



## MINI COMPANY INFORMATION FOR DANCERS CONSIDERING AUDITIONING

### Goal/Purpose of Mini Company

Thank you for your interest in the PDC Company! Our goal for the PDC Company is to not only develop artistically in the art of dance, but to instill vital life skills such as teamwork, determination, resiliency, flexibility, and hard work. These lessons are integrated into all that we do, both in the studio and on stage.

### DANCERS ASKED TO JOIN THE PDC MINI COMPANY MUST:

- Have a strong desire to grow and develop as a dancer and as a person.
- Have a sense of humor, bright smile and positive attitude.
- Have respect for their team members and our staff.
- Be self-motivated and able to self-evaluate.
- Have solid, and growing, technical and performance skills.
- Show support for the studio, fellow dancers and our teachers.
- Have a supportive family base that always shows respect for the teachers and students.
- Be physically active with an emphasis on healthy mind and body.

### PRIMARY GOALS FOR EACH MINI COMPANY MEMBER:

1. Grow in the art of accepting both successes *and* failures.
2. Continue to push themselves and grow in technical and performance skills.

### IT'S NOT ABOUT WINNING!

At PDC, we do not focus on winning – we focus on GROWTH. Though competitions will give us rankings, scores, awards and accolades, what is important to the faculty here is what happens when we get back in the studio. How we grow in technique, performance, choreography, and confidence is at the top of our priority list. Dance competitions are extremely subjective and at the hands of the judges each weekend, so it is important to focus on what happens in between. Our primary purpose for attending competitions is to give our Company members additional performance opportunities and develop the skills listed above.

### WHY WE FOCUS ON TRAINING AT PDC:

Our training philosophy is rooted in the belief that developing and maintaining proper technique is fundamental to all dance training. We believe it is far better to be “well-trained” versus “well-rehearsed”. Because of this mindset, you can expect the following:

- Technique classes will always be **the most important** avenue for growing as a PDC dancer.
- We will not use technique class time for company rehearsals. All Company rehearsals are scheduled *outside of* technique class times, which means group rehearsals will take place on Fridays.
- Regular attendance in technique classes is required of all company dancers.
- It is important to understand that dancers grow in technical ability through attending CLASS; not through rehearsals.

Being a member of our Mini Company means that you are interested in enhanced training opportunities. These include learning high-level competition dances, but that is just a piece of the training puzzle. A big part of the puzzle is providing Mini Company dancers with opportunities for additional and enhanced training.

## **THE PDC MINI COMPANY IS NOT A RECREATIONAL PROGRAM**

We do not consider our Company to be a recreational program. It is a very rewarding program, but one that takes hard work, dedication, positive attitude and commitment. We ask parents and dancers to consider the *time, financial, and work commitments* as they evaluate their decision to join the PDC Mini Company.

## **CASTING PLACEMENTS**

### **How is placement on the competitive team determined?**

- All dancers cast in the PDC Mini Company will be by invitation-only. Parents may express their desire for their dancer to be part of this team through our team interest form.

### **LEVELS OF COMPETITION: Placement**

Each regional competition that we attend generally has 3 different levels of competition: novice, intermediate and advanced. All Mini Company routines will compete at the novice level.

### **What are the ages and skill level requirements to audition for Company?**

- The PDC Mini Company is open to dancers ages 5 and 6 years old as of January 1, 2027.
- In general, we recommend that dancers have a minimum of 1-2 years of dance training.

Dancers who are interested in Mini Company should be prepared to take both ballet and jazz on an ongoing basis, as those classes are required for all Mini Company members.

To ensure proper technical development and progress, Mini Company dancers are not permitted to take weekly, recreational or technique classes at other studios.

### **How many dances can Company members expect to be cast in?**

- The Mini Company will have one (1) required competition routine for the 2026-2027 season.

## **CLASS REQUIREMENTS FOR MINI COMPANY MEMBERS**

### **What are the class requirements for Mini Company members?**

- Ballet, Tap & Jazz are required
- We encourage Mini Company dancers to take 1 additional class of their choosing (Sparkle Squad, acro, lyrical, hip hop).
- **Company dancers are expected to continue training over the summer months.** Because we recognize that vacations, summer intensives, and other factors can make consistent enrollment difficult, the only Mini Company class requirements over the summer are ballet and jazz.

### **Can dancers participate in other extracurricular activities?**

- Mini Company dancers must have a willingness to place dance at the top of their priority list. While we never forbid dancers to participate in other activities, we strongly encourage each dancer to carefully

evaluate whether Company makes sense considering all other activities they participate in. *It is impossible to create cohesive dances without consistent attendance.*

- Only **mandatory** school activities will be excused for Mini Company.
- Mini Company dances will rehearse on Friday evenings, so this should be taken into consideration as **repeated Friday absences for other extracurricular activities will not be feasible.**
- January-March is prime competition season preparation. Rehearsals during this timeframe are mandatory and cannot be missed in favor of optional outside activities.
- Mini Company members may not miss the rehearsal prior to a performance and expect to participate in the performance.

