

THE DANCE GALLERY

2009-2010 STUDIO GUIDE

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Gallery Director

Maureen Duggan, Registered Teacher, Royal Academy of Dance

Faculty

Laura Bishop	Pre-School, Tap, Jazz, Musical Theatre
Jamie Fritz	Jazz, Hip Hop, Jazz Technique
Marylou Joseph	Ballet; Registered Teacher, Royal Academy of Dance
Jessica Southgate	Contemporary
Bill Robertson	Jazz, Stage Production

Disciplines

Pre School Creative Dance	Age 3 to 5
Pre-Primary Ballet	Age 5
Tap	Age 5 and older
Jazz	Age 6 and older
Musical Theatre**	Age 6 and older
R. A. D. Ballet	Graded and Vocational Exams
Modern	Age 12 and older
Hip Hop	Age 12 and older
Contemporary	Age 12 and older

****Students registering in Musical Theatre must also be registered in a Jazz class at The Dance Gallery.**

Our Philosophy

Each child should have the opportunity to reach his or her potential in dance, taking into consideration the various interest levels and expectations of the entire class. We endeavour to make our classes enjoyable and challenging, at the same time encouraging each dancer's natural love of movement, while maintaining a strong technical focus. We provide a comfortable, nurturing environment to support the individual's artistic expression. We try to develop traits that will last a lifetime - courtesy, self-awareness, self-discipline, self-esteem, a sense of achievement, respect for one's peers and a love of one's art form. We are building a dance audience for now and for tomorrow. Our goal is to promote a lifelong enthusiasm for dance.

Fees

Please see the Fee Schedule for specific class fees. Please be aware that fees quoted are for instruction only. There may be additional costs associated with costumes, extra preparation classes, exam entries, festival participation, optional workshops, etc.

Withdrawal

Please see the Fee Schedule regarding the withdrawal policy.

Dress Code

Pre School Creative Dance

Girls: Any style or colour leotard. Pink ballet tights or white ankle socks are required. No bare feet.
Boys: Short sleeved t-shirt. Black, navy or solid coloured shorts. White ankle socks.

Ballet

Any style, solid colour leotard. Pink tights.

Tap, Jazz, Musical Theatre

Girls: Any style, any colour leotard and tights. Leotard and jazz pants. No sweat pants, tear-aways or overly long pants.

Boys: Long or short sleeve t-shirt. Solid colour shorts or athletic pants.

Hip Hop

Loose fitting t-shirt, shorts or pants. No overly long pants.

***** Absolutely NO bare midriffs in any class*****

Footwear Requirements

****Please label all footwear with dancers' names****

Pre School Creative Dance

Girls: Pink ballet slippers, elastic attached. Bloch or Capezio.

Please do not purchase slippers from Payless Shoes or Wal-mart

Boys: Black ballet slippers, elastic attached, or black jazz shoes. Bloch or Capezio.

Tap shoes will be provided in class for both girls and boys.

Ballet

Girls: Pink full sole ballet slippers, leather or canvas, elastic attached. Bloch or Capezio.

Not accepted: Capezio Daisy, Bloch Bunnyhop, Anything from Payless Shoes or Wal-mart

Boys: Black or white full sole, canvas or leather, elastic attached. Bloch or Capezio.

Tap

To be advised at the start of classes. Please consult Laura Bishop.

Laura must approve all footwear.

Jazz, Musical Theatre

Girls and Boys: Black leather, split sole, laced or slip-on jazz shoes. Bloch or Capezio. No jazz sneakers permitted in class at any time.

Hip Hop

Jazz sneakers or athletic shoes (for studio use only).

Grooming

For all classes, hair must be secured neatly off the face. Buns, French braids or ponytails are required for dancing. Buns are mandatory for ballet.

The Dance Gallery's Dress Code will be strictly enforced. Dancers not properly attired or groomed will not be allowed to participate in class. They may stay to observe.

Student Placement

Dance Gallery faculty make all placement decisions. Appropriate levels of classes are determined with the student's best interest in mind. Placement will depend on age, ability and experience. All placements are reviewed for appropriateness, and students may be moved, even after the term has commenced. Students will be placed on a first come, first served basis, and some class sizes may be limited. **In all cases, Dance Gallery faculty will make the final determination.**

Attendance and Punctuality

In order to achieve one's goals in dance, regular attendance is essential. The building of necessary memory and muscle aptitude and strength will not happen if the student is not committed to frequent, repetitive practice. It is the student and parent's responsibility to advise the appropriate teacher in advance when a student will miss class.

Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared for class. Dance classes are designed with a warm-up and progression of exercises which graduate to more challenging work. When a student misses the beginning of class, his or her experience lacks continuity and bad habits will be set for future training. Students who arrive late or unprepared will not make good progress and are disruptive to the class. These actions demonstrate a lack of respect for fellow students and teachers. Dancers who are late risk injury due to improper warm-up. Dancers missing warm-up will not be allowed to participate in class; they may stay to observe and their parents will receive notification from the instructor.

