry leaders in a truly one-of-a-kind experience. Open to Seniors, Teachers & Observers. Feel free to bring your lunch.

THE NIGHT SHIFT W/ RICKY UBEDA

Saturday, October 25, 8-9:30pm — Held in the Remix Room on Hotel Mezzanine Level

It's all rhythm, energy, and expression at The Night Shift. Join Ricky Ubeda for an unforgettable night of movement and music — a class where live musicians, great vibes, and pure creativity take center stage. Come groove, explore, and feel what it's like to move with one of the finest professional dancers of our generation.

REMIX ROOM

We're excited to introduce The Remix Room — a brand-new experience created exclusively for our Mini and Junior dancers. This dynamic, immersive space features enhanced lighting, video, and production elements designed to make the day even more exciting. Juniors will take class in The Remix Room on Saturday, and Minis will experience it on Sunday. TO BE CLEAR... Minis & Juniors switch ballrooms Saturday & Sunday. Please refer to the venue diagrams in this guide for exact ballroom locations.

PARENT ROOM

*Held in the Solano Ballroom,
on Hotel Mezzanine Level*

We're flipping the script — this time, the parents get to dance! The Parent Room hosts a few fun, low-pressure classes and seminars throughout the weekend. Come laugh, move, and make some memories of your own! This is complimentary and you do not need a wristband! The Parent Room also doubles as the PeeWee Room.

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

8:30a-9:15a
Social Media Forum w/
Kelly

9:15a-10:15a
Dance Team Forum w/
Melissa & Sammy

10:15a-11a
Hip-Hop Jam w/ Phil

SUNDAY, OCT. 26

11a-11:45a
Parent Hip-Hop w/ Randi
& Hef

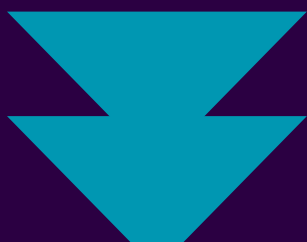
PLAY IT FWD BRACELET

The Play It Forward Bracelet celebrates dancers who have made a lasting impression throughout the weekend. During the weekend, faculty members honor these dancers by presenting them with two bracelets — one to keep as a reminder of their impact, and one to pass forward to another dancer who they believe shines with potential. It's about celebrating growth, uplifting one another, and carrying the spirit of Press Play beyond the ballroom.



We're proud to partner with Knot Just Dance, a young dancer-owned business, for our exclusive Play It FWD bracelets. Each bracelet represents creativity, community, and giving back — values at the heart of Press Play.

Support this inspiring small business and check out their collection at knotjustdance.myshopify.com



THE REWIND

Don't miss The Rewind—the ultimate finale to your Press Play weekend. After the last class wraps on Sunday, the main stage transforms into a high-energy celebration featuring scholarship presentations, electrifying faculty performances, and an exclusive Dance Battle you won't want to miss! It's the can't-miss highlight that brings the weekend full circle.

Please note: The Rewind is expected to last 60–90 minutes. There is no formal seating — attendees and spectators may stand or sit on the floor. There will be minimal reserved seating for Teachers & Studio Owners. Currently, select studio routines will not be re-performing in The Rewind.

COMPETITION RULES

At Press Play, we strive to make every Competition fun, inspiring, and motivating — while keeping things fair for everyone involved. Please take a moment to review all detailed rules and regulations at pressplay.com/competition. Any concerns will be reviewed and addressed at the sole discretion of the Event Directors.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Press Play has published estimated times for all Competition routines. Please be aware we could run up to 1 hour ahead of schedule. Please follow along via our livestream!

DRESSING ROOMS

Dedicated dressing rooms for Female, Male, and Gender Neutral dancers will be available at all events one hour before the Competition start time. Please refer to our Venue map. Dressing rooms are for changing only and may not be used as rehearsal space. To ensure privacy, photos and videos are strictly prohibited inside all dressing rooms. Studios, dancers, and parents are expected to respect and maintain the designated dressing areas. Any abuse of the dressing rooms may result in disqualification from the Competition. All participants are responsible for keeping their space clean and properly disposing of all trash before leaving the area.

