

THE DANCE CONSERVATORY

2020-2021 COMPANY HANDBOOK

The Dance Conservatory's Company stands to provide TDC's most dedicated dancers with further performance, educational, and leadership opportunities throughout the regular dance season and summer session. It is an immersive program, in which students are required to attend a minimum number of classes per week, our Summer Intensive in August, all scheduled rehearsals, competitions and outside performances for the 2020-2021 season. Students' participation in Company, as well as their casting, is determined by the Company Directors based on experience, work ethic, attitude, attendance, and technical ability. Students must be at least 10- years of age to be considered for TDC's Company.

TDC's Company is a team effort that requires full commitment and accountability from all our families and dancers in order to facilitate the full development of each TDC Company dancer.

APPRENTICE PROGRAM

The Dance Conservatory's Company Apprentice Program is designed so that our Apprentices are able to receive specific and developmentally appropriate coaching, instruction and guidance to give them a positive and successful experience prior to becoming a full Company Member.

ATTENDANCE

1. Company members are expected to attend ALL scheduled rehearsals, performances, and weekly classes. **Any major conflicts must be reported via email well in advance to all instructors and Company Directors.** Any conflicts said in passing, or communicated through another student, will not be taken into consideration.
2. A strict absentee policy will be enforced for rehearsals and weekly classes. In the event of an injury, dancers are still required to attend their scheduled rehearsals, and will be expected to take notes on critiques and changes made during that time. Only SERIOUS illness (fever, contagious illness, etc.), death in the family, graded school event (SAT/ACT testing, etc.), and weddings will excuse a dancer from missing class and/or rehearsal. Planned conflicts such as mandatory school events and weddings must be presented in writing to the Company Directors as soon as dates are known. **Dancers who miss rehearsals the week (7 days) prior to a competition or performance will not be allowed to perform and will not be refunded for any fees.**
3. If a student is absent, they are responsible for learning any new choreography and/or changes to choreography **BEFORE** their next rehearsal. If a student is not prepared for rehearsal and has not learned what they missed, then they will be subject to removal from that section of the dance, at the discretion of the choreographer and/or Company Directors.

COMPANY REHEARSAL ABSENTEE POLICY

Each student will be allowed three absences from company rehearsals per year without consequence. Absence from rehearsal prior to the week of a competition or performance will result in the dancer not being allowed to perform and refunds will not be given. If a student accumulates four absences, they will be subject to removal from sections and/or full dances. Any more than 6 absences from company rehearsals can result in immediate termination from TDC Company. Removal from dances due to absences will not result in a refund of any kind.

WEEKLY CLASS ABSENTEE POLICY FOR COMPANY MEMBERS

Attendance in weekly classes is both developmentally and technically essential and must be done in person. Three or more absences per class per year will result in a conversation about level demotion, both in class levels and Company status. Make-up classes may be done virtually if the class is full.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Students who participate in TDC's Company are required to take a minimum number of technique classes per week (level placement is determined by TDC's faculty during placement classes):

COMPANY ELITE DANCERS

- Three Ballet
- One Jazz
- One Contemporary
- One elective (Tap, Musical Theatre, Jumps Leaps & Turns, Lyrical)
- Choreography Bootcamp: September 14-17 (schedule TBD)

COMPANY DANCERS

- Two Ballet
- One Jazz
- One Contemporary
- One elective (Tap, Musical Theatre, Jumps Leaps & Turns, Lyrical)
- Choreography Bootcamp: September 14-17 (schedule TBD)

APPRENTICES

- Ballet
- 1 Jazz
- Modern and/or Lyrical
- Jumps Leaps & Turns
- Any additional Electives that are level-appropriate, determined by the Company Directors
- Choreography Bootcamp: September 14-17 (schedule TBD)

INJURY

Only in the event of serious injury (surgery, concussion, etc.) or illness (Covid-19) and with the presentation of a doctor's note, will a student be excused from missing class/rehearsal.

- In the event this happens, the dancer must have a doctor's note clearing them to return to regular dance activities.
- An Injury Notebook must be with injured dancers during all physicians' visits in order to maintain streamlined communication between the dancer, their doctor, their parents, their teachers, and Company Directors to ensure a safe and timely recovery.
- Injured dancers will be removed from dances as needed at the discretion of the choreographer and/or Company Directors.
- Understudies may be permanently assigned to their roles if needed.

COMPANY REHEARSALS

Company rehearsals are ongoing throughout the year. Our regularly-scheduled rehearsal times are as follows:

- **Friday:** TBD; scheduled prior to performances/competitions as needed
- **Saturday:** 12:00-3:00pm

Please note that all company and company elite dancers will be called every Saturday. Apprentices will not be called every Saturday and will receive a monthly schedule. On weeks leading up to competitions and performances, extra rehearsals may be scheduled on Friday evenings. We do our best to get our rehearsal schedule set in advance, but please note that in rare cases, last minute changes may be made. It is imperative for the success of the group that ALL dancers are present for ALL rehearsals for which they are called.

SCHEDULE FLEXIBILITY

Every effort will be made to give parents and students advanced notification of rehearsal and performance schedules. We will attempt to minimize changes in these schedules, however, ***flexibility to accommodate last minute changes is expected from ALL students and parents who participate in TDC's Company. Please keep in mind, we do not receive competition schedules until a week before a scheduled event; as this is the case, please keep the entire weekend available.***

COMPETITIONS

Competition dates will be booked at the discretion of the Company Directors. ALL dancers in TDC's Company will be required to perform all of their dances at ALL scheduled competitions.

