

OFFICIAL
PREMIERE DANCE
COMPANY

COMPETITION COMPANY
HANDBOOK

2017-18

PREMIERE DANCE COMPETITION COMPANY

AUDITION/PLACEMENT

Required company auditions will be held on Sunday, May 21st 1:30-2:15 (ages 6-8) 2:30-3:45 (ages 9-11) 3:30-4:45 (ages 12-14) 4:30-5:30 (ages 14 & up) 5:30-6:00 (Pre-Professional). Dancers will attend the audition for their age as of September 1st, 2016. The audition is open to students ages 6 & up. Students should arrive 30 minutes early to the audition already warmed-up and ready to dance. Please arrive with the audition form completed (to follow). Proper dance attire is highly recommended (this is essential for proper assessment). Students should bring all of their dance shoes. The audition will consist of exercises across the floor and a few dance combinations (Ballet, Jazz and Tap). Many factors will be considered while evaluating each student such as attitude, attentiveness, technical ability and performance quality. The audition may conclude with a short individual interview.

Dancers ages 12 & up auditioning for the Pre-Professional program must attend their age audition as well as the Pre-Professional audition from 5:30-6:00 p.m.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Competition company members are **required** to enroll in certain classes to ensure proper training.

Summer Course Requirements:

-Dancers will take 4 total classes on Tuesday and Thursday with their particular age group, and must attend 4 weeks of the 6 weeks offered between June 19-July 28th.

-Summer Class offerings for ages 6-11 are: *Technique, Strengthen and Stretch, *Jumps and Turns, Beg/Int Jumps and Turns, *Improv and Lyrical, and *Musical Theatre and Tap. *Ballet and Pre-Pointe is available as an extra class

-Summer Class offerings for ages 12 & up are: *Technique, Strengthen and Stretch, *Int/Advanced Tap, *Student Choreography Workshop, *Improv and Lyrical, *Advanced Jumps and Turns. *Ballet and Pointe is available as an extra class.

-Required Summer Master Class: All dancers must either attend the Kim McSwain summer master class on Friday, June 9th or the Jim Nowakowski summer master class on Sunday, June 25th.

School year classes (Sept-May)

Company members are required to take Ballet, Jazz and Company class. Dancers over the age of 11 must enroll in Junior 2 or higher ballet, which meets twice per week. If a dancer is cast in a tap dance, they must also take Tap class. All teen level dancers must take Teen 2 or Teen 3 level, taking Ballet and Jazz twice a week.

Company class times will be determined following the audition. Dancers approximately ages 13 & under (Petite and Junior) rehearse on Friday afternoons right after school for Petites, and shortly thereafter for Juniors. Please indicate the time that you can get to the studio on Friday's on your audition form. Teen dancers will rehearse on Sunday's. If participating in the production number, there will be days once a month that you will need to come rehearse on another day (Sunday for Friday dancers and Friday for Sunday dancers).

The first rehearsals will be on Friday, August 25th or Sunday, August 27th. We are closed Labor Day weekend, and will resume again on Sept 8th and 10th.

There may be times throughout the season that students will be asked to stay later than their normal dismissal time. They will be informed in advance if that is the case. During company class, students will practice and perfect group dance(s), which will be performed at competition. Optional classes are available to company members who wish to further enhance their training. It is highly recommended that company members take as many classes as possible. The more a dancer trains during the week the faster their strength, coordination, and flexibility will increase. Optional classes include: Tap, Acrobatics, Jumps and Turns, Contemporary, Pointe and Hip-Hop.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

We will host separate auditions (Sunday, May 21st from 5:30-6:00 p.m. for a pre-professional program for dancers ages 12 & up whose primary commitment and activity is dance.

- * This program offers unlimited classes at an affordable flat fee (private lessons not included in flat fee)
- * Program will prepare dancers for a college/performance career involving dance or focus on more serious training for any dancer.
- * Admission to the program is by audition only
- * Pre-professional dancers will have one separate competition dance
- * Pre-Professional dancers will attend one additional competition/convention per year (NUVO or something similar where travel will be required)
- * Pre-Professional dancers will attend one national dance competition per year (travel will be required)
- * A very strict attendance policy will be in place. One of the most important factors in a dancers development is consistent training. It is imperative that no class time be spent reviewing something that was missed by an absence. Attendance is a must. If a student is unable to meet the attendance policy, they will be removed from the program.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance to class and rehearsals are mandatory. Acceptance into this company is a commitment both in time and dedication. We only accept dancers who WANT to improve and attend class regularly.

Company Rehearsals - Additional rehearsals may be required as we approach competition season. Extra rehearsals (which are at the directors discretion) will not increase the monthly tuition. We prefer that we have all dancers present for rehearsals each and every week. **But, if a student needs to miss company class, the absence must be submitted to in writing, and approved by the director at least one week in advance.** This is very important since one dancer being absent can alter the rehearsal plan, and will directly affect other company members. **Not showing up without significant notification is not acceptable. If a student needs to miss more than two (2) rehearsals during the year (Sept-May), competition dance is not the best option for your dancer.**

Attendance in Ballet and Jazz - Company members are allotted three (3) absences from their required technique classes for the school year. If a company member misses more than three required technique classes they are required to, and given the privilege to, make-up their missed class in another level. Also, if a student is unable to attend a make-up class, they can attend a local dance or theatre production and write a brief paragraph about what they observed at that performance. The performance substitute can only be used 1 time per year. Parents/dancers, please stay on top of your attendance. If you know that you will be missing a class, you are more than welcome to do a make-up class in advance.

