

THE GREAT BOSTON BURLESQUE EXPOSITION APPLICATION

Thank you for applying to be part of the fourth **Great Burlesque Exposition!** No matter how much hard work we do, no matter how many vendors or teachers or audience members show up, it's the performers that are the heart and soul of this event and we're grateful you want to be part of it. The application has a few new questions on it this year. Since this event is in part about building the international burlesque community, we've asked if you are contributing volunteer efforts to the event, whether you are staying at the hotel, and if you'll be attending the conference. We want to encourage everyone to participate as fully as possible in all of the elements of the weekend and not just the shows.

Please read everything carefully so that there are no surprises. If something is unclear, contact us. We're expecting more applicants than we have performance slots, so we won't be able to take everyone. We have three different performance opportunities:

Saturday, April 2, is *The Main Event*, our burlesque competition at which we distribute the annual *Howard Awards*. The Howards are our Judge's Choice Awards, named in honor of the famous Old Howard Theater, Boston's home of Burlesque for almost 100 years. We are only accepting 25 (group and individual) performances.

Sunday, April 3, is *The Newcomers' Showcase* featuring the rising stars of burlesque. If you have competed at one of the other major burlesque events, you do not qualify as a "newcomer".

Sunday, April 3 (immediately following The Newcomers' Showcase) is *The Sideshow Ball*, where the acts that accompanied classic burlesque – sword swallowing, knife throwing, hula hooping, juggling, tumbling, comedy, and more – get their chance to shine!

Please make sure your entry is **received** prior to the cut-off date (*not* mailed by the cut-off date). A late or incomplete application guarantees we won't accept you. Our postal address is:

Burlesque Exposition
Attn: APPLICATION 2010
P.O. Box 240369
Dorchester, MA 02124

IMPORTANT DATES:

- ☛ Application must be received (not postmarked) by: **February 1, 2010**
- Note:** *There are a limited number of performance slots available. Submitting an application does not guarantee you a performance slot.*
- ☛ Applicants notified of acceptance: **February 14, 2010**
- ☛ Show Dates: **Friday, Saturday & Sunday, April 2-4, 2010**

We look forward to receiving your application and meeting each and every one of you in Boston in April!

The Great Burlesque Exposition Staff

I/We are a: Solo Burlesque Performer Burlesque Group (# of performers____)
 Solo Variety/Circus Performer Variety/Circus Group (# of performers____)

This application is **Exhibition Only**. I/we wish to perform, but not be considered for an award.

(Groups: Please list stage and real names of contact person here. List all members who will be performing on an additional sheet of paper)

Stage name or name of Troupe: _____

Real name (REQUIRED) : _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Email address: _____

Webpage: _____

Please direct us to a webpage where we may see photos or video of you

Have you ever performed at...

... The Great Burlesque Exposition? Yes No Yes – and won
... Miss Exotic World? Yes No Yes – and won
... The New York Burlesque Festival? Yes No Yes – and won
... Tease-o-Rama? Yes No

Are you...

... staying at the hotel? Yes No Not sure
... volunteering at the event? Yes No Not sure
... attending the conference during the day? Yes No Not sure

I have been performing burlesque for...

less than a year 1-2 years 2-3 years 4-6 years 7-10 years 10+ years

☛ Please attach a brief performer/troupe history and a description of your act, including choice of song and artist. Stage kittens will retrieve costumes and props, but we cannot clean the stage after your act. Please do not leave anything on the stage (water, glitter, confetti, etc.)

Application fee: \$25

[] Check (made payable to “Professional Burlesque Society” or “PBS”)

Credit Card: Please provide billing address if different from above

[] MasterCard [] Visa [] American Express

Card Holder’s Name

Card Number

Exp. Date

By submitting this application I /we:

- Grant the Great Burlesque Exposition permission to use my name /likeness for the purposes of promoting current & future events
- Affirm that the act I am presenting is either entirely my own work, or if it is the work of another, that I am performing with their express permission, knowledge, and consent. The Great Burlesque Exposition does not tolerate or condone plagiarism.
- Acknowledge that once submitted, changes to the application may disqualify performer(s) and that application fees will not be refunded under any circumstances.

The judges at **The Main Event** awards prizes in the following categories. You do not apply for a particular category. You just enter the competition.

- Best Solo Performer
- Best Troupe/Duet
- Best Hybrid
- Best Re-creation
- Most Humorous
- Most Classic
- Most Beautiful

Performers can win more than one category; if there is not an appropriate winner for a given category, it will not be awarded. **Best Soloist** and **Best Troupe/Duet** are given for overall excellence in the art of burlesque as determined by the judges. **Best Hybrid** is new for 2010 and recognizes those performers who combine striptease with another art (i.e, strip hula hoop, stripping while singing, etc.).

Best Re-creation is for those performers that have elected to perform a specific act created by someone else. This act must either be an historic act (i.e., Sally Rand's fan dance or Gypsy Rose Lee's "Stripteaser's Education") *or* a distinct act by a contemporary performer (i.e., Michelle Lamour's helium balloon dance). If it is a re-creation of an act by a contemporary performer, you must include the contact information for that performer so that we may confirm that permission has been granted for use.

Additionally, you must submit documentation prior to the Exposition showing video footage of the original act and/or photographs of the costume that your re-creation will be compared to.

Most Humorous is the award that most tickles the judge's funnybones. **Most Classic** is given to an original act which best captures the look and spirit of an historic era of burlesque, without being a re-creation. This is not necessarily Big Band or Swing era burlesque. The current holder of the award won with a 1960s inspired act. **Most Beautiful** is awarded to the act that the judges feel best conveys the dancer's beauty and charisma. It is not necessarily given to the most glamorous or the best costume. Story and movement both play a role in this award.

A Word About Plagiarism...

Don't Do It. All right, that's three words – but we mean it. There's a difference between *inspiration* and *imitation*. If you're performing someone else's act without their knowledge or permission, you're stealing, plain and simple. If you're caught (and you will be) you'll be banned from all future Burlesque Expositions, and we'll pass the word to other festival organizers. If you've managed to win an award with a copied act, we will publicly strip you of your title.

It makes us sad that we even need to say something like this here, but more and more often, plagiarism has become a problem in the burlesque community. Does this mean if you see someone do a cowboy act or an act with balloons or to particular piece of music that you can never use that character, element, or song? Of course not. Take inspiration from anywhere you can, but respect both the hard work that other performers have put into their acts and yourself enough to create something new.