

THEATERVEREIN FÜRTH E.V.

Theaterverein Fürth e.V. | Königstraße 116 | 90762 Fürth



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14th International Ballet Competition 'Der goldene Schuh' on 28 February and 1 March 2026)

In cooperation with the *Stadttheater Fürth*, the Theaterverein Fürth e.V. is organising the fourteenth ballet competition 'Der goldene Schuh', which will take place in February and March 2026. Competitors both from Germany and the rest of Europe may take part in this competition, which is supported by eminent ballet teachers.

Net proceeds from the gala performance will be donated to the *Stadttheater Fürth*.

Preliminary selection: video performance

Candidates will be judged on their classical ballet performance. There are two age groups. Only students of private ballet schools who are not yet engaged in professional ballet training are eligible to take part.

Terms and conditions

1. Age (Cut-off date: 28 February 2026)

Group A: Age 10 – 12

Group B: Age 13 – 15

Please send proof of the candidate's age in the form of a copy of the child's ID or student ID.

2. Preselection

Submission of a video showing the candidate performing the following exercises:

Group A: At the barre: plié (with the back to the camera), tendu, rond de jambe par terre, frappé (one side only), grand battement (both sides)

In the middle: port de bras, tendus in different directions, allegro, pirouettes en diagonale

Group B: At the barre: plié (with the back to the camera), tendu, fondue (both sides), on the second side at the barre with the back to the camera.

In the middle: adagio, grand allegro, tours, pirouettes en diagonale, grand battement

Dress: Girls: leotard with spaghetti straps, pink tights, ballet shoes. Hair should be in a bun.

Leg warmers, wrap-over dance tops, and skirts are not permitted.

Boys: Black tights or leggings, white boys' dance top, ballet shoes.

Please submit each candidate on a separate video. Group videos or several different candidates filmed in succession on one video will not be considered.

Videos can be submitted in the following formats:

1) On a DVD or memory stick sent by post to **Julia Vitez, Competition Director, Schwabacher Str. 31, 90762 Fürth, Germany (Deadline: 20 November 2025 postmark!)**

2) Digitally in the following video formats: MPEG1, MPEG2, MPEG4, MOV. Send the download link to the e-mail address **dgs26@web.de (Deadline: 20 November 2025).**

IMPORTANT: Only downloadable video submissions will be accepted. Videos that are only viewable as a stream (e.g. on YouTube) will not be accepted. **Telephone enquiries regarding the competition can be made by calling: 0911 7874677 or 0049 911 7874677 if calling from outside of Germany.**

3. CV

Each candidate should submit a CV with details of their dance experience to date and information on how often they train together with a confirmation of the school at which they currently train, and a passport photo.

4. Registration fee

€50.00. Please enclose a copy of the bank transfer with the registration.

Please transfer the amount to the following account:

Theaterverein Fürth e.V., Sparkasse Fürth / IBAN DE04 7625 0000 0380 0043 58

Reason for payment: Registration fee: Der goldene Schuh 26

All candidates will receive a film of the gala performance.

5. Notification of selection for competition final

Candidates chosen to take part in the final will receive notification from the **Competition Director** by **31 December 2025**. The best ten candidates in each age group will be selected.

Competition Schedule

The competition takes place on **Saturday 28 February 2026**

Address: Rehearsal room of Stadttheater Fürth, Dr. Mack Straße 91, 90762 Fürth (the room is not in the Stadttheater!!!!) The use of rosin is not permitted in any of the rooms.

Competition Group A

11:00 – 12.30 Classical ballet class

12:30 – 13:00 Rehearsal of the public ballet training to be shown at the gala (the rehearsal will not be part of the evaluation)

13:00-14:00 Performances of the free variation. Candidates aged 12 can, but do not have to, dance en pointe. Short interview with each candidate.

Competition Group B

15:30-17:00 Classical ballet class

17:00-17:30 Rehearsal of the public ballet training to be shown at the gala (the rehearsal will not be part of the evaluation)

17:30-18:30 Performances of free variation en pointe. Candidates aged 13 can, but do not have to, dance en pointe. Candidates aged 14 and over must dance en pointe. Short interview with each candidate.

Competition dress:

Girls: black leotard with spaghetti straps, pink tights, ballet shoes. Hair should be in a bun. **Leg warmers, wrap-over dance tops, and skirts are not permitted.**

Boys: Black tights or leggings, white boys' dance top, ballet shoes.

The **music for the free variation** should be on a CD, which the candidates must bring with them. Only the one track for the variation should be on the CD. For the competition, the candidates perform their variation in their class dancewear (leotard/boys' dance wear). They then have the opportunity to perform in costume at the ballet gala (see below).

Sunday 1 March 2026

Morning: Stage rehearsal in the Stadttheater Fürth

Candidates will be notified of the time when this is scheduled to start at the beginning of the competition on Saturday.

15:00 Ballet gala in the Stadttheater Fürth.

Part 1: Excerpts of the competition ballet class Group A and Group B (15 minutes each)
Interval

Part 2: All finalists perform their free variation in costume (which they have brought with them).

Participants under the age of 12 will dance their variations in ballet slippers; those over the age of 14, en pointe. In the 12-14 age group, the jury will decide whether the candidate can perform on stage in slippers or en pointe.

In connection: Announcement of the winners

The competition

The competition has three parts:

- a. The candidates' technique, musicality, artistic expression and ability to concentrate are evaluated in a 90-minute ballet class
- b. Free variation (which should be a choreography appropriate to the age of the candidate!)

All candidates must prepare a free variation (Group A maximum 180 seconds, Group B maximum 240 seconds). **In Group A, variations from the classical ballet repertoire, whether they be an original version or an arrangement, are not permitted! A variation which is appropriate for the participant's age, physique and ability is required.**

The candidates perform their variations in front of the jury on Saturday, when their performance is evaluated. The variation is then performed for the audience at the ballet gala on Sunday.

- c. The candidate is given a short interview by the examiners. The names of the winners are announced on stage immediately after the gala on Sunday.

Evaluation

The evaluation and marking of the candidates takes place in camera on the Saturday after the competition.

Please note that the gala is not part of the competition itself; the jury makes its decision on Saturday and the gala gives the candidates the opportunity to perform to the best of their ability without any competition pressure.

6. Prizes

The following prizes are awarded in both groups:

- 1st Prize: €1000
- 2nd Prize: €750
- 3rd Prize: €500

All finalists receive a certificate.

A special prize is awarded for the best pointe work: 'Der goldene Schuh' (the golden shoe)

7. Reception

After the gala there will be a reception in the theatre for all the candidates, their families and members of the audience.

8. Practice time

On Friday, 27 February 2026, the candidates have the opportunity to rehearse their free variation in the rehearsal room with their teacher (15 minutes per candidate). Candidates are informed of their time slot when they receive their written invitation to compete.

In addition, both groups are given a class by the competition ballet teacher on Friday in preparation for the competition class on Saturday. After the class, the class excerpt to be shown in the theatre will be rehearsed. The time of the class will be announced in the written invitation to compete.

9. Accommodation

The Competition Director Julia Vitez will provide information on reasonably priced accommodation.

Enclosure: One registration form. **The registration form can also be downloaded from the internet (<https://theaterverein.de/veranstaltungen/der-goldene-schuh-2026/>) or obtained from Julia Vitez (e-mail: dgs26@web.de).**