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ABDA 2023-2024 Company Info & Agreement

Please consider the Terms of Agreement stated below for all dancers interested in participation in the ABDA Dance Company. Signed Company Agreements will be collected on Saturday, September 16th during our company class for meet & greet and photo session. Listed here is ALL the information you will need to know and understand to have a great season including dates, times, costs, requirements and procedures. If you are interested in becoming a Company Dancer, but have any questions or concerns please contact us via email (angelabatesdanceacademy@gmail.com).

Company Auditions – Wednesday, August 30th

5pm-6:15pm Dancers ages 6-13 AND/OR Beginner/Intermediate or Intermediate level (last years ABDA Ballet/Tap 3, Jazz 3, Int and Int/Adv, Adv Junior and Adv Teen 1 Level dancers OR last years Junior and Teen 1 companies). Please arrive 15 minutes early (by 4:45pm) to register and warmup.

6:30pm-8:30pm Dancers ages 13+ AND/OR Intermediate/Advanced or Advanced level (all last year's ABDA (Teen 2 company) and Adv Senior level classes (Sr1 and Sr2 company). Please arrive 15 minutes early (by 6:15pm) to register and warmup.

Audition Process: Dancers will arrive 15 minutes prior to the time listed above. They must submit a completed and signed audition form at this time. Each dancer will receive a number to wear during the audition process. They will then spend some time on their own to stretch and warm up. Once the audition begins, dancers will learn a Ballet combination, Jazz combination and Lyrical/Contemporary Combination that will each be performed in smaller groups. If time permits, they may be asked to Improv or Tap.

What to wear: All dancers should look presentable. It is recommended that they wear a leotard, tights, optional skirt for Ballet, optional shorts or leggings for Jazz and Lyrical, and hair pulled back into a bun. Dancers should bring all dance shoes that they currently own such as ballet slippers, jazz shoes, tap shoes, etc. No need to buy something if you do not already own.

Audition Fee: There is a \$25 audition fee per dancer for all new or non-current company dancers. All current (2022-2023) Company Dancers do not need to pay the Audition Fee.

Company Philosophy, Level Placement and Rate of Progress

The ABDA Dance Company is designed to provide dancers with opportunities beyond the four walls of the studio. In other words, to inspire, motivate, challenge and enrich young lives. The Company is for dancers who want to enhance their dance training through performances, competitions and conventions. However, competition is not about winning. It is about striving to be the best YOU can be by setting reasonable goals and improving yourself as an individual.

Dancers will be placed in groups where we, the studio, decide is the best fit. We place “like” dancers together according to certain criteria (such as technique, strength, performance skills, professionalism, attitude, work ethic, teamwork, etc.) that the studio feels will allow the students to dance to the best of their ability.

Students learn at different rates from each other, they progress differently, and they often take different classes. Since the studio cannot predict how much an individual student will improve in relation to their classmates, we will have our staff evaluate each student throughout the year in classes, at competitions and at performances. For this reason, we will hold Company Auditions in early September.

Company Events & Routines

Each Group will perform in 2-3 competitions, participate in at least one convention, perform in local festivals and benefit performances, perform in our Holiday Show and end of the year Recital Performance. There are many other optional competitions and conventions dancers may attend on their own. There may also be other performances to add throughout the year. Mini company dancers will compete 1-2 group routines, Junior company will compete 2-4 group routines, Teen & Senior companies will compete 3-6 group routines.

Class Requirements

Mini Company Dancers (approx. ages 5-8)

- Minimum Class Requirements - Weekday Ballet/Tap or Ballet and one other class (preferable Jazz and/or Lyrical) plus any possible Weekend Company Rehearsals.
- Optional Classes that are highly recommended – Lyrical, Tap, Street Jazz, Acro,

Junior Company Dancers (approx. ages 8-10)

- Minimum Class Requirements - Weekday Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical, Company Class plus all Weekend Company Rehearsals.
- Optional Classes that are highly recommended – Street Jazz, Acro, and Tap

Teen Company Dancers (approx. ages 9-12)

- Minimum Class Requirements – Weekday Ballet, Jazz, Stretch & Tech, Lyrical, Contemporary/Modern, Company Class plus all Weekend Company Rehearsals.
- Optional Classes that are highly recommended – Contemporary, Street Jazz, Acro, Tap, and Pointe/PrePointe

