

March 30, 2015



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## Stuff You Want to Know (FAQs)

### MPDA

#### 1. What is Miss Pole Dance America?

MPDA is the nation's hottest pole dance competition, featuring the best pole dancers in America! It's the place to see cutting-edge aerial and dance talent showcased in an unforgettable stage production.

#### 2. Why Nashville?

Nashville is the coolest and fastest growing city in America right now, and it's also an easy and affordable place to travel, so why NOT Nashville?

#### 3. Will there be any nudity or offensive material in the show?

That depends on what you consider offensive! The show will be cutting-edge and racy, but there will be no nudity.

#### 4. Who is hosting the show?

MPDA will be hosted by renowned burlesque showgirl **Gigi La Femme** and pole idol **Steven Retchless**. Gigi is one of the most active performers on the nation's booming burlesque scene. She has been featured in The New York Times, The Village Voice, The New Yorker and The Huffington Post as one of the 20 Burlesque Stars to Know. Steven Retchless is one of the leading pioneers of pole culture, bringing his technique and dance influence to studios around the world. Steven was the first male pole competition title holder in the US, the first man to grace the cover of Vertical Magazine, and the first pole dancer to make it to the finals on America's Got Talent with an audience of more than 13 million viewers.

#### 5. Who are the celebrity judges?

The MPDA competition will be judged by a panel of expert judges, including the reigning Miss Pole Dance Australia, Miss Filly, and one of the best known burlesque dancers in the world, Roxi D'Lite. Roxi D'Lite has been named a Queen of Burlesque. In the Grand Prix of Exotic Dance, she won the titles of Best Exotic Performance, Best Burlesque Performance and was crowned the 2014 World Champion of Exotic Dance. Roxi was one of the youngest performers ever to be crowned Miss Exotic World by the Burlesque Hall of Fame in Las Vegas.

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## Pole Dance

### **6. How is this competition different from other pole dance competitions?**

Many pole dance competitions focus on awarding the competitor who is the best athlete with the greatest technical skills. MPDA loves crazy hard aerial tricks, too, but on this stage, the focus is on who can bring the house down with her showmanship, raw energy, musicality and grace. Competitors have been asked to develop and present a creative, unique “show,” not just a “dance routine.” There are no rules, required moves or standard formats for these dancers. With no rules, the sky is the limit, which means MPDA will feature the highest production value ever seen in a pole dance competition.

### **7. What's the appeal of pole dancing? Can the show appeal to a more mainstream audience?**

The taboo origins of pole dancing make it appealing—the allure of the sensual and perhaps unexpected. When you combine those qualities with dance movement and an apparatus on which dancers climb and perform amazing aerial feats at great heights, pole dance is an instant crowd favorite.

### **8. Why would someone unfamiliar with pole dancing attend this event?**

Anyone who is a fan of music, performance, dance and show will want to see this show.

### **9. Why not just go to a strip club if I want to see a pole dance competition?**

Strip clubs are great, but what MPDA offers goes beyond sex appeal and into true art. You'd be hard-pressed to find the type of dancing that happens on the MPDA stage at any strip club.

## Venue and Logistics

### **10. Where is the show happening?**

MPDA is happening at Marathon Music Works, located at 1402 Clinton St. in Nashville.

### **11. How many audience members can the venue host?**

Marathon Music Works can host up to 1,500 at standing capacity.

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**12. How do I buy tickets?**

Visit the MPDA or Marathon Music Works website for ticket info ([www.misspoledanceamerica.com](http://www.misspoledanceamerica.com) or [www.marathonmusicworks.com](http://www.marathonmusicworks.com)).

**13. How much are tickets?**

Tickets are \$30 for a general admission standing room only ticket, \$65 for a general admission seated ticket, or \$500 for a VIP table for six.

**14. Where should people stay who are visiting from out of town?**

The Hotel Preston is the official hotel of MPDA.

**15. What time does the show start and end?**

Show starts at 9 p.m. and will end around midnight.

**16. Is there an age restriction to attend?**

Since alcohol will be available at the venue, you have to be at least 18 years old to attend.

## The Competition

**17. What do the winners get?**

Aside from fame and glory, the top individual winner will win a prize package worth \$8,000, including \$5,000 cash, a spot to perform in future national events, and most importantly, the title of "Miss Pole Dance America."

**18. How many competitors are there?**

Twelve women will compete for the title of Miss Pole Dance America. Four pole troupes of 2-7 performers each will also compete for a group award.

**19. Who are the competitors?**

MDPA competitors are some of the top pole dancers in the nation: Allison Sipes, Brynn Route, Charlee Wagner, Claudia Renee, Crystal Belcher, Danielle Romano, Leigh Ann Reilly, Lindsey Dement, Lisa Cannon, Pink Puma, Sarah Jade, Rachele Ribera. Two "wild card" spots were also awarded to Lyndi Rongisch and Sienna Spalding. These are professional dancers, athletes and aerialists who embody the technique, stage presence, beauty and "x-factor" needed to hold their own in this unique competition.

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**20. How were the competitors chosen?**

Twelve competitors were hand selected based on their professional status and body of work. These are innovative leaders, performers, teachers and role models in the pole dance community. Two additional “wild card” spots were awarded to dancers who submitted online entries and were selected based on the quality of their complete portfolio. Troupes also submitted entries through the website and were selected based on cast bios and performance concept.

**21. How will the competitors be judged?**

This is a no-holds barred competition. Competitors will be judged on technical skills, showmanship and musicality. Criteria such as aerial execution, fluidity, costume, creativity, extension, stage presence and audience engagement will all factor in to the judges’ scoring. Judges want to see who can bring the house down with a creative, unique “show,” not just a “dance routine.”

**22. Are the competitors strippers?**

MPDA competitors are versatile and professional athletes, aerialists, dancers, performers and instructors. Most are dedicated full-time to teaching and performing within the pole fitness and aerial entertainment community.

**All About Alethea**

**23. Who is Alethea Austin?**

**Alethea Austin** is regarded as one of the premier pole dancers in the world, known for her **Sexy Flexy™** style and raw, gritty, powerful performances. She is the owner of Nashville’s popular, premier pole dance studio, **The Chrome Bar**, which opened in 2013. A former U.S. pole dance champion and visual artist, Alethea is now bringing her creative expertise on and off the stage to create **Miss Pole Dance America**.

**24. Why did Alethea decide to create this competition?**

With MPDA, Alethea hopes to bridge the gaps between rock concerts, stage shows and pole fitness, and to add quality production value and creativity that is unprecedented in the pole dance community. Her goal is to “Bring the Show,” transporting the art of pole dance to a mainstream audience.

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## More Info

**25. Where can I find out more information?**

Visit the Miss Pole Dance America website ([www.misspoledanceamerica.com](http://www.misspoledanceamerica.com)).

**26. How can a person or company become a sponsor?**

For more information on becoming a sponsor, visit the "Sponsors" page on the Miss Pole Dance America website ([www.misspoledanceamerica.com](http://www.misspoledanceamerica.com)).