MUSIC

All competition music must be uploaded by the Friday before your event. Please log in to your Hitchkick registration account to upload your files. You may preview your tracks once uploaded. Be sure to bring a backup copy of your music on a smartphone or USB drive to the event.

COMPETITION STAGES 1 & 2

STAGE 1 is our Mainstage, featuring a custom-built performance space with a minimum danceable area of 40' wide by 28' deep, plus ample wing space and a backstage crossover. The floor is finished with professional marley for dancer safety and performance quality. While Stage 1 primarily hosts group routines, select solo and duo/trio performances will also take place on this stage throughout the weekend.

STAGE 2 is dedicated exclusively to solos and duo/trios and offers a slightly smaller dance area while maintaining the same professional marley surface and production standards.

PROPS

A designated prop storage area will be available on site — please see a Press Play staff member upon arrival for the exact location. All props must enter through the main entrance of the Venue unless loading dock access has been pre-approved, in writing, from Press Play. Press Play is not responsible for prop security, and truck parking cannot be guaranteed. We recommend removing props immediately after your routine. For more details on all Prop rules: pressplay.com/competition/fine-print

JUDGING & ONLINE CRITIQUES

All entries are adjudicated by three to four qualified judges with their own audio/video critique. Online critiques will be available within one week of the event.

PHOTO & VIDEO

Photography and videography during the Competition are strictly prohibited. Due to the advanced capabilities of modern cameras and cell phones, all recording and still photography — with or without flash — is not allowed. This policy protects the intellectual property of choreographers and ensures the safety and privacy of all dancers. Any violations may result in the disqualification of the routine and/or the studio.

LIVESTREAM pressplay.com/livestream

Enjoy a free livestream of the Competition in every city. While we aim to deliver a smooth and high-quality stream, please note that occasional technical issues may arise due to venue or internet limitations. There is also no rewind or playback option. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

SPECTATOR INFORMATION

To observe Workshop classes, family members of registered dancers may purchase an Observer wristband in advance through their studio (if the studio allows Observers). Anyone ages 11 and older must have an Observer Band to enter Workshop rooms. If you plan to purchase an Observer Band on-site, please be prepared to provide the dancer's full name, studio affiliation, and date of birth for security verification. Please note that in some venues, space limitations may restrict the number of observers allowed.

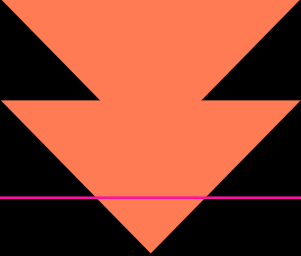
Friends and Family of registered dancers are welcome to watch the Competition throughout the weekend, free of charge on our Livestream! www.pressplay.com/livestream

The families of registered dancers are also welcome to watch the Rewind (Closing Show) free of charge, although seating is not available (Standing Room Only).

PLAY BY THE RULES

While we encourage LOTS of enthusiasm at Press Play, there are a few guidelines set to ensure a safe and seamless event:

- Workshop Observers should remain seated and keep all personal belongings against the walls to maximize space for dancers. Press Play reserves the right to ask any Observer to exit the ballroom if they become a distraction to dancers or faculty.
- Competition seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The first few rows are reserved for Studio Owners and Teachers ONLY and are clearly marked.
- Saving more than 1 seat is not allowed. Please be considerate and make room for all guests who wish to support their dancers.
- Air horns or similar devices are prohibited.
- Photography and video recording are not permitted inside the Competition areas or dressing rooms.
- All attendees and spectators must comply with the specific rules of each venue, including food, drink, and facility use policies.
- No alcohol is permitted inside the ballrooms at any time except for specific special events held for Teachers, Studio Owners and/or Parents/Guardians.
- Please be respectful of all performers, staff, judges, and fellow audience members. Disruptive behavior, loud talking, or negative comments will not be tolerated.
- Support the Performers: We encourage loud applause, positive energy, and good sportsmanship throughout the event!
- Press Play reserves the right to remove any spectator or attendee for inappropriate conduct.
- At Press Play, we deeply value the trust and loyalty shared between studios and their dancers. To maintain that integrity, soliciting dancers from other studios is strictly prohibited at all Press Play events. A first offense will result in a formal warning, and repeated violations may lead to suspension from future Press Play events until further notice.



