



COMPANY REQUIREMENTS 2009-2010

The Dance Centre Companies are designed for students who show exceptional promise in their training and have an overwhelming desire to become a dancer. Students may participate in any of the performance groups: ballet, jazz, and tap. The company works extremely hard in extra rehearsal classes and dance conventions/competitions on the weekends throughout the year. Instructor approval is required for audition into all Dance Centre Companies.

AUDITIONS: Audition Fee: \$10.00 for new company members

Students will be judged on overall appearance, technical ability, musicality, style, and stage presence in Jazz and Ballet. Tap Students will be chosen to perform in Tap choreography pieces at a later date.

Although we have designated approximate ages for all our companies, ultimately the dancer's personal ability, as well as their potential to become a unified member of the group, will be the deciding factors in company placement.

APPRENTICES: An apprentice is a student who has auditioned for the company, but their combined (Jazz and Ballet) individual scores did not quite meet the standards that are required for membership into the company. Apprentices are included in every facet of Company membership, for example attending conventions, rehearsals, lock-ins, fundraisers, etc. We feel that these dancers will greatly benefit from the experience of working with instructors, choreographers, as well as their fellow Company members. Sometimes apprentices serve as understudies for the dances selected for that particular company. We strongly feel that whenever apprentices are chosen, it shows that the dancer shows great potential as a future company member. They are considered to be an asset to the group, and should feel honored to be given the opportunity to benefit from the additional training offered to The Dance Centre Company members.

GENERAL INFORMATION: ALL COMPANIES MEMBERS

*****NEW POLICY*** All Company members must be enrolled at The Dance Centre in two Ballet classes and two Jazz classes per week. If a Company member is selected for Tap choreography, you would be required to be enrolled in a Tap Class at The Dance Centre once a week.**

ATTENDANCE & ABSENTEE POLICY

REHEARSALS: Every Company member will be required to attend weekly rehearsal classes. An "REQUESTED ABSENCE FORM" should be filled out by the dancer seven (7) days in advance requesting to be absent from any and all rehearsals. According to the choreographer of the rehearsal to be missed, the dancer will be given an "APPROVED" if the dance missed will NOT be compromised. A "NOT APPROVED" will be given to the dancer if the rehearsal CANNOT be missed. Once the form has been submitted to the office, the choreographer of the dance will return it to the dancer with "APPROVED" or "NOT APPROVED" along with their signature. More than 2 absences per semester from rehearsals may result in dismissal from the company. If a member misses a rehearsal for any reason, the teacher has the authority to decide whether or not that member will be allowed to perform. If a member must miss a rehearsal, the teacher MUST BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE WITH A "REQUESTED ABSENCE FORM." The ONLY exception to this rule would be illness.

REGULAR CLASSES: All company members must maintain an 80% attendance ratio per class per semester. Makeup classes are available in other compatible class levels throughout each week making this easily attainable.

- Ex: If there are 30 possible classes during first semester, each dancer must be present for the majority of the class at least 24 times. These classes must be taken from The Dance Centre. Classes taken from other schools are a wonderful addition to your training, however do not completely satisfy the requirements for being a representative from our school.

FEE REQUIREMENTS:

SEMESTER DUES: allocated toward choreography, coaching, music editing, and administrative and rehearsal expenses.
Company Members = \$130.00 per semester Apprentices = \$65 per semester

COSTUME FEES: All Company members will purchase at least one costume per dance generally ranging from \$75.00 to \$125.00 per costume. Company members are responsible for all tights, shoes, and undergarments required for costumes.

COMPANY JACKET (\$35 range)

CONVENTION FEES & COMPETITION FEES: (Please read the next section for details.)

CONVENTION/COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS:

Each company will attend at least two required conventions per year. Our main focus for the company is not the competition aspect of the conventions, but rather, the TRAINING. If a member does not attend their mandatory convention, dismissal from the company may result.

CONVENTION/COMPETITION FEES:

When we go to a Convention there are TWO fees that must be paid:

The first is your **CONVENTION FEE**. Tuition ranges from \$100.00 to \$210.00 (according to age levels) and must be paid at least 30 days prior to the convention. You will also be responsible for all hotel and food costs. Tuition is paid by you and goes to pay for the classes, auditions, etc., that are taught over the week-end. For every convention you attend, you pay tuition for your dancer to attend classes at the workshop.

The second is your **COMPETITION FEE**. *****NEW POLICY***** Each dancer will be responsible for paying the individual competition fees for each dance they perform in at each convention. This fee covers the costs to enter your dancer in the Competition phase of the Convention. These fees are set by each particular convention, (not by us) and are based on the number of dancers in the piece and by the category their dance is designated to.

