TE FA'A NŌ 'ORI 8TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL TAHITIAN DANCE FESTIVAL OCTOBER 17, 18, 19, 2025 STOCKTON, CA

RULES AND REGULATIONS



la Orana Tatou!

We are thrilled to invite and welcome you to the Te Fa'a Nō Te 'Ori 8th Annual International Dance Festival on October 17, 18, and 19, 2025! Get ready for an unforgettable weekend filled with passion, culture, and the mesmerizing spirit of 'Ori Tahiti!

This year, we're taking the festival to new heights! In addition to our beloved Soloist Competition, we are excited to introduce Hura Ava Tau and Hura Tau divisions in 'Ote'a, Aparima, Mehura, Drumming, and Music! Whether you are competing or simply immersing yourself in the beauty of 'Ori Tahiti, this is an event you won't want to miss!

World-Class Judges from Tahiti

We are honored to welcome award-winning judges from Tahiti, ensuring that 'Ori Tahiti continues to flourish with authenticity and excellence here in the States.

Directors' Informational meeting!

This meeting is for the Directors that have submitted their Intent to Enter letters, and for those of you that are still considering joining us—don't miss this informational Zoom meeting on Tuesday, April 8th @ 7:00pm. We'll cover everything from stage dimensions and sound to dressing rooms, ticketing, deadlines, and accommodations. Meeting details will be posted soon! Let's come together to celebrate our love for 'Ori Tahiti, share in the rhythm of the drums, and create lifelong memories! We can't wait to see you there!



Māuruuru, Yolanda Amen Mata'irea Polynesian Culture Preservation | est. 2014 FOUNDER | CEO

TFNTO 2025 GUIDELINES FOR ALL PUPU ORI

GROUP DIVISIONS

Directors may choose which division best fits their Pupu Ori.

Hura Ava Tau (Amateur)

New to group competition. Cannot have placed 1st in any major Tahitian dance competition in the last 2 years. If 1st place was achieved in the last 2 years, the group must enter Hura Tau (Professional)

Hura Tau (Professional)

Established groups that have won multiple major awards in any Ori Tahiti competitions.

Tamari'i (Youth)

There will be both Hura Ava Tau and Hura Tau divisions.

One Division -

Mehura

• There will be **NO** Hura Ava Tau or Hura Tau for this division.

COLLABORATION

Ori Tahiti is all about connection, culture, and community—so why not join forces and create something unforgettable? If your pupu ori is smaller, we highly encourage collaborating with other pupu ori's, near and far, to meet the minimum dancer/drummer/musician requirements and bring even more energy and Mana to the stage! Note: TFNTO 2025 group stage dimensions - **70ft x 70ft.** This is a beautiful chance to build friendships, share the love of Ori Tahiti, and showcase the power of unity.

GROUP CATEGORIES

Directors may choose which categories best fits their Pupu Ori

'Ote'a / Aparima -

- Minimum: 15 dancers (Vahine or Tane) | No Maximum
 Age Requirement 15yo and above the day of performance.
- Maximum: 25 drummers/musicians, who must be in costume.
- Including a Ra'atira is encouraged
- No recorded music is allowed.
- Groups must have an entrance and exit routine.
- Only one entry per Pupu Ori per category.
- Hivinau and/or 'Pa'oa are encouraged in 'Ote'a performances.
- A separate group from the same Pupu Ori may enter Tamari'i Ote'a/Aparima Division.
- You may have up to a cumulative 10 guest dancers from outside the US, but must be identified on the performers list.
- Performance sequence lists must be submitted by September 1, 2025.

Tamari'i -

- Minimum: 15 dancers (Vahine or Tane) | No Maximum
 - Age Requirement 14yo and below the day of performance.
- Maximum: 25 drummers/musicians, who must be in costume.
 Adult musicians/drummers/actors are allowed
- Including a Ra'atira is encouraged
- No recorded music is allowed.
- Groups must have an entrance and exit routine.
- Only one entry per Pupu Ori per category.
- Hivinau and/or 'Pa'oa are encouraged in 'Ote'a performances.
- A separate group from the same Pupu Ori may enter the adult Ote'a/Aparima Division.
- You may have up to a cumulative 10 guests from outside the US, but must be identified on the performers list.
- Performance sequence lists must be submitted by September 1, 2025.