SAFETY & SECURITY

The Press Play Event Safety Officer on-site is: Leslie Kester, safety@pressplay.com

Please report any Safety and/or Security concerns immediately. For Press Play's detailed Safety & Security plan, please visit: pressplay.com/event-info/safety

- Attendees under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult parent, guardian, or dance teacher at all times.
- Dancers (under 18) should not leave the venue without checking in with a parent or guardian.
- All venues will have security and/or staff available if assistance is needed.
- Stay aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activity immediately.
- Please do not leave your belongings unattended while at the convention. Press Play is not responsible for lost or stolen property.
- Please be advised that strobe lights and other intense lighting effects may be used during performances and classes. Individuals who are sensitive to such effects should take appropriate precautions.



GOT MERCH?

WEAR THE MOMENT.



Press Play believes self-expression is power. Dance and fashion are both languages — ways to speak your truth without saying a word. Every move, every look, every beat is a reflection of who you are and what you stand for.

Exclusive Press Play drops hit every city — hoodies, tees, hats, and more made for the movement.

Once they're gone, *they're gone.*

FIND YOURS AT THE GOT MERCH? BOOTH

PHOTO & VIDEO

OWN YOUR MOMENT. FOREVER.

**RELIVE YOUR COMPETITION
PERFORMANCE AND SHARE IT
WITH PRIDE.**

Photo & video packages available for all routines.

Visit pressplay.com/photo-video or scan the QR code to order yours today.



AUDITIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS

FEATURED ARTISTS

At Press Play, all Mini, Junior, Teen, and Senior dancers (ages 8–19) will participate in the Featured Artist Scholarship Audition. Dancers audition in their age division as of January 1, 2026 and must be in their age-appropriate ballroom for both the Featured Artist Audition and the preceding Jazz combo class. Juniors, Teens, and Seniors will also learn a ballet combination during their earlier Ballet class that will be incorporated into the audition. In the audition, they'll perform in small groups for evaluation by the Press Play faculty. Finalists will be chosen in each age division: Mini (8–10), Junior (11–12), Teen (13–15), Senior (16–19). At the conclusion of the audition, the selected dancers will be announced as Featured Artist Finalists!

SUNDAY REHEARSAL & THE REWIND

All Featured Artist Finalists will be recognized during The Rewind on Sunday. A short rehearsal for all Finalists will be held in the Teen Room at lunch on Sunday. Please plan ahead and bring lunch. Finalists will take the stage during The Rewind, where the Winners and Runners-up in each age division will be announced. Attendance will be taken in Sunday classes to ensure Finalists remain active in class.

BATTLE FOR THE BELT!!!

To wrap up the Rewind (runtime 60-90 min), the Teen and Senior Featured Artist Winners will face off in a high-energy improv dance battle, judged by the entire Press Play faculty! The champion will take home the custom yellow Press Play Championship Belt — plus \$300 toward a pizza party back at their studio. (Battle for the Belt is just for fun! This portion does not affect Featured Artist results at Regionals or Nationals.)

FEATURED ARTISTS RECEIVE	WINNER	RUNNERS-UP
Invitation to compete for Artist of the Year at Press Play Nationals 2026		
Complimentary Workshop Tuition to Nationals 2026		
Personalized Jacket & Goody Bag at Nationals 2026		
Free Specialty Solo Title Registration at Nationals 2026		
Performance at Nationals 2026 (Teens & Seniors only)		
One Regional Tour Scholarship – valid for use at any Regional event during the 2025 – 2026 or 2026 – 2027 season.		
Priority Invitation to PIVOT, created by Mandy Moore (Senior Winners only. Teen Winners if space is available.)		

IMPROVISATIONAL RULES

To ensure a safe, fair, and respectful experience for all dancers, the following guidelines apply to all improvisational events at Press Play:

No removal of clothing or costumes, except for accessories (e.g., hats, scarves, jackets).

No jumping or leaping off the stage.

No retrieving or using props from offstage.

No physical or verbal interaction with other contestants.

Movement and expression must remain age-appropriate — no suggestive, explicit, or sexual gestures or content.

Violations of these rules may result in disqualification or point deduction at the discretion of the Press Play Management & Directors.

SPOTLIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

Throughout the Press Play weekend, our faculty will recognize dancers who truly stand out in class by awarding Spotlight Scholarships. These awards honor exceptional performance, passion, and artistry in specific styles - tap, jazz, ballet, hip-hop, etc.

Spotlight Scholarships may be presented to dancers ages 8–19 in the Mini, Junior, Teen, and Senior workshop levels. The number of recipients varies by city and class size. Each dancer may receive one Spotlight Scholarship per season, and one-day students are not eligible.

Spotlight Scholarship recipients will be announced in their respective ballrooms after the last class of the weekend before the Rewind (Closing Show). Recipients receive a complimentary Specialty Solo Title fee at Press Play Nationals 2026.

ARTISTS TO WATCH

Press Play faculty members will each select one dancer who truly inspires the room — dancers who shine through their passion, energy, and love for dance. These exceptional individuals will be recognized as our Artists to Watch. An Artist to Watch might be someone who shows extraordinary growth, a standout work ethic, or a genuine spark that elevates those around them.

Artist to Watch recipients will be announced at the end of the Rewind (Closing Show) on Sunday and will receive complimentary workshop tuition to attend one Press Play regional event during the 2026–2027 season.





Your Host
ELLIE WAGNER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Orientation w/ Ellie! (11:45a-12p)	Jazz w/ Ellie (8a-8:45a)
Musical Theatre w/ Ellie (12p-12:45p)	Ballet w/ Jim (8:45a-9:30a)
Lyrical w/ Erica (12:45p-1:30p)	Hip-Hop w/ Randi & Hef (9:30a-10:15a)
Press Pause (1:30p-1:45p)	PeeWee Premiere Party (10:15a-10:30a)
Jazz w/ Kelly (1:45p-2:30p)	
Hip-Hop w/ Phil (2:30p-3:15p)	
Performance on Mainstage!	

The PeeWee theme for the weekend is “PeeWee Premiere!” — celebrating our youngest dancers as the stars of their own red-carpet debut! It’s their moment to shine, explore, and experience the magic of convention, maybe for the very first time. The PeeWee Saturday concludes with a fun showcase on the Press Play stage in the Teen Room before the Competition starts. Parents, please pick up your PeeWee backstage immediately following the performance.

Each PeeWee dancer receives one complimentary PeeWee Observer wristband for a parent or guardian, allowing access to the PeeWee room only. Additional wristbands may be purchased on-site (if available) with the dancer’s name, studio, and date of birth for verification.

PeeWees are not eligible for Audition or Class Scholarships, but they may be considered for *Artists to Watch Scholarships*.

The PeeWee room is located in the Solano Ballroom in the hotel, Mezzanine Level.

Have fun!

PIVOT

FROM PASSION TO PROFESSION

*A Premier Training Experience
from Press Play*

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

PIVOT is an advanced dancer development program from Press Play created to bridge the gap between convention training and the professional world. Led by **Mandy Moore** — Emmy Award-winning choreographer and Press Play's Director of Dancer A&R — PIVOT offers Senior Featured Artist Winners (and select invitees) the chance to take part in one of four week-long summer intensives, each centered on a distinct professional pathway:



PIVOT: LOS ANGELES

Commercial Dance

Hosted by

Mandy Moore

PIVOT: EUROPE

Concert Dance

Hosted by

Benoit-Swan Pouffer

PIVOT: NYC

Musical Theatre

Hosted by

Al Blackstone

PIVOT: UNIVERSITY

College Dance Team

Hosted by

Sammy McFadden

Each intensive focuses on mentorship, professional preparation, and creative collaboration with some of the industry's most respected choreographers and educators.

Full details on selection and participation will be available soon at
pressplay.com/pivot.

STUDIO OWNERS & TEACHERS VIP INFO



VIP DINNER & STAGE REVEAL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 7:30PM-9:30PM
DOLBY BALLROOM, HOTEL 5TH FLOOR

You're invited to an unforgettable evening as we officially launch Press Play's first-ever event in true Hollywood style. Join us in the world-famous Dolby Ballroom at Loews Hollywood Hotel for an exclusive VIP celebration hosted by Ray Leeper & Danny Lawn.