Senior Company Dancers (approx. ages 13-18)

- Minimum Class Requirements – Weekday Ballet, Jazz, Stretch & Tech, Lyrical, Contemporary/Modern, Company Class plus all Weekend Company Rehearsals.
- Optional Classes that are highly recommended – Contemporary, Street Jazz, Acro, Tap, and Pointe

Attendance/Lateness Policy

- Regular attendance creates team spirit and success!
- Please be on time for all classes, rehearsals, and performances.
- **COMMUNICATE** any and all delays, emergencies or absences as soon as possible. Telling a teacher or choreographer 5 minutes before you have to leave, is NOT acceptable. Notice should be given at the BEGINNING of the class or rehearsal or sooner if possible.
- Never leave a class or rehearsal without being dismissed. This is for your safety and out of respect for your teacher and your peers.
- Regular attendance at all classes is necessary for participation in the ABDA Dance Company.
- It is the student's responsibility to arrange to learn choreography from any missed class or rehearsal. Dancers are required to learn material that was missed by the next class and/or rehearsal.
- Please communicate any conflict with dates for upcoming performances/competitions.
- September through December dancers may miss, arrive late, or leave early a TOTAL MAX of 4 regular weekday classes and 4 weekend company classes and rehearsals.
- January through March dancers may miss, arrive late, or leave early a TOTAL MAX of 3 regular weekday classes and 2 weekend company classes and rehearsals.
- April through June dancers may miss, arrive late, or leave early a TOTAL MAX of 3 regular weekday classes and 3 weekend company classes and rehearsals.
- If you miss more than the max without extreme emergencies or injuries, you will be removed from your company routines.
- If you suffer an injury, you will be required to attend all classes to walk thru routines or watch. You must be up and dancing full out at least 2 weeks BEFORE a performance or competition.
- If you have a college visit conflict or SAT/school conflict, you must notify us in advance to see what is workable. If you have a medical emergency, you must also discuss this with us to see what is workable.

Health and Injuries

Please be certain you feel well when participating in classes or dance team activities. Dancing on MAJOR injuries or when emotionally upset not only affects one's dancing but the spirit of the team as a whole. We want our dancers to work hard yet enjoy every aspect of their participation. Their health is more important than dance, and dancing through MAJOR injuries is not always wise.

- The dancer agrees to report any injury occurring while in class, at rehearsal or at a performance immediately to their instructors as well as Studio Director, or whoever is in charge of them at the time. An injury report will be filled out in the office at the time of injury.
- The dancer agrees to observe classes, rehearsals, and performances when recovering from any injury or illness if possible. The dancer/parent agrees to have written permission from the doctor before returning to classes, rehearsals, and performances after an absence from an injury even if they are returning with limitations.
- The dancer agrees to report any injury occurring while engaged in a non-dance related activity. An injury report will be filled out by the parent to submit to the office.
- The dancer/parent agrees to keep all contagious illnesses out of the dance studio. Please do not come to classes, rehearsals, and performances when extremely sick (such as high fever, vomiting or diarrhea)!
- The dancer/parent agrees to inform the staff at ABDA of **ANY** personal issue that we should be sensitive to while the dancer is in our care.

Dress Code

All dancers must follow the dress code. For all Ballet and Pointe Classes – dancers must wear a leotard, pink/salmon tights, ballet slippers and/or pointe shoes and hair in a proper bun. They have the option of wearing a ballet skirt as well. For all Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary Modern, Contemporary and Tap classes – dancers must wear form fitting dance attire (such as a fitted top or leotard and fitted shorts, capris or leggings) and must have their hair completely pulled back in either a ponytail or bun. No baggy clothing.

Respect, Responsibility and Teamwork

As a member of the ABDA Dance Company you represent yourself, your family, and the entire Angela Bates Dance Academy dance community. We applaud you for conducting yourself in a mature and responsible manner!

Please refer to the ABDA studio code of ethics listed on our website.

