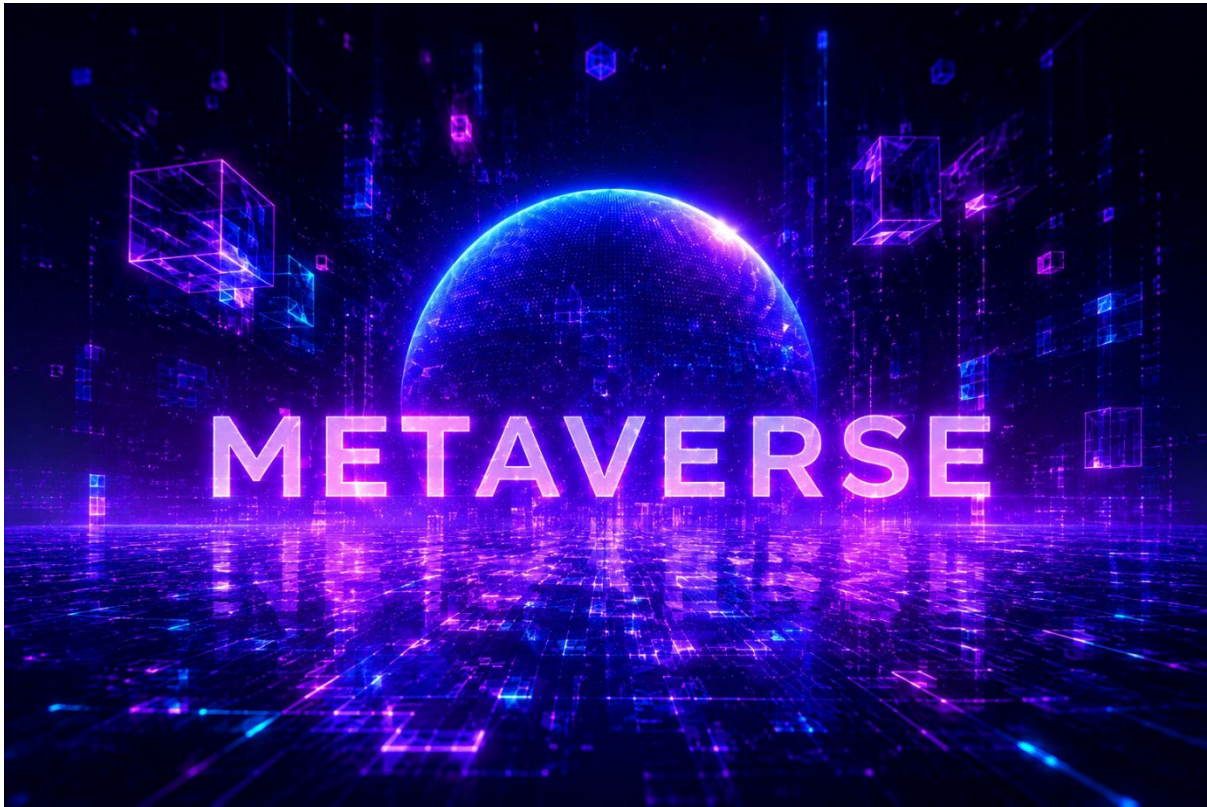


2026 Youth Dance Festival Theme:

The Metaverse



Step into a world where the boundaries between reality and the digital universe no longer exist. *The Metaverse* invites you to explore how technology, gaming, social media and online connection are reshaping the way we move, communicate and experience the world around us.

This choreography task asks you to investigate the relationship between the physical body and the online world.

- How does life online influence the way we behave in real life?
- How has platforms like TikTok transformed dance trends, performance styles and the speed at which movement spreads across the globe?

Think about repetition, looping gestures, viral movement, filters, avatars and curated identities.

Draw inspiration from gaming culture and virtual environments.