Rohi Pehe/Music -

- Maximum of 25 drummers/musicians per group performance | Minimum (5)
- No recorded music is allowed.
- Pupu Ori are allowed to have up to a cumulative 10 guests from outside the US and must be identified on the performers list.
- Drummers and Musicians must be in full costume.
- Protecting the stage floor from damage from instruments/drums is required.
- Drumming and Music may be judged during the group performance.
- Pupu Ori must enter either Hura Ava Tau or Hura Tau across one division.
 For example: Pupu Ori must not enter the Hura Tau 'Ote'a and Hura Ava Tau music category.
- If entering all divisions (including Tamari'i and Mehura), pupu ori may choose to have music judged during Mehura performance.
- Groups interested in entering drumming only are allowed.
- There will be a Hura Ava Tau and Hura Tau Rohi Pehe and Music division.

Mehura -

- Dancers can be Male / Female / Mixed
- Only live music is allowed
- Maximum of 25 musicians
- Age requirement: 13+
- Minimum of 15 dancers | No Maximum
- Groups must have an entrance and exit routine.
- Only one division for Mehura.

COSTUMES

- Ote'a | Aparima | Rohi Pehe | Music | Tamari'i Categories
- Costumes should be SEWN. Hot glue can be used but for placement ONLY.
- Costumes must be made from fresh or dry plants, including ornamental foliage and flowers, feathers, shells, and mother-of-pearl.
- Each group has the discretion to choose their adornments from these materials.
- Head ornaments are mandatory and can include hei's, headpieces, various floral arrangements (ear to ear, partial band, round bun, ponytail, etc.).
- Neck, ankle, wrist, hand, and arm ornaments are allowed.
- Any loss of costume pieces during the performance will result in penalties.

• Female Mehura Costume

- The fabric must be solid-colored or printed with floral or tapa patterns.
- The dancer must wear a long-fitted dress.
- Costumes must be made from fresh or dry plants, including ornamental foliage and flowers, feathers, shells, and mother-of-pearl.
- Each group has the discretion to choose their adornments from these materials.
- Head ornaments are mandatory and can include hei's, headpieces, various floral arrangements (ear to ear, partial band, round bun, ponytail, etc.).
- Neck, ankle, wrist, hand, and arm ornaments are allowed.
- Any loss of costume pieces during the performance will result in penalties.

• Male Mehura Costume

- The costume consists of either a pareo, tihere or trousers.
- The fabric must be solid-colored or printed with floral or tapa patterns.
- The chest can be bare or covered with a waistcoat or a short/long sleeved shirt.
- Costumes must be made from fresh or dry plants, including ornamental foliage and flowers, feathers, shells, and mother-of-pearl.
- Each group has the discretion to choose their adornments from these materials.
- Head ornaments are mandatory and can include hei's, headpieces, various floral arrangements (ear to ear, partial band, round bun, ponytail, etc.).
- Neck, ankle, wrist, hand, and arm ornaments are allowed.
- Any loss of costume pieces during the performance will result in penalties.

• Costume Regulations

- Any loss of costume pieces during the performance will result in penalties. Hint: Practice in your costumes!!!!
- Ote'a and Aparima Costumes will be presented to the judges immediately following performance while the next pupu ori is setting up for theirs.

FACT SHEETS REQUIREMENTS

Due by **Friday, October 10, 2025** | Hura Ava Tau & Hura Tau groups must submit **7 copies**. One for each judge. Translations in English, French, and Reo Tahiti are encouraged.

