



BOSTONBALLET SCHOOL

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION AT

WALNUT HILL





## *An experience* **LIKE NO OTHER**

Inspired by the vision of Boston Ballet Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and under the direction of José Martín Trujillo, the collaboration of Boston Ballet School and Walnut Hill School for the Arts, a co-ed boarding and day school for students in grades 9–12, focuses on the future of dance, and the dancer of the future. Located in the intellectual hub of the Boston Metropolitan Area, **Boston Ballet School's Professional Division at Walnut Hill School for the Arts** explores the intellectual curiosity and artistic vulnerability of the best emerging dance talent from around the world.

Faculty and staff continuously challenge our students to be the complete artist: dancer (interpretive artist), choreographer (creative artist), and emotionally intelligent human. This synergistic approach, complemented by a college-prep academic curriculum and on-campus housing, ensures a next-generation toolkit to succeed in a professional company without pursuing any college or conservatory training.





## *A Day in the Life of a* **PROFESSIONAL DIVISION DANCE STUDENT**

At Walnut Hill, a day in the life means living and collaborating with a diverse community of like-minded peers from across the country and globe. The diligence, focus, and commitment our students bring to their academics and artistic pursuits elevate them as citizen leaders in all paths chosen over the course of their careers. We offer a safe, supportive space for these young artists to be brave in classrooms, studios, and theaters.

Students' academic classes take place in the morning, and afternoons are reserved for dance classes in our beautiful Delbridge Family Center for the Arts. In between, students have access to their dormitories, common rooms, the campus center, and dining hall.

## **INTERNATIONAL TRAINING**

Boston Ballet School's Professional Division serves as an official partner of the prestigious Prix de Lausanne, participates in the Assemblée Internationale, and provides study-abroad and exchange experiences in partnership with Canada's National Ballet School, Paris Opera Ballet School, Royal Danish Ballet School, and Dresden Semperoper Ballet.



Photo by Liza Voll.

## DANCE CURRICULUM

Designed to reflect Boston Ballet's repertory, our carefully crafted curriculum prepares dance students for the rigorous demand of today's dance sphere – from Petipa, to Balanchine, to Kylián. Curriculum requirements include technique, pointe, men's class, pas de deux, variations and repertoire, modern, character, Pilates, men's conditioning, and workshops, such as Forsythe technique. **Twenty-four hours of classroom training each week is enhanced by various performance opportunities.** According to their technical ability and strength, students are placed between three levels of ladies and two level of men. For each level, a schedule of classes has been created to develop both the physical strength and the technical proficiency required for each student to grow and develop.

## WORLD-CLASS FACULTY

Students of the Professional Division are taught by professional Boston Ballet School dance educators who have held prominent careers performing and teaching with Paris Opera Ballet, Escuela Nacional de Ballet in Cuba, San Francisco Ballet, New York City Ballet, and Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, among others. After retiring from professional ballet companies, our faculty have dedicated their careers to providing high-quality training and education to all students.



# PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Professional Division students have opportunities to present their talents to Walnut Hill community members and family with styles ranging from ballet to contemporary to modern. Beginning with Fall Showcase and progressing through to the Student Choreographic Project, students inspire their creativity typically unexplored during daily technique in the classroom.

In addition, students have an extensive connection to the Boston Ballet Company, only furthering their understanding of the techniques, rigor, and skills involved in ballet. Company dancers are invited to be guest faculty, and host lectures throughout the year. Every school year ends with the highly anticipated one-night-only performance of Next Generation featuring BBS Professional Division, Graduate Program, and Boston Ballet II on Boston Ballet’s home stage, Citizens Opera House. Students may also be selected to participate in other Boston Ballet performances including Mikko Nissinen’s *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, etc.



## A GLOBAL INFLUENCE

During their senior year, Professional Division students are automatically evaluated for acceptance into Boston Ballet School’s Graduate Program. Students also have the opportunity to audition for Boston Ballet II, Boston Ballet’s second company upon graduation.

Dance students who have graduated from the Professional Division have gone on to perform with the following top dance organizations and conservatories:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater	Houston Ballet	Royal Ballet of Flanders
American Ballet Theatre	Joffrey Ballet	Royal Danish Ballet
Boston Ballet	Miami Ballet	San Francisco Ballet
English National Ballet	National Ballet of Canada	The Forsythe Company
	New York City Ballet	The Juilliard School





Financial aid and merit scholarships available.

**INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY?**

MAIN OFFICE:  
508.653.4312

ADMISSION OFFICE:  
508.650.5020 • [admissions@walnuthillarts.org](mailto:admissions@walnuthillarts.org)

[walnuthillarts.org/dance](http://walnuthillarts.org/dance)

Walnut Hill School for the Arts  
12 Highland Street | Natick, MA 01760



Wear Mei  
designed in France

Photos by Brooke Trisolini.