



For **Canadian groups** with personnel who are NOT Canadian nationals, those personnel must apply for visas at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

NON-IMMIGRANT VISA CLASSIFICATIONS

Listed here are the USINS classifications under which an artist or performing group and their support personnel can enter the United States. It is the responsibility of the artist or artist's manager to provide the U.S. petitioner with the necessary and appropriate documents that support the artist's classification.

The artist and/or his/her manager should determine the classification under which the visa will be sought during the booking process and work with the presenter in acquiring the necessary support documents to demonstrate eligibility in a particular classification. Generally speaking, the artist should document his/her classification with press materials, together with additional testimonials if necessary.

Once you have determined the classification under which you will apply, see "The Petition."

O-1

For an individual (one person only on the petition) of extraordinary ability (distinction) in the sciences, arts, education, business, athletics, or extraordinary achievements in the motion picture and television fields

O-1 visas are for the principal creator, performer or essential person who has significant creative input or responsibilities. Under the INS's broad definition of "arts" this can include a:

performer, director, set designer, lighting director, sound designer, choreographer, conductor, arranger, costume designer, makeup artist, fight master, stage technician or animal trainer.

There are two ways in which you can demonstrate "extraordinary ability" for an O-1:

- a) The alien has received or been nominated for a significant national or international award such as an Academy Award, an Emmy, a Grammy or a Directors Guild Award.
- or
- b) The alien meets at least three of the following accomplishments:
1. has performed, or will perform, a lead or starring role in a production or event having a distinguished reputation;
 2. has achieved national or international recognition;
 3. has achieved major commercial or critical success;
 4. has received significant recognition for achievements from organizations, critics, government agencies or other recognized experts in the field;
 5. has commanded, or now commands, a high salary or other substantial remuneration for services in relation to others in the field.

TIP

Unless the alien can clearly establish eligibility with the criteria in approach "a," approach "b" is a better bet. Approach "a" can conceivably give the INS a way to deny the petition.

Reminder: The O-1 classification is for one person only.