- Details Required:
- Name of Pupu 'Ori
- Group Director
- Artistic Director
- Program Theme for 'Ote'a / Aparima / Mehura
- Lyrics and translations for songs
- Song credits
- Story and research behind the theme
- Synopsis of choreography, costume, and colors related to the theme
- Group photo and director's photo (300 dpi resolution)
- Director's bio (no more than 2500 words)
- Fact sheets should not be more than 10 pages
- Fact sheets due by Friday, October 10, 2025

JUDGING CRITERIA - ALL CATEGORIES

Competitors will be evaluated based on the following aspects:

- Choreography Creativity and execution of the dance.
- Technical Mastery Precision and skill in movements.
- Synchronization Coordination among dancers.
- Emotional Transmission Ability to convey emotions through performance.
- **Concordance with Theme** Relevance and alignment with the chosen theme.
- Artistic Expression Harmony, overall beauty, and costume presentation.
- Music Harmony, clarity, pronunciation, authenticity
- Rohi Pehe Knowledge of traditional pehe as well as creativity.
- Costume Creativity, relation to theme, execution
- **Creativity** Be as creative as possible using mostly traditional Tahitian steps and even some newer steps. The use of props and other enhancements are allowed.

Participants are encouraged to showcase their best performance while maintaining adherence to the competition rules and cultural authenticity.

SCORING

Time Limits -

- Timing starts when Ra'atira, Music, Drumming, or Dance begins.
- Timing ends after the last performance.

Performance Time Requirements -

- Group 4 categories in one performance: 10-40 minutes
 - Ote'a
 - Aparima
 - Music
 - Rohi Pehe
- Group 5 categories in one performance: 40-55 minutes
 - Ote'a
 - Aparima
 - Tamari'i
 - Music
 - Rohi Pehe
- Tamari'i: 10-15 minutes
 - Ote'a
 - Aparima
- Mehura: 10-15 minutes
- Drumming: 10-15 minutes
- Penalty for Exceeding Time Limits -
- 25-point deduction for exceeding time limits.

Group Points -

- Maximum Points: 1000
- Detailed scoring breakdown to be provided separately.
- Tamari'i category scores will be added to each group's overall score. This means there will be no overall awards for Hura Ava Tau and Hura Tau.
- Soloist/Master Class scores will not be added to overall group scores.

AWARD CEREMONY

- **ONLY** Pupu Ori Directors/Artistic Directors will be invited backstage, then, when prompted, will be escorted to assigned seating areas on stage by TFNTO staff. 1-5 people max.
- After the last pupu ori performance, all rohi pehe are invited to the stage for a drum symphony.
- Directors are asked to wear what they did during the Rahiri. White.
- For each group award announced, **ONLY** Directors/Artistic Directors are invited to receive awards from judges. We want to avoid entire pupu ori's coming up at one time.
- Solo winners will be allowed on stage to receive awards.
- **ONLY** symphony of drums, MC's, judges, and Directors/Artistic Directors will be allowed on the award ceremony floor.

OVERALL AWARDS

- To the highest scoring soloists Tamari'i and Senior Tane/Vahine advanced divisions.
- To the Master Class Tane/Vahine winners.
- To the top-scoring group performance in Hura Ava Tau or Hura Tau.
- There will be no overall award for the Tamari'i group division.

TE FA'A NO TE 'ORI

INTERNATIONAL ORI TÀHITI FESTIVAL Adventist Health Arena Stockton, CA October 17-19, 2025

Categories & Entry Fees

<u>Pupu 'Ori 'Ote'a</u> Hura Ava Tau (Amateur) Hura Tau (Professional) Tamari'i Hura Ava Tau Tamari'i Hura Tau \$100

<u>Pupu 'Ori Aparima</u> Hura Ava Tau (Amateur) Hura Tau (Professional) Tamari'i Hura Ava Tau Tamari'i Hura Tau \$100