- Students should come prepared, on time and properly dressed, for all classes and rehearsals. They will come to class with a positive attitude and be ready to give 100%.
- Dancers are expected to know where and when they need to be at all times, for all events, performances and competitions.
- The dancer agrees to maintain academic grades that are acceptable to their parent's standards.
- The dancer agrees to have proper hygiene and cleanliness at all times, and to abide by the dress code.
- Personal presentation is very important when working with a team. Please refrain from dying your hair unnatural colors, noticeable tattoos, unusual piercings, etc. You may be asked to cover these up if it creates a distraction or prevents us from looking like a unified team.
- The dancer agrees to refrain from illegal and non-prescription drugs, steroids, or any other substance used to increase physical development, as well as consumption of alcohol, and use of tobacco.
- The dancer agrees to keep their belongings organized and clean and to leave all areas in the same condition or better than they found it at classes, rehearsals, and performances.
- Be cautious not to overwhelm the lobbies, and be sure to keep your voices down while waiting for your classes to begin, so as not to disturb another class in progress. Always show your support and courtesy to all ABDA dancers, not just your fellow Company members.
- If a company dancer is in a romantic relationship they agree to not have any public displays of affection at ABDA or at any ABDA outside event.
- Under no condition may any photo or video be posted online that would associate ABDA to actions contrary to the standards outlined in this 'Company Agreement'. As a representative of ABDA and our Company Program, it is also unacceptable to participate in internet dialogue that involves anything inappropriate or negative towards any student, teacher or program of ABDA or any other dance school or event. Posting inappropriately on social media will result in dismissal from the Company program.
- Students will not communicate with staff members on personal phone lines or drive in their cars, unless coordinated through ABDA.
- Any student or parent posting any comments on social media or demonstrating any behaviors that do not uphold the Code of Ethics will be held to account. A conference with the student and parent will address any and all issues that may arise.
- All dancers will treat each other, their parents and their teachers with the utmost respect. Never talk or act negatively to anyone. Use the golden rule, 'If you have nothing nice to say, do not say it at all'. We want to keep the ABDA a positive and encouraging environment.

Student Drama Free Clause – If a student is involved in any unnecessary/inappropriate scene or conflict, it may result in a suspension or dismissal from the ABDA Dance Company. Any monies spent will not be refunded.

Competitions and Performances

Company members should review the Company Calendar of Events document. This will include specifics about the performances, competitions, conventions, and team events that will be scheduled during the dance season. It is our goal to instill in our students a passion for performing rather than merely the desire to win awards. With this in mind, Company members will be given many different outlets to learn, grow and show-off the results of their hard work.

- Competitions are often long, sometimes spanning for an entire weekend. It is important for all divisions to support each other, so dancers may be required to attend portions of the competition when they may not be scheduled for dances of their own. Families should keep entire competition weekends blocked out and will receive details about time requirements the week prior. In addition, all students are expected to remain for all award presentations.
- Parents and other family members are admitted into most competitions at no cost.
- Parents agree to never make an unnecessary or inappropriate scene or conflict. You are also a representative of the Angela Bates Dance Academy community. Doing so could affect your child's ability to participate in the Company program, regardless of monies spent.
- ABDA staff will handle all communication with the directors of our outside activities. Dancers/parents will never create conflict with the directors or judges of events in which we participate, nor question the results of any competition.
- Dancers and parents agree to never speak negatively about teachers, dancers or parents from other schools.
- No dancer may compete in any competition as an independent entry. If you would like to enter an additional competition, please discuss this with the ABDA staff, and we will get you registered!
- Entry fees must be collected, and registrations submitted, several months early to secure our space at events. Please recognize that once event registrations have been submitted, we are unable to get refunds; therefore we are unable to offer any refunds back to you.

Costs & Payments

There is no extra cost or fee to be in the ABDA company. You are only required to pay for your quarterly tuition (and registration fees if applicable) for all required classes including company class (plus any optional classes). Saturday rehearsals are free for the mandatory routines. Company choreography is free for the mandatory routines. Dancers have the option to add a couple optional routines and will be required to pay a choreography fee for those. Company dancers are also required to participate in our two performances (Dec and June) and pay the required performance fees for each,

Other fees required are event fees such as competitions, conventions, benefit performances, etc. We will email a google form for each event with a due date and total amount due. Approximate amounts due will be included in our events doc coming soon. All company payments must be made separately from studio payments. Fees will be higher if forms are turned in after the due date. For the event fees, a 3% cc fee will be added to all event fees or you may pay via venmo, cash or check to avoid the cc fee.