Company Directors and choreographers will make all decisions with regard to the following:

- Casting
 - Each Company Elite dancer is guaranteed to be cast in two small group dances, and one solo or duet pending parent/guardian approval
 - Each Company dancer is guaranteed to be cast in two small group dances; solo & duets are by invitation only and must be approved by parent/guardian
 - Apprentices are guaranteed to be cast in one small group dance and are not eligible to be cast in a solo or duet.
- Choreography, music and costumes for all dances
- Competition dates and locations
- Makeup, hair, and accessories for all dances
- Rehearsal schedule

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

TDC's Company Directors would like to provide company dancers with as many different types of performance opportunities as possible. In addition to Competitions, non-competitive performance opportunities will be provided for our company dancers. Scheduling will be decided by the Company Directors and communicated to our dancers and families as soon as possible. ALL dancers in TDC's Company will be required to perform in selected dances for these performances, unless Company Directors are made aware of and approve scheduling conflicts as soon as performance information is made available. Selection of dances will also be decided by the Company Directors.

In past years, TDC's Company has performed at Artscape, The Cherry Blossom Festival in DC, Open Marley at Baltimore Theatre Project and the NYC Dance Parade & Festival.

WORKSHOPS & CONVENTIONS

TDC's Company members will be invited to participate in workshops and conventions throughout the 2020-2021 dance season. All workshops and conventions are carefully selected by the Company Directors, with the goal of providing our dancers with the opportunity to work with Master Faculty, and to try new styles of dance to supplement their regular technical training. These are wonderful educational growth and networking opportunities. Each company member will be strongly encouraged to attend at least one workshop or convention; participation is not mandatory. Additional fees will be required. Scheduling and pricing information will be communicated to all families well in advance. We will do our best to offer in person and virtual opportunities.

CONDUCT

ALL dancers and parents are expected to be respectful, supportive, and courteous to their fellow teammates AND other competing students, parents, and teachers at all times. Poor sportsmanship will NOT be tolerated under any circumstance. We expect all dancers and their families to respect our drama-free policy.

Drama is defined by (but is not limited to):

- Having demeaning conversation about another Company member
- Criticizing the performance or abilities of another member
- Having a negative attitude during rehearsals, performance, or class
- Back talking instructors and/or behavior that divides the Company family

As representatives of The Dance Conservatory, we expect the absolute best of our dancers and parents. We compete as a group, and the success of the group is the success of the individual. Each dancer is required to show up to all scheduled days of each competition or additional performance opportunity, even if he/she is not scheduled to perform that day! We ask that the families of TDC's Company members to support their dancer in honoring this policy.

Company members must set an example for the entire school. Older members must remember that younger dancers in the studio look up to them, therefore it is important to make their conversations and class etiquette appropriate for little ears and eyes. **This includes all social media accounts.**

Any Company member that is in danger of failing school classes, found with drugs or alcohol, or is receiving disciplinary actions for a grievous offence outside the studio will be dismissed from the team.

SOLOS & DUETS

Solos and Duets will be cast at the sole discretion of the Company Directors. Requests for solos are not guaranteed; invitations are based on students' work ethic, attitude, attendance, technical and performance ability, consistency, and maturity. First-year Company members will not be invited to perform solos or duets.

Additional Solo and/or Duet Contracts will be provided to the dancers and their families and will include further information regarding scheduling and pricing. Please note that these rehearsals may be scheduled outside of the regular TDC Company rehearsal time slot.

COMPETITION FEES

A \$50 costume fee and \$200 competition deposit is due by September 30. The Remainder of the competition fees will be due one month prior to each competition.

COMPETITION/PERFORMANCE HAIR & MAKEUP

MAKEUP

➤ Face

- Primer/moisturizer
- Foundation
- Concealer
- Contouring palette with highlighter for cheek bones and under brows
- Light-pink blush (bright shade)

➤ Eyes

- Eyeshadow palette (neutral colors: at least one light, one medium, and one dark shade)
- Black eyeliner (pencil & liquid)
- Black mascara (waterproof)
- False eyelashes
- Eyelash glue
- Brow pencil (must match natural brow color)

➤ Lips

- Lip primer or moisturizer (chap-stick is OK)
- Red lipstick: Revlon Super Lustrous Lipstick in Bombshell Red (#046)
- Red lip liner

HAIR SUPPLIES

- Hairbrush (soft bristles recommended for smoothing) and comb
- Hairspray (and/or gel)
- Extra hair ties that match your hair color
- Extra hair nets that match your hair color
- Hair pins AND flat bobby pins (both need to match your hair color)

EXTRAS

- [Capezio stirrup tights in "light suntan"](#)
- Flesh colored bra & thong, or leotard to be worn under all costumes
- Makeup applicators (soft blending sponges, multiple size/shape brushes)
- Q-tips & small pack of tissues
- Makeup remover
- Band-Aids
- Clear nail polish
- Small mirror
- Baby wipes
- Eye pencil sharpener

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2020-2021 COMPANY CONTRACT

This contract must be signed and submitted by September 4, 2020.

Please remove this page from the contract and retain the rest of the packet for reference.

All parents and students who sign this contract understand and agree to all of the terms and conditions stated above, and hereby acknowledge that they have received and thoroughly read a copy of The Dance Conservatory Company Contract.

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I, _____ (Student Name Printed), acknowledge that I have fully read and understand the rules, regulations, and expectations set forth by The Dance Conservatory at the St. Paul's Schools for the 2019-2020 dance and competition season. I hereby commit to participating fully in TDC's Company and am dedicated to my growth as a dancer and artist, and to my personal participation as it directly affects the team.

I, _____ (Parent/Guardian Name Printed), acknowledge that I have fully read and understand the rules, regulations, and expectations set forth by The Dance Conservatory at the St. Paul's Schools for the 2019-2020 dance and competition season. I hereby commit to supporting my child in his/her role as a TDC Company dancer and am dedicated to supporting him/her in his/her full participation in the program, as outlined in the above contract.

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Student Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date