



## COMPANY INFORMATION FOR DANCERS CONSIDERING AUDITIONING

### Goal/Purpose of Competition 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 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 fit with an emphasis on healthy mind and body.

### PRIMARY GOALS FOR EACH 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 never use technique class time for company rehearsals. All Company rehearsals are scheduled *outside of* technique class times, which means almost all group rehearsals will take place on Saturdays.
- 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 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 Company dancers with opportunities for additional and enhanced training. These opportunities include Master classes, extra conventions, in-house training classes, and programming designed to broaden the technical, mental and physical capabilities of Company members.

## **THE PDC 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 audition for the PDC Company.

## **CASTING PLACEMENTS**

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

- All dancers are required to audition at PDC for the Company.
- Placement on the PDC Company is based on performance quality, ability and technique as determined by the Platinum Dance Center team of instructors.
- Dancers must audition each year; placement is not transferred from year to year.

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

Each regional competition that we attend generally has 3 different levels of competition: novice, intermediate and advanced. These levels are based on a variety of factors including number of technique classes taken weekly, overall dancer ability, and length of time a dancer has been competing.

ALL of these factors are taken into consideration to determine the best LEVEL for each of the dances that we create for the Company. We will cast dances in all THREE of these varying skill levels. Competition entry levels are not negotiable and these decisions are at the full discretion of the PDC instructor team. We ask that all dancers and parents TRUST these decisions have been made with the goal of giving each dancer/dance the best chance to grow and feel successful.

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

- We offer Company opportunities for dancers ranging in age from 5 to 18.
- In general, we recommend that dancers age 5-7 have a minimum of 3 years of dance training and have completed at least Mini Ballet and Mini Jazz.
- For dancers ages 8 and above, we generally recommend that dancers have had a minimum of 4 years of dance training and are working in the Elementary 2 level.
- For dancers ages 12 and above, we recommend a placement level of intermediate or advanced tween/teen, and a minimum of 4 years of dance training.
- All dancers should have experience in both ballet and jazz.

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

In order to ensure proper technical development and progress, 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?**

- All dancers are required to be in a minimum of 4 (Minis, Petities) or 5 (Junior, Teen, Senior) routines.
- At the time of the audition, dancers and parents are asked to consider the maximum financial investment they are willing to commit to for the year. They will also be asked to give their time investment preferences. The audition application will have a place to make these commitments. When casting our dances, our casting team will take your commitments into consideration and honor them through casting.
- A dancer will never be placed in more dances than the associated financial/time investment indicated on the audition form, but may not be placed dances that correspond to the maximum financial/time commitment.
- Casting is not a “pick and choose” situation. Being part of the PDC Company requires TRUSTING that the staff has the goal of giving as many opportunities as possible to each dancer, and choosing opportunities that will give each dancer the best chance to grow and succeed. Therefore, dancers will not have the ability to “opt out” of routines once they are cast.
- **Solo expectations:** Solos are an important part of dance training, especially as a student gets older, but they are not the most important component to a dancers training. Dancers must first learn to match and meld with a group before working as a soloist.

## CLASS REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPANY MEMBERS

What are the class requirements for Company members?

- Dancers ages 5-7: 1 weekly of each: ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical, turns/jumps/leaps
- Dancers ages 8-9: 2 weekly of ballet and 1 weekly of each: jazz, lyrical, tap, turns/jumps/leaps
- Dancers ages 10+: 2 weekly of ballet and 1 weekly of each: jazz, lyrical, turns/jumps/leaps and choice of any additional class (acro, contemporary, musical theatre, 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 Company class requirement over the summer is ballet and jazz. Additionally, we require each Company member to take two technique intensives, of which PDC offers 10+ through the summer months.

Can dancers participate in other extracurricular activities?

- 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 in light of all other activities they participate in. *It is impossible to create cohesive dances without consistent attendance.*
- Only **mandatory** school activities will be excused for Company.
- Almost all of our Company dances will rehearse on Saturdays, so this should be taken into consideration as **repeated Saturday 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.
- Company members may not miss the rehearsal prior to a performance and expect that participate in the performance.

What is the general time commitment for being on Company?

- In addition to the weekly class requirements, 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, depending on how many dances a member is placed in. There may be additional rehearsals for select dances.

- Almost all rehearsals will take place on Saturdays for *group* routines. These rehearsals will be 45 minutes in length.
- All choreography for Company is set in August, while the studio is closed for regular classes, during Company Camp week.
- Company members will be required to participate in a variety of master classes, company choreography weeks and in-house conventions in July, August and September of 2024.
- Company members are required to attend a winter intensive the last weekend of Winter Break before school starts back in January 2025.
- Company dancers are allowed 2 rehearsal absences, per dance, per semester.