Costumes

In order to keep costs down, we order recital costumes for each class in October and use those costumes for our competition routines. We may also reuse costumes that we have in our inventory; we may reuse costumes from previous recitals/performances, and students may be required to donate their costumes from previous recitals or events for other students to wear; we may purchase new costumes; Students may wear the same costume, multiple times, over the span of several years. Students may also need to purchase small costume accessories or pieces such as dance shorts, tops, pants, etc

Students are required to purchase their own performance tights, earrings, hair accessories and make up. In addition, you should be prepared to occasionally purchase dance shoes specific to a certain routine, if they are different from those required for class. For example, you may need a certain color of sneakers for Hip Hop, or a pair of character shoes for a stylized Jazz piece, etc. Costumes for “specials” will be an additional cost.

Company Products

We will have certain optional studio and company apparel and products for the company to purchase. ALL company members will be required to purchase an ABDA Company Jacket. All dancers will also be required to wear and obtain their own performance rhinestone earrings, tights, shoes, and all hair and makeup accessories. We will give you details on which items to purchase and where to purchase them.

Hair, Makeup, and Costumes

Please be conscientious about the care of your costumes, personal dance attire, costume pieces as required, and makeup. We look forward to our dancers looking polished and professional.

- The dancer/parent agrees to take responsibility for all costumes, tights, shoes while in their care whether the property of the dancer or of ABDA.
- The dancer/parent agrees to be prepared for all performances with all costume pieces and personal dance attire (i.e.; hair, makeup, tights, etc....) as required and to arrive on time.
- The dancer/parent agrees to immediately report to the teacher any costume that is falling apart, has a broken piece, etc.
- Dancers are requested to wear their ABDA Dance Company Jacket when attending outside conventions, competitions or events.

Communication

We will send an email every Monday to communicate things weekly. You MUST read these each week! We also supply a calendar which lists all events, due dates, etc. Everyone will receive a contact sheet of ALL dancers in the entire company. In the lobby of the studio, there is a Company Board. It will list reminders and special notes for you to view daily.

Social Media Conduct

All dancers need to be wise and smart in the way they act, talk and write on social media and texts. Everyone needs to be kind. If someone is not being a team player, not following the rules of the studio and/or not conducting their behavior in a kind way they will be removed from the Company. Posting inappropriately on social media will not be tolerated and will result in removal from the Company.

Parent Involvement

This program relies on a positive atmosphere to promote a positive learning environment for all involved. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect for the other parents, along with the students and the ABDA staff makes an important impression on your child. You are a role model for your child on how to interact with others in a professional setting, and it is this mutual respect that provides the ultimate education. Your child's presence at all classes, rehearsals and performances is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of this program's educational process. There must be a great level of trust between parents and staff members, as our over goal is to give dancers the best experience possible. Misunderstandings may happen and emotions sometimes run high. As a parent, you may disagree with a placement, training/choreographic procedure, etc. It would be best to wait 24 hours before contacting the studio owner, a staff member, or a parent to discuss any misunderstandings or concerns.

Parent Drama Free Clause – If a parent is involved in any unnecessary/inappropriate scene or conflict, it will result in a suspension or dismissal of your dancer & family from the ABDA Dance Company. Any monies spent will not be refunded.

Company Buddies/Sisters/Brothers

Each dancer will be given a company buddy/sister/brother for the season as a fun way to connect with a special friend. This will make Saturday Company Classes and events super awesome!

Special Numbers

All dancers in the Company are eligible to do a special number (solo, duo, trio) to be performed at most competitions (but not all Conventions and NOT at the Recitals). Please refer to the Special Number Contract for specific details and pricing.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRse2iMqiKlxlJLnIEB9uLLhlcTZh0zjCIXIYehZjYi4YJpw/viewform?usp=pp_url

Concerns

If you or your child ever have any questions or concerns, please make an appointment to speak directly to the studio director rather than discussing it publicly or with other Company families. We want this to be a positive experience for your child, and we take that responsibility very seriously!