#### What is the general time commitment for being on Company?

- In addition to the weekly class requirements, Mini Company members are required to attend weekly rehearsals during the duration of the Competition season (August-March). Note that there may be some weeks with no rehearsal.
- All rehearsals will take place on Fridays for group routines. These rehearsals will be 30-45 minutes in length.
- All choreography for Mini Company is set in August, while the studio is closed for regular classes, during Company Camp week.
- Mini Company dancers are allowed 2 rehearsal absences, per dance, per semester.

#### Schedule expectations:

- You can expect your dancer to be at the studio two nights per week, and Friday evenings, if they are taking the minimum number of classes.
- Any additional or optional classes not listed above are *not* included in this two-night-per-week schedule and are at the discretion of each family.
- We may use times when the studio is closed for regular classes to rehearse if 75% or more of the participants can attend – this will be communicated separately.
- There may be some Saturdays that we do not have rehearsals, but those will be few!

#### How many competitions & extra performances are required?

Mini Company will attend 1 regional competition in either February or March of 2027. They will have the opportunity attend dance convention(s) with our Competitive Company.

The entire PDC Company will have a Company Showcase in the spring of 2027. The date will be dependent upon our 2027 competition schedule.

Mini Company members will be invited to attend various **optional** dance competitions throughout the year as well but are only **required** to attend one.

We will make our decision regarding which competitions we will attend over the summer. You will have these dates in July 2026.

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS & POLICIES

Being part of Company is a financial investment that should be carefully considered. Company members will be expected to keep up to date with all Mini Company financial commitments throughout the season, including monthly tuition fees.

NOTE: Monthly tuition is NOT part of Mini Company costs. Because we believe in keeping technique classes our top priority, those fees will be billed separate from Company costs. Due to increased costs and inflation, tuition rates for Fall 2026 may be adjusted to more accurately reflect the increased business costs.

### **What are the additional Company costs?**

- The total financial commitment varies depending on the number of dancers selected for Mini Company. Each dance that we cast will generally carry a different cost. The cost of each dance is dependent on the number of dancers in the dance, the choreography rate, the costume selected, props needed etc.
- Once casting is complete and the cost of each dance has been calculated, each dancer will receive a financial contract detailing the following costs:
  - Cost for each dance they have been cast in. The cost for each dance will include choreography costs, costume costs, entry fees for competitions and administrative fees.
  - Cost for in-studio mandatory events such as the Company Showcase.
  - Cost for one-time Staff Travel administrative fee.
  - Any other fees as deemed necessary.
- The above costs can be paid in three ways:
  - (1) 4 equal payments in July, September, November, 2026 and January 2027.
  - (2) 8 equal payments from July 2026-February 2027; or
  - (3) Total balance posted to your account & paid at your convenience, with set due dates. All Company balances must be paid in full by February 1, 2027.
- A \$200 Mini Company Activity fee will be due with your application, which includes a \$100 non-refundable deposit.
- The following is a list of additional costs that are not included in the financial contract described above:
  - Transportation and lodging costs for competitions.
  - Required shoes in style and color for the style of dance being performed.
  - Company jacket and backpack.
  - Company earrings.
  - Company make-up.
  - Monthly tuition fees.
  - Monthly rehearsal fees.
  - Recital costumes.
- Mini Company members are required to have a valid payment method on file at all times throughout the season, but may choose to pay via cash or check in advance of all due dates if you wish.
- Failure to pay Mini Company Fees by the monthly due date may result in suspension from Mini Company until paid.

Summer/Fall 2026 Mini Company Schedule		
Date	Description	Location
June 16, 2026	Mini Company Casting announced	
August 1-8, 2026	Mini Company Choreo Camp	PDC
August 17, 2026	Fall session begins	

**In general, here are anticipated costs for the 2026-2027 dance season:**

RECURRING MONTHLY COSTS-7.5 months:	
Small Group Rehearsal:	\$51.00 per routine
Large Group Rehearsal:	\$36.00 per routine
ONE-TIME COSTS:	
Activity Fee:	\$200.00 – due with Company Application
Audition Fee:	\$30.00 – due with Company Application
Annual Staff Travel Fee:	TBD- <i>will be published once final casting has been announced</i>
Small Group Choreography:	\$143.00 per routine
Large Group Choreography:	\$72.00 per routine
Costumes:	Up to \$100 per routine
Convention Fee-OPTIONAL:	\$250-\$400 – price is based on age and event
Entry Fee, per group, per competition:	\$80.00/per dance
Uniform Fee:	Up to \$250 – <i>will be determined by June 2026</i>

*NOTE: Platinum Dance Center reserves the right to adjust competition-related fees, costume costs, and other season-specific expenses as necessary throughout the year. While we make every effort to provide accurate estimates in advance, final costs are sometimes determined by third-party vendors such as competition companies, costume suppliers, choreography contractors, and travel-related expenses, which may fluctuate beyond our control. We remain committed to transparency and responsible financial stewardship while maintaining the high standards and opportunities our families expect from PDC.*