- What does gameplay look like when translated onto the body?
- How could the sharp, pixelated world of Minecraft become movement in real time?
- Explore robotic actions, level-building, glitches, freezing, respawning, collecting, battling or navigating invisible obstacles.
- Consider transforming virtual objects into physical stage elements — cardboard boxes can become portals, blocks, walls, devices or landscapes that performers interact with and reshape throughout the work.

The Metaverse is also about connection. We are more globally connected than ever before, yet many people experience increasing physical isolation. Explore the tension between online connectivity and real-world disconnection. Where are the boundaries between digital and physical identity? How has the collapse of time and space changed human interaction? What happens when multiple worlds exist at once?

You may wish to research ideas and imagery connected to:

- mirror worlds
- augmented reality
- digital networks
- avatars, identity and interaction
- online communities
- virtual landscapes and architecture

These concepts can all be interpreted through movement, staging and physicality.

Consider incorporating multimedia into your performance. Projections, digital imagery, animation, text, live camera feeds or interactive visuals can become part of the storytelling and choreography itself. Dancers might interact with projected environments, respond to digital prompts, or move between “real” and “virtual” spaces throughout the work.

This is an opportunity to create bold, imaginative choreography that reflects the rapidly changing world young people are growing up in — a world where technology shapes identity, communication, creativity and human connection every day.

“META” Mood Board Inspiration

The metaverse is a fluid, boundary-less digital canvas — a space where futuristic technology, human identity and surreal virtual landscapes collide. This mood board explores the visual world of the metaverse through colour, texture, architecture and digital aesthetics, providing inspiration for choreography, costume, projection design and staging.

1. The Colour Palette

The visual language of the metaverse is bold, luminous and immersive.

Deep Cyberpunk

- Neon Blue
- Vibrant Violet

Soft Bionic

- Turquoise
- Plum / Lavender

Base Neutrals

- Ice Blue
- Deep Void Black
- Glowing White

These colours can influence lighting design, costume choices, projected visuals and emotional tone throughout the performance.

2. Core Themes & Imagery

Organic Architectures

Imagine futuristic worlds built from living, glowing materials:

- Bioluminescent structures
- Floating cities
- Liquid-metal rivers
- Gravity-defying landscapes
- Digital ecosystems that feel both natural and artificial

How might dancers move through these impossible environments? Could bodies become part of the architecture itself?

Cyber-Surrealism

Explore the merging of humanity, technology and nature:

- Digital avatars dissolving into landscapes
- Holographic flowers and glowing plants
- Translucent glass butterflies
- Glitch effects layered over realistic imagery
- Fragmented or duplicated identities

These aesthetic invites experimentation with distorted movement, fractured timing, mirroring and transformation.

Minimalist Neon

A sleek, futuristic digital world:

- Clean white spaces
- Geometric laser lines
- Floating menus and interactive interfaces
- Endless virtual rooms
- Silent, hyper-controlled environments

This style could inspire precise choreography, robotic movement quality, or interactions between dancers and projected digital interfaces.

3. Textures & Materials

The metaverse is tactile, reflective and constantly shifting.

- **Iridescent surfaces** that change colour depending on perspective
- **Frosted and translucent glass** creating a sense of suspension and weightlessness
- **Polished metallic textures** reflecting neon light and digital landscapes
- **Glitch textures** that distort reality and create visual interruptions

These ideas can inform costume materials, prop construction, lighting and multimedia design.

4. Typography Series

Typography in the metaverse feels futuristic, clean and digitally engineered.

Futuristic / Headline Fonts

- Orbitron

- Syncopate

Sharp, angular and technological — ideal for titles, projections and interface-inspired visuals.

Creative Direction

Lean into multimedia and immersive storytelling. Consider how projections, digital imagery, live camera feeds, animated textures or interactive visuals can become part of the choreography itself. Dancers may interact with projected worlds, become avatars, or shift between physical and digital realities in real time.

The metaverse is not just a place — it is an evolving experience where identity, movement, technology and imagination continuously transform.



Enjoy your creations!

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