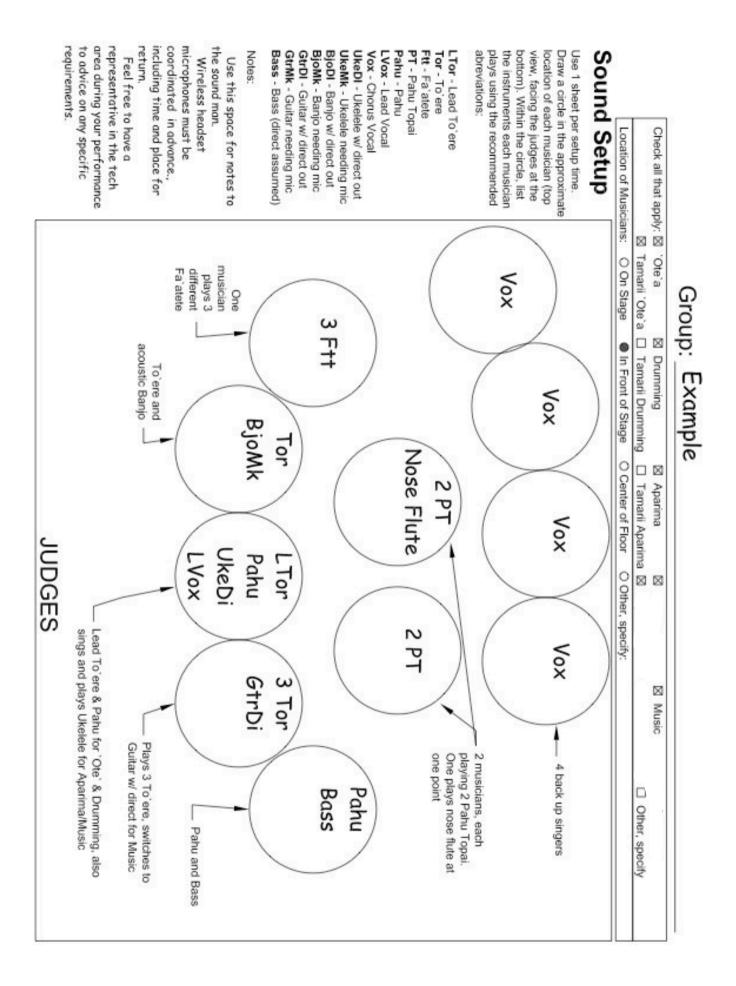
> <u>Mehura</u> One Division \$100

<u>Rohi Pehe</u> Hura Ava Tau (Amateur) Hura Tau (Professional) Music Hura Ava Tau (Amateur) Hura Tau (Professional) \$100

<u>Music</u>

Hura Ava Tau (Amateur) Hura Tau (Professional) Music Hura Ava Tau (Amateur) Hura Tau (Professional) \$100

<u>Pupu 'Ori Entrering All Categories</u> (excluding Mehura) \$500



Group:				
Check all that apply: Ote'a Drumming Tamarii 'Ote'a Tamarii Drumming	umming Tamarii Aparima	Mehura	Music	Other, specify
0	00	O Other, specify:		
Use 1 sheet per setup time. Draw a circle in the approximate location of each musician (top view, facing the judges at the bottom). Within the circle, list the instruments each musician plays using the recommended abreviations:				
LTor - Lead To'ere Tor - To'ere Ftt - Fa'atete PT - Pahu Topai Pahu - Pahu LVox - Lead Vocal				
UkeMk - Ukelele needing mic BjoDI - Banjo w/ direct out BjoMk - Banjo needing mic GtrDI - Guitar w/ direct out GtrMk - Guitar needing mic Bass - Bass (direct assumed)				
Notes:				
	:			
	JC	JUDGES		

AWARDS

HURA AVA TAU & HURA TAU 'OTE'A, APARIMA, DRUMMING, MUSIC CASH PRIZE + TROPHY

> MEHURA (ONE DIVISION) CASH PRIZE + TROPHY

HURA AVA TAU | HURA TAU OVERALL PUPU 'ORI CASH PRIZE + TROPHY

TICKETS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 UNIVERSITY PLAZA

EARLY BIRD (APRIL 15 - JUNE 1) ADULTS AGED 13+ | \$20 CHILD 12 UNDER | \$15 2yr & UNDER | FREE

GENERAL ADMISSION (JUNE 2 - OCTOBER 16) ADULTS AGED 13+ | \$25 CHILD 12 UNDER | \$20 2yr & UNDER | FREE

> DAY OF EVENT ADULTS AGED 13+ | \$30 CHILD 12 UNDER | \$25 2yr & UNDER | FREE

SATURDAY + SUNDAY OCTOBER 18,19 2025 ADVENTIST HEALTH ARENA

EARLY BIRD TICKETS (APRIL 15 - JUNE 1) ADULTS AGED 13+ | \$15 CHILD 12 UNDER | \$10

GENERAL ADMISSION (JUNE 2 - OCTOBER 16) ADULTS AGED 13+ | \$20 CHILD 12 UNDER | \$15

> WEEKEND OF EVENT ADULTS AGED 13+ | \$43 CHILD 12 UNDER | \$38 2yr & UNDER | FREE

WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEING IN COMMUNITY WITH YOU ALL THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE 2025 ORI TAHITI COMPETITION SEASON!