Ex: Junior company member performing in two large group pieces during the year would pay
Approx. \$35 (x 2 dances x 2 competitions) = \$140 for the year

Note: Solos, Duo/Trios and Small Groups are elective. This costs range from approx \$85 for a solo to \$40 for a small group

CASTING: Every Company member is guaranteed to be cast in ONE choreography piece. It may be Jazz, Ballet, Tap or a Production Number. Other Company members MAY be chosen according to their expertise in Ballet and their expertise in Tap. We WILL NOT cast every dancer in Ballet and Tap choreography as we have done in the past. Each individual teacher will choose and cast their own competition dances.

GUEST CHOREOGRAPHERS FOR LARGE GROUPS: We will be bringing in guest choreographers to set some large group numbers on the Teen and Senior Companies. You will be notified the cost before the choreography is set and you can accept or decline the invitation.

SOLOS, DUOS, TRIOS & SMALL GROUPS COMPETITION:

- All interested students for solos, duos, trios, & small groups must be approved by both Rebecca & Melissa. There is no certain age or level at which a student is ready to perform in this capacity, however, we do feel that first year Company members do not have enough experience to participate in this particular area. Dancers selected for solos, duos, and trios will be based upon technical ability, work ethic, & strong stage presence. For these dances, we will make suggestions of students who have complimentary dance styles.
- Each teacher has limited time available outside of their regular class time. You will need to call the office to set up rehearsal times according to studio availability during the week or on the weekends. You may request a specific teacher for your choreography and we will be glad to advise you with our own suggestions.
- Guest Choreographers – If you are interested in using a Guest Choreographer, please let us know and we will help to make those arrangements for you. The cost will include the choreographer's fee, travel and accommodations.
- A solo, duo or trio dancer is responsible for learning and remembering ALL CHOREOGRAPHY taught during each private lesson. Part of the solo process is to be disciplined to individually practice and perfect steps that have been choreographed for you. If the student is unsure that she will remember the choreography, then the parent is responsible for video taping the dance steps taught.
- Each dancer is responsible for paying for their costume. Please discuss your costume design and costume option with your choreographer. We expect the parents to be extremely active in this process by searching for ideas, fabrics, patterns, etc.
- **CHOREOGRAPHY COST :** (for faculty members from The Dance Centre)
\$300 for solos and duo/trios
\$100/dancer for groups of 4 or more

This includes time spent for music selection, music editing, preparing choreography, setting the choreography, & costume design. This process of choreography usually takes about 5 sessions with the choreographer. Younger students may take around seven sessions. Once the choreography is set, the dancer then can set up rehearsals (\$40-50 per hour) with an instructor and can also use our studio to rehearse on their own. If there are 4 or more students the price will be \$10/hour per dancer.

- Each dancer must commit to working on their own choreography piece outside of being with an instructor. The dancer should take the initiative to show responsibility for the mastery of their solo, duo, or trio. This includes setting up additional rehearsal times. A Master Studio Schedule can be found in the office to reserve studio times. There are many rehearsal coaches available and we encourage you to meet with many different teachers.

CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS:

Scholarship auditions at dance conventions are MANDATORY for all company members unless you are unable due to injury or illness. Nervousness or low expectations of receiving a scholarship are not valid reasons for not participating. It is not the SCHOLARSHIP, but the EXPERIENCE that is the focus. We may have one student, ten students or no students win a scholarship & in each scenario we will be supportive of those who win & those who do not. Learning how to lose with grace and self respect is just as... or MORE IMPORTANT... than winning any scholarship or trophy. These very valuable lessons will not come from avoiding the experience of auditioning.

ATTENDING CONVENTION CLASSES:

When we attend dance conventions, we would like for you to get the most that you can from the large amount of money that you are spending. You are paying for hotel rooms, costumes, food, travel, but most importantly... THE EDUCATION. All company members are expected to stay for all classes over the weekend unless you must leave due to injury, illness or family emergency. Being tired at the end of the busy weekend should be an expectation, and is NOT a valid reason for leaving early. We have had a problem with students leaving early for no reason and we do not approve. If you need to leave or arrive late, you must clear this with your teacher.

- We expect our members to represent our studio with pride & integrity, respecting & supporting other schools as well as their own peers.
- When we attend dance conventions & competitions, we expect our dancers to be respectful of the classrooms and dressing areas by picking up ALL trash that accumulates from getting ready for competition. We want to leave the area just as we found it.
- Cell phone use and text messaging is STRICTLY PROHIBITED DURING CLASSES! We understand the need for communication with parents but this must be limited to BETWEEN CLASSES.
- PLEASE SEE THE DANCER'S CODE OF CONDUCT INCLUDED WITH THE CONTRACT.