Class Cancellation

Every effort is made to hold all classes at their regularly scheduled time. On the rare occasion when classes are cancelled for events such as exam or festival dates, which are undetermined at the beginning of the term, classes are rescheduled according to the preference of the majority of students and the teacher's availability.

****Please note: Regularly scheduled classes will be taught on all Statutory Holidays. All students scheduled in Monday, Friday and Saturday classes will have classes during Stat holidays and long weekends.**

Change Room

Clothing is left in the change room at the student's risk. Lockers have been provided for students' use and protection. Students must provide their own lock, which should be removed when they leave the studio. Names should be clearly printed on all dancewear, particularly shoes. A "lost and found" hamper is provided. **The Dance Gallery is not responsible for lost or stolen items.**

A microwave oven and refrigerator are provided as a courtesy for students. Food and beverages are allowed only in the change room and lobby area. Please respect the property and feelings of others by cleaning up your own refuse.

Observation Week

Parents are invited to observe their child's classes once during the fall and once in the spring. The specific dates will be advised by notice and posted on the bulletin board.

All visitors will be asked to remove footwear before entering the studio space. Due to class sizes, the number of observers will be limited; your instructor will inform you prior to observation day.

Communication

Communication between faculty and parents is just as important as communication between student and teacher. We cannot be responsible for communication between parent and child. **Important notices regarding upcoming events and class rescheduling will be handed out to each student affected, as well as posted on the bulletin board. Please check the board frequently.**

Concerns regarding an individual student should be raised with the particular teacher. Please make an appointment, as the time before or between classes is usually insufficient for lengthy discussions. It is inappropriate to discuss particular students during class, or in the presence of other students.

Suggestions, Teacher Evaluations

Prepared evaluation sheets are available at all times, and parents are encouraged to complete them and deposit them in the Suggestion Box, located near the front door of the studio. All suggestions are carefully considered.

Parking

The Dance Gallery's business neighbours are entitled to exclusive use of parking stalls directly in front of their premises, and the three stalls in front of the studio are reserved for faculty. These designated parking spots are clearly marked with signage. Please park closer to the street in unmarked stalls. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed at the owners' expense.

Year End Recital

Dance is ultimately a performing art, and students will never truly feel the thrill of performance in a studio setting. The year-end recital offers them such an experience. It is a tangible reward for months of hard work and provides a focus for the commitment they are asked to make. Throughout the term, dancers, teachers and parents work together as a team, preparing for that final week. We feel everyone deserves a chance to showcase their talents in a theatrical setting, with the response of a live audience. A polished performance requires not only an appropriate venue, but suitable costuming and competent professional technical support. Sagebrush Theatre is the only local facility suitable for staging a large-scale dance production. A show of this nature is expensive and we find it necessary to charge admission. Please remember to budget approximately \$50 per costume for Pre-School dancers and \$70 to \$85 per costume for all other dancers.

A \$50 deposit will be required prior to costumes being ordered.

The year-end recital will take place at the end of the term, in mid June. Parents will be given an opportunity to purchase tickets before they go on sale to the general public. Don't forget to notify relatives who may wish to attend.

R. A. D. Graded and Vocational Ballet Examinations

These examinations are not compulsory. The syllabus is designed for the student to enjoy the study of classical ballet within a structured framework. Exams offer a challenge and a great sense of achievement for the dancer. Parents are given an indication of their child's progress. Exam results provide teachers with feedback concerning their professional development. We feel very strongly that the decision to enter candidates must involve the dancer, the parent and the teacher.

Festival and Competitive Work

Participation in these events is optional. Dancers have the opportunity of performing outside the studio, onstage, in a competitive setting. There are opportunities in solo, duet, trio, and small and large group formats, in all disciplines. Many students find the teamwork aspect of competition rewarding. Dance Gallery Staff will make all final decisions regarding students' participation in these activities. Please ask a staff member for a Competition Handout for more info.

Dance Gallery students have traditionally been quite successful in competition. We have a policy that requires competitors in every discipline to take at least one ballet class, and we believe this is a strong factor in that success.

Both exams and competitive work will involve additional expense in the nature of costumes, extra classes or private lessons, and entry fees, none of which are included in tuition fees.

Please be aware that these activities will also require additional time commitments on behalf of the dancer and the parent. These commitments inevitably involve weekend time. **Absences in competitive classes penalize the entire group and impede progress; therefore, more than three absences during one dance season may result in the dancer losing their place in that routine and/or class.** Detailed information regarding exams, festival dates, and costs will be provided as soon as the information is available.