Enjoy an open bar, elevated dinner stations, and the chance to meet the visionary faculty and team behind Press Play. Mingle with fellow studio owners and teachers from across the country as we unveil our state-of-the-art, one-of-a-kind stage and commemorate the moment with a red carpet and ribbon cutting ceremony.

Semi-formal attire please. It's a night of connection, celebration, and the official start of A New Era of Dance Events! Open to all 21+ Registered Teachers and Studio Owners.

TEACHER WELCOME, COFFEE, MEET & GREET

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 8AM-9AM

DOHENY-LAUREL ROOM, HOTEL MEZZANINE

Start your weekend the right way — with coffee, conversation, and community. Join us in the Teacher Room for a relaxed morning meet-and-greet with fellow educators and studio owners. Enjoy fresh coffee and pastries while connecting with Ray Leeper and Danny Lawn as they share insights about the Teacher Program and walk through the exciting Press Play weekend schedule. It's the perfect way to kick things off, caffeinate, and get inspired for an unforgettable weekend ahead.

THE PRESS PAUSE TEACHER LOUNGE

NICHOLS ROOM, HOTEL MEZZANINE LEVEL

FRIDAY 7:30AM-7:30PM

SATURDAY 7:30AM-7:30PM

SUNDAY 7:30AM-10:30AM



PRESS PAUSE
TEACHER LOUNGE

Need a breather? Step away from the high-energy hustle of the weekend and unwind in our Teacher Lounge. Enjoy complimentary coffee, tea, soda, and snacks while you recharge, catch up with friends, or take a quiet moment between classes. It's your space to relax, refresh, and reset before diving back into the action.

RAY LEEPER'S TEACHER PROGRAM

We're in the works of developing an exciting new Teacher Program designed just for you! While the full program officially launches later this year, we're already offering an incredible lineup of movement and discussion-based classes across a wide range of topics that we know teachers will love. From inspiring choreography sessions to meaningful conversations about teaching and creativity, there's something here for every educator. Don't miss these amazing classes from our powerhouse faculty and guest artists!

STUDIO OWNER RECEPTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 9PM-11PM

PENTHOUSE (PANORAMA SUITE)

Take a break from the buzz and unwind in style. Join fellow studio owners in the Penthouse at Loews Hollywood for an exclusive evening of conversation, connection, and chill vibes. Sip wine, have some snacks, soak in the views, and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere designed just for you — the perfect way to recharge before another incredible day at Press Play.

BEHIND THE CHOREOGRAPHY: A CONVERSATION W/ MANDY MOORE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 9:45AM-10:30AM

DOHENY-LAUREL ROOM, HOTEL MEZZANINE LEVEL

Go behind the curtain with one of the most celebrated creative forces in the dance industry. In this exclusive seminar, Mandy Moore shares her incredible journey — from growing up in a dance studio and leading a competition team to becoming one of the world's top directors and choreographers. She'll also delve into her creative process for projects across television, film, and stage, offering a rare glimpse into how she brings her vision to life. Honest, inspiring, and full of wisdom — this is a must-attend for every teacher. After the chat... get up and dance w/ Mandy!

TEACHER ROUNDTABLE & LUNCH W/ RAY, DANNY & MANDY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 12:30PM-1:30PM

DOHENY-LAUREL ROOM, HOTEL MEZZANINE LEVEL

Join Ray Leeper, Danny Lawn, and Mandy Moore for an open, collaborative lunch designed exclusively for teachers and studio owners. Enjoy great food and conversation as we talk about all things Press Play — what's working, what could be even better, and how we can continue shaping a new era of dance events together. Share your thoughts, ask questions, and connect with the creative minds behind the movement.

VIP SEATING

All registered teachers and studio owners will enjoy reserved seating throughout the weekend — including during Competition, Workshop classes, and The Rewind. Relax and enjoy every moment with the best seats in the house, reserved exclusively for you.

VIP LANYARD

Every registered teacher and studio owner will receive an exclusive VIP lanyard upon check-in. This simple touch helps our faculty, staff, and fellow attendees easily recognize and connect with you throughout the weekend. While wearing your lanyard isn't required, it's encouraged — it's a great way to stand out and make the most of your experience.

Please note: VIP lanyards do not replace your wristband. A valid wristband is still required for entry into all Workshop rooms.

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JULY 6–12, 2026

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