FUNDRAISERS:

All Fundraising opportunities are elective and will directly benefit the efforts put forth by those individuals. Past fundraising events include: Holiday Boston Butt Sales, Applebee's Pancake Breakfast, Parents' Night Out, and the Annual Lock-in. There will be other fundraisers throughout the year for our company. We will hold a parent meeting to plan these fundraisers and elect chairpersons.

ANNUAL LOCK-IN: (NEW**)** The Dance Centre Lock-in is a much anticipated event each year for our younger students! In the past, the money raised has help alleviate the extensive competition costs for our company. This year we will not make this mandatory for all company members, but will ask for workers who would like to fundraise toward their individual costs. We will need older members and parents of younger members to help lead group activities such as contests, face painting, crafts and choreographing dances for the kids. It's tons of fun!

SUMMER INTENSIVE: All company Members must attend one full week of our summer intensive at The Dance Centre to be eligible to participate in the following year as a company member. This will be held in June.

NATIONALS:

We will be attending Nationals during the Summer of 2010. This will be held in July. More details will be given to you as they are distributed by the conventions.

The Dance Centre Company

Parent/Dancer Contract 2009-2010

- I, _____, have read and understand the company agreement for the 2009-2010 season. My child, _____ is willing to uphold the responsibilities as a member of The Dance Centre Company until May of 2010. I agree to help my child understand her commitment, and accept her responsibility to the company leaders and her fellow dancers.
- Placement in Companies & Apprenticeships is based on the judges' evaluations and is not open for re-evaluation. Friendships among students are valuable, but The Dance Centre must place students according to the best interests of their dance training.
- During Dance Conventions & Competitions, I understand that The Dance Centre will place my child in the appropriate difficulty level that will be the most beneficial learning environment.
- I understand that leaving early from convention classes is NOT an option, except in family emergencies. If you are not interested in watching the Faculty Showing or Scholarship Awards, you may leave when classes are finished, and after arrangements have been made with either Rebecca or Melissa.
- Company dues are \$130.00 per semester for Company Members and \$65 per semester for Apprentices.
- Company costumes range from \$75.00 to \$125.00 per costume.
- I understand that failure to comply with the following company policies would constitute dismissal from the company.
- Unexcused absence from a mandatory convention.
- More than 2 "NOT APPROVED" absences from rehearsals per semester.

- Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dancers Contract for Conduct 2009-2010

At the studio:

1. I represent the art of dance, therefore, I will conduct myself in a courteous, supportive, and professional manner at all times. This includes being quiet and focused in classes with a hard-working attitude.
2. I understand that I am required to attend classes at The Dance Centre at least twice a week in order to maintain my status as a company member and will arrive on time. I also understand that it is my responsibility to make up classes that are missed on other days.
3. I recognize that as a member of The Dance Centre Company, I am a role model for other dancers and agree to conduct myself accordingly, including being dressed appropriately and having my hair fixed correctly for each discipline.
4. I will refrain from using any critical comments about fellow dancers or dance groups from my studio. I will be supportive of the progress of the group as a whole.

At Conventions and Competition:

1. I will present myself in a friendly, supportive attitude toward competing dancers in other studios.
2. I will attend and arrive on time to all classes and other competition events unless excused by my dance instructor or chaperone.
3. I will wear my convention bracelet at all times.
4. I will refrain from unnecessary talking and laughing in the classroom, as well as no eating or gum chewing during class.
5. I understand that all cell phone use during classes is strictly prohibited.
6. I will wear some form of cover-up at all times when not inside the classroom. I will also wear some form of cover-up when going back and forth between rooms in the hotel.
7. I will give respect and submit to those in authority, including all instructors and chaperones.
8. I will be responsible for bringing all costumes, extra tights, makeup, hair accessories, cover-up, shoes and dancewear. I will try to limit the number of bags that I take since there is never enough space for ALL of our things.
9. I will refrain from making noise that disturbs other hotel guests while in my hotel room, hallways and elevators. I will be especially sensitive to other guests between the hours of 10:00pm and 7:00am. For my safety, I will not go anywhere alone and will avoid the stairwells in the hotel, especially at night.
10. I promise to try to be the best that I can be in classes and performances, and strive to reach the potential that my teachers have seen in me.

Dancer's Signature: _____

Date: _____