

2021-2022 Performing Company Handbook

Who do we want in our Performing company?

"Families with talented dancers committed to dance as a lifestyle
where their investment in the program
is rewarded through talent development, life lessons and lasting relationships."

History

The performing company started in the summer of 1995 to meet the expectations of dedicated dancers in the studio. Parents were interested in a way to showcase their children and support them as they chose dance for their primary focus in the development of their child outside of school. During its infancy, the performing company was under the direction of Rhoda and Corey Burns. The parents have a separate organization with a non-profit status. The company traveled to regional conventions in the fall and winter, and national conventions in the summer. This included trips to New York City, Las Vegas, Orlando, and Myrtle Beach. The company benefits from many guest instructors in the studio and showcasing their talent at festivals and events in the Aiken area. A highlight of the year is the annual spring concert, which serves as a fundraiser.

We are very proud of the success of our Performing Company. A visit to the studio will show the significant number of trophies and plaques for numerous dance conventions and competitions.

Notable accomplishments by our Alumni:

Jimmy Lucas – nationally known Michael Jackson Tribute artist

Anthony England – 2005 Tremaine Senior Male Dancer of the Year, College graduate

Kayla Frails – Disney Cruise, music videos, Coachella w/ Beyonce

Lindsey Gentry – co-owner Charleston Dance Center

Casey Frails – College of Charleston Dance Team, competition judge, college graduate

Lauren Claxon – currently an entertainer at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, college graduate

Mandy Sizemore Korey – former director of White Knoll High School cheer and dance program, college graduate

Elizabeth Hayes Hagen – director of Fort Mill High School dance team, college graduate

Katie Usry – Rally Cat Choreographer (Clemson University), college graduate, trainer at The Village Fitness

Allyson Burrell Willis, Ashley Hooks Sorrells, Vanessa Campbell – all high school valedictorians of the graduating class

**numerous college graduates with degrees in engineering, education, accounting, law, and business

**numerous wonderful mom's and dad's with children in dance programs across the country

Performing Company Teams

Minis 5-6 yrs

Sparks 6-8 yrs

Juniors 9-10

Teens 11-13 yrs

Seniors 14 yrs +

**these designations are by age, not ability...dancers in different age categories may be in the same routines.

2021-2022 Policies, Practices and Expectations

Performing Company dance year begins in late July and ends with a national convention in June or early July.

Dancers are accepted into the company only after class assessment, audition and/or invitation. If a dancer cannot be present at a scheduled audition, he/she may request another time if approved.

For 2021-22, dancers must attend audition classes May 24th-27th for assessment. NO formal auditions are held where dancers are cut or dismissed in a group forum. Dancers must enroll in appropriate style studio classes if they are participating in the company.

Minis/Sparks must take ballet, tap, and jazz. Optional classes are acro, hip hop, and musical theater. **Juniors / Teens/ Seniors** must take ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, and hip hop.

The Director makes all final decisions and is responsible for all dance content, music, costumes, and business practices.

Dancers must take the full curriculum of appropriate technique classes required to be a member of the company. There are attendance requirements to maintain the integrity of the program and ensure the commitment by families is consistent. Exceptions to attendance requirements are granted in rare circumstances for families in good standing with the program. The Director is the only one who can excuse a company dancer. If an absence is approved, the director will communicate the information to the teacher, or request that dancer to do so. Excused absences consist of hospital stay or death in the family or school related events. If you are sick or injured and come to class or rehearsal you will not be counted absent.

Dancers are expected to be properly dressed.
Ballet – black leotard, pink tights and hair pulled up.
Hip Hop – athletic clothes and athletic shoes.
Jazz/Contemporary -- Paws or foot mittens.
Tap – Tap shoes and fitted dancewear

Performing company members are **discouraged** from participating in other structured activities that diminish the commitment to the program. Extra rehearsals and choreography sessions will be required outside of regular class times. Class time will be used for technique and instruction only. Rehearsals will be added to learn choreography and to rehearse for productions. Traditionally, performing company members do participate in the Burns Dance Studio Halftime Show.

Dancers are expected to work 100% in classes, conventions and rehearsals. The instructors have the authority to recommend dismissal of any dancer from class or rehearsal for disruptive or disrespectful behavior and/or not working to his/her capability **after notice** has been given to parents. The dancer may be asked to sit out until future decisions can be reached and parents contacted.