#### Schedule expectations:

- You can expect your dancer to be at the studio a required two nights per week, and Saturday mornings, if they are taking the minimum number of classes and cast in the minimum number of routines as set forth above.
- 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?

PDC attends 3 regional competitions per season, typically held in February and March. There is a mandatory in-house convention in September of 2024 for dancers ages 8+, and a mandatory regional convention for dancers ages 5-7 in January 2025.

The PDC Company will have a Company Showcase in January or February of 2025.

Company members will be invited to attend various **optional** dance conventions throughout the year as well, but are only **required** to attend one. *Select dances may attend additional conventions/competitions.*

We make our decision regarding which competitions we will attend over the summer. You will have these dates in July 2024. Please note that these decisions will be made **before** prom dates, homecoming dates, grad bash etc. are released, so dancers will need to be prepared for potential conflicts.

Company dancers will have the option to opt-out of recital dances (except for ballet). This is because Company members already spend a great deal of time and money on performances and costumes. Each family/dancer will get to make their own choice regarding recital participation. We will have **some** Company dances perform in the recital and this will be communicated in Spring 2025.

### **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 Company financial commitments throughout the season, including monthly tuition fees.

NOTE: Monthly tuition is NOT part of Company costs. Because we believe in keeping technique classes our top priority, those fees will be totally separate from Company costs. Due to increased costs and inflation, tuition rates for Fall 2024 may be adjusted to more accurately reflect the increased business costs.

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

- The total financial commitment varies depending on each dancers casting. 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. *This is why we ask for a maximum total number of routines as a guideline to determine casting for each dancer.*
- The financial commitment also varies depending on the *category* of dance a member is placed in. For example: solos, duos and trios carry a higher financial commitment than larger group dances.
- 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. *These costs will be aggregated into a single cost for each dance.*
  - Costs for mandatory convention registration
  - Cost for in-studio mandatory events such as the Company Showcase.
- The above costs can be paid in three ways: (1) 8 equal monthly payments from July-February; (2) Lump-sum payments due throughout the year or (3) Total balance posted to your account.
- A \$200 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 conventions and competitions
  - Proper shoes for the style of dance being performed.
  - Company jacket and backpack.
  - Master Classes or other required training opportunities offered by PDC.
  - Company earrings.
  - Company make-up.
  - Monthly tuition fees.
  - Monthly rehearsal fees.
  - Recital costumes.
- 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 Company Fees by the monthly due date may result in suspension from Company until paid.

<b>Tentative 2024-2025 Company Schedule</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
June 22 & 23, 2024	Company Auditions	PDC
June 29, 2024	Make-Up Auditions	PDC
July 1, 2024	Casting announced	
July 8 & 9, 2024	Kelsey Nelson Master Class	PDC
July 15, 16 & 17, 2024	Terrill Mitchell Master Class & Choreography	PDC
August 2, 3 & 4	Mini & Petite Choreo Camp	PDC
August 9, 10 & 11	Junior, Teen & Senior Choreo Camp	PDC
August 19, 2024	Fall session begins	
September 13-15, 2024	<i>In-House Convention Chad Vaught &amp; Clear Dance Initiative Required for ages 8+</i>	PDC
November 9-10, 2024	Tremaine Convention Optional	Atlanta, GA
January 10-12, 2025	LA Dance Magic Convention Required for ages 5-7	Orlando, FL
January 31-Feb 2, 2025	Dupree Dance Convention <b>Strongly encouraged for everyone</b>	Tampa, FL
February 2025	Required Comp #1	TBD – Jax or Daytona Beach
February 2025	Required Comp #2	TBD – Jax or Daytona Beach
March 2025	Required Comp #3	TBD – Jax or Daytona Beach

<b>Tentative Financial Dues – Minimum Required Commitment</b>		
Company Choreography Camp	Variable based on routines	July 2024
Clear Dance Initiative In-house convention	\$300.00 Ages 8+	August 2024
LA Dance Magic Convention	\$250 – Ages 5-6 \$325 – Ages 7+	October 2024
Dupree Dance Convention	\$150 – Ages 5-6 \$195 – Ages 7-9 \$270 – Ages 10+	October 2024
Required Competitions	\$70.00 per group routine <i>Minis: \$280/competition Petites: \$280/competition JR/Teen/SR: \$350/competition</i>	TBD: Due 75 days before each competition (Dec/Dec/Jan)

<b>Total Annual ENTRY Fees – Minimum Required Only – By Team (includes Dupree)</b>	
Minis – Ages 5-6:	\$1,240
Minis – Age 7	\$1,360
Petite – Ages 8-9	\$1,335
Junior/Teen/Senior – Ages 10+	\$1,620