TE FA'A NO TE 'ORI

INTERNATIONAL ORI TAHITI FESTIVAL ADVENTIST HEALTH ARENA STOCKTON, CA OCTOBER 17-19, 2025

UPDATE JUNE 26, 2025

UPDATED DEADLINES

- Group Application Deadline: July 31, 2025
- Performance Sequence Due Date: Changed from July 1 → Sept 1, 2025
- Fact Sheet Due Date: Changed from Friday, October 3 → Friday, October 10, 2025, by 11:59 PM PST

CHANGES TO PARTICIPANT MINIMUMS

Group Rules/Regulations, and Entry Packet

- 📄 Page 1
- Mehura: Minimum of 20 → **15 dancers**
- 📄 Page 2
- Hura Ava Tau: Minimum of 20 → **15 dancers**
- Ote'a/Aparima: Minimum of 25 → **15 dancers**
- Performance Sequence List Due Date:
- Changed from July 1 → **Sept 1, 2025**
- 🖿 Page 3
- Mehura Age Requirement: Age 13y/o +
- Mehura Minimum: from 20 → **15 dancers**
- 📄 Page 4
- Ote'a/Aparima Minimum: Already at 25
- Tamari'i Minimum: from 25 → **15 dancers**
- Combined Ote'a/Aparima/Tamari'i: Minimum 25 dancers
- Mehura: Minimum 25 → **15 dancers**
- 📄 Page 7
- Judges Deliberation Section: OMIT
- Performance Sequence Date:
- From July 17 → **Sept 1, 2025**
- Hura Ava Tau: Minimum of 20 → **15 dancers**
- Hura Tau: Minimum of 20 → **15 dancers**
- 📄 Page 8
- Fact Sheet Due Date:
- From Friday, Oct 3 → Friday, Oct 10, 2025, by 11:59 PM PST

TE FA'A NO TE 'ORI

INTERNATIONAL ORI TAHITI FESTIVAL ADVENTIST HEALTH ARENA STOCKTON, CA OCTOBER 17-19, 2025

UPDATE JUNE 26, 2025

NEW NOTES / MISC. UPDATES

- On "Pupu Ori Sign Up Form" Page 2
 Confirm: Dance Stage Dimensions 70 ft x 70 ft at To'ata
- Mehura Performances: If a Pupu Ori is entering both Mehura and Full group categories, a request can be submitted to perform Mehura on the opposing day, (i.e. a Hura Ava Tau Ote'a/Aparima/Tamari'i performance can perform their Mehura on Sunday and vice versa)

TOMPETITION SCHEDULE OUTLINE

- Friday: Solo Categories
- Saturday: Hura Ava Tau + Tamari'i + Mehura
- Sunday: Hura Tau Pupu Ori + Tamari'i + Mehura + Rohi Pehe
- Soloist Master Class: Performances spread across both Saturday and Sunday

💠 TICKETS & PASSES

- Soloist Paid Registration:
- Includes access for all 3 days
- Dancers & Musicians & Family Members:
- Must purchase discounted tickets (NOT included in group fees)
- 🛷 Discounted ticket code will be available once Pupu Ori registration is submitted
- Directors:
 - Will receive passes for the entire weekend
- Kōkua Passes:
 - 2 kōkua passes per group for Friday only

Mauruuru roa for all the feedback and suggestions we've received since the release of our Rules & Regulations for the Pupu Ori Categories. It lets our team know you all care about this event and we understand this can make TFNTO 2025 the most meaningful with all your help.

We intend to release new updates along the way as more feedback and suggestions are submitted.

With Mana, Your TFNTO 2025 Team