Dancers must be able to accept high expectations for conduct and maintain a positive presence in social media outlets.

Competition Information

Competition routines will be rehearsed at weekly scheduled rehearsal times. Choreography will take place on other days of the week. Lines, Groups, Duo-trios, and solos are chosen at the discretion of the choreographers and director and/or by audition.

Minimum Travel Requirements

--2 Dance Conventions / Competitions in the Winter/Spring 2021

--1 Nationals event in late June/ early July

Soloists and small groups may travel to regional conventions as approved by the Director. Schedule of events will be published in August. Dancers in Perf Co are required to attend these

events.

Conventions

Dance conventions provide dancers with a great opportunity to take from well known professionals and get inspired through their dancing. The fixed cost associated with conventions is the tuition, travel expenses, food and lodging. The cost of competitions depends on the number of routines a child participates in that weekend. Parents of first time company members are encouraged to purchase an observer pass to the first convention - approx. \$25.00. --Cost saving measures include carpooling, sharing hotel rooms, packing food for breakfast and lunch, and careful planning to avoid purchasing non-essential items in a resort area.

Guest choreographers

Choreographers from other areas are asked to come in two or three times a year to work with the dancers. The small group experience can lead to tremendous growth and feedback to the dancer. Guest choreographers negotiate fees with studio owners, and that cost is split by participating dancers. Performing Company members must take these classes and are expected to share the cost.

Costs and Fees

- Competition costumes depend upon the choreography of the routine. Costumes usually range from \$60.00 to \$150.00.

- Competition choreography depends on how many kids are in routines.

Solos: \$350 – \$600

Duo/Trio: \$100 – \$250 per dancer

Groups: \$125 - \$150 per dancer

Productions: \$100 - \$125 per dancer

(As kids age up in the program, the potential for more dances is stronger. Minis/Sparks can expect 1-2 competition routines per dancer.

- The Parent Organization will have discretion over payments to studio accounts from performing company accounts. Priority should be given to BDS accounts before personal disbursement.

- Students and parents have fundraising projects throughout the year to help defray convention costs and costumes. A percentage of the studio fundraisers can be added to your account in lieu of picking a prize.

- Performing Company families are offered several options for bill payment, not given to halftime or recreational dance accounts. Please stay in good standing with the studio on the status of your account to avoid excessive late fees and difficult situations requiring magistrate involvement.

Solos

Solos are a great way to showcase individual talents of a dancer. Traditionally, solos are discouraged for Minis, Sparks, and Juniors. Students interested in doing a solo will need to demonstrate above average ability and have unanimous support of all of their dance teachers. In addition, parents must ensure their accounts are in good standing with the studio before the expenses of a solo are encumbered.

Fees for solos are negotiated between the studio and the choreographer if studio resources are used. Parents do not directly engage choreographers for service without director's knowledge. Students are encouraged to use the studio resources and seek support of studio management in securing outside choreographers. There will be open times posted specifically for solo choreography and rehearsals.

Parents Responsibility

We recognize that parents make a personal sacrifice to allow their children the opportunity to be a part of the Performing Company. Therefore, a bit more is expected from parents than just transporting dancers and paying bills.

1. Parents of Performing Company dancers are expected to have active participation in the parent company organization. Officers will work with director on ensuring best business and communication practices.
2. Open communication with studio leadership in a positive and discreet manner when necessary.
3. Attendance at parent meetings to discuss logistics involved with performances, travel, fundraising, and studio business.
4. Support for all dancers on the team, regardless of personal differences and outside relationships. We expect all parents to be “fans” of the team.

Parents also provide financial support via fundraising efforts, personal payments to accounts, and/or securing sponsors.

Teaching Assistants Responsibility

Teaching Assistants are chosen based on age, class needs, student schedules, student's ability and character. They must wear the proper shoes and clothing for the class.

- Assistants must sign the list in the office on days they assist.
- Assistants should notify the director if they are unable to attend class.
- Assistants are to take roll at the beginning of class and update the roll at the end.
- Assistants are the role models for students and are expected to demonstrate proper technique, work ethic, and character. Parents will be notified if expectations are not being met which may lead to loss of the position.