If a student is ill, but not contagious, they are required to attend class and/or rehearsals and observe. Students are required to attend all classes during the week of a competition. ALL ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. FAILURE TO ADHERE TO ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES MAY RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE COMPANY.

CONVENTIONS

* **Required this year** Dancers will attend the Tremaine Convention and Competition March 24-25th in Tulsa. *PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE END OF SPRING BREAK THIS YEAR. PLEASE CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE, AND PLAN ACCORDINGLY. Dancers will take classes all weekend, and also compete their group dances at their competition as well. This will replace one of our OKC competitions, and also fulfill the convention requirement.

DDI- Company members may also attend an optional dance convention, DDI in Ardmore on Sept. 22-24th, 2016. Cost is approximately \$80 (last year) per dancer for the entire weekend. This has, in the past, served as our required convention. I would imagine that many dancers will still choose to attend this convention. Fees will be due by August 1st.

There are many other conventions out there that dancers may attend to supplement their training. A full list of conventions will be sent out in August.

COMPETITIONS

Premiere Dance Company members are required to compete in three (3) competitions per season. Two of those competitions will be in OKC. One will be in Tulsa the same weekend as this year's convention requirement. Dancers may have the option of competing in additional competitions, should they desire. Competition dates and deadlines will be provided as they become available. Competition season begins in early February and runs through the first of May. We expect to attend one competition in February, one in March and one in April (dates will be provided as soon as they are available). As a dance company, camaraderie and teamwork is very important. As such, it is asked that all company members attend and cheer on all of their teammates' group dances. This may be difficult for some dancers, particularly our younger members, so if it is not possible for a dancer to attend all of PDC's dances during a required competition the following may be accepted. Students can sign up to come support two other dances in which they are not performing. All dancers are also required to be present at their own awards ceremony for all dances.

SUMMER CHOREOGRAPHY INTENSIVE

Placement into the company dance(s) will be announced by June 26th. All company members will be required to attend a summer choreography intensive at Premiere from August 6-15th (your dancer will not dance on all of these days-we ask for availability over a span of dates to best accommodate large groups) Each dance will rehearse approximately 6 hours, over 2-3 days during these dates. A specific schedule will be provided after the groups have been formed. All conflicts during these dates must be provided by July 1st. During this choreography intensive, all group numbers will be taught and rehearsed. After the schedule is announced, if a dancer misses any of these required rehearsals, they will be removed from the dance. All Company students must perform in at least one group number. Students may perform in up to four group numbers, should they desire. Choreography Intensive Fees are \$100 for each dance per dancer. This includes the choreography fee as well as rehearsal time.

Production Number** We are thrilled to have another competition production number this year. While this will be an additional commitment, we strongly encourage EVERY single one of our company dancers be a part of this production so they can ALL be in one number together as a team. Should you only wish to dance in one group dance, this can be your required dance. The production number will be rehearsed with the Petite / Junior aged dancers on Friday's, and the Teen / Senior aged dancers on Sunday's. Once per month, ALL dancers will rehearse together. This rehearsal will alternate: sometimes taking place on Friday's, and sometimes on Sundays. These "all together" rehearsal dates will be provided in advance for the entire year with the company calendar dates no later than August 1st.

SOLO & DUET/TRIO'S

As a company member, permission may be given to perform a solo and/or duet/trio. Please see below for separate choreography fees that apply. Music and costume selections require approval by Stephanie. Additionally, because solos and duet/trio's are much more competitive than group dances, you will be required to have weekly private lessons (30 minutes per week) for each of these dances. For example, if you are competing two solos, you must have 1 hour of private instruction per week. Duet/trio choreography and private lesson fees will be split between all dancers in the duet or trio. When considering whether to do a solo or duet/trio, we encourage dancers who have never done a solo before to first compete with a duet/trio. All solos and duet/trios will compete in the three required competitions. During required competitions, your teacher will be present to practice your dance with you. If you choose to attend extra competitions beyond the 3 required competitions, and would like to hire your teacher to be present with you, an additional \$25 fee will be required to compensate your teacher for their time. You will be responsible for scheduling this with your teacher, and is subject to teacher availability. Performance times tend to vary, and there are times that teachers have other previous obligations.

COMMUNICATION

For company matters, we use email to send out updates on rehearsals, payment due dates, deadlines, etc. It will be your responsibility to check for this information and respond appropriately. It is expected that you check your email on a daily basis, particularly during the competition season when important announcements may need to get to everyone quickly. Please also like us on Facebook to receive those updates.

ACCEPTANCE INTO THE COMPANY

A company cast list will be announced via email on Monday, June 26th. All casting decisions are final. Please do not contact the director regarding casting concerns.

In order to accept your spot into the company, you must pay the following, and also return your signed company contract by July 1st:

- 1) August Choreography Intensive fees (\$100 for each dance)
- 2) Company Jacket (\$130) if new to the company or needing a new size
- 3) Company Leggings (\$70) if desired. This is an optional purchase.

Amounts due by August 1st:

- 1) Tremaine Convention fee (\$250 per student)
- 2) DDI convention fee *optional (\$80-85, TBA)
- 3) \$35 photo shoot fee
- 4) \$10 dress rehearsal fee

Amounts due by October 1st:

- 1) Costume fees (TBA, between \$100-\$250 per dance)

Amounts due by Nov. 1st

- 1) Competition Fees (see below for cost estimation)

You will turn in your competition participation form by November 1st (with 3 payment checks). This form will allow you to choose any extra competitions that you would like to participate in (solo or duet) as well as total up your required competition dances in one location. You will use this form to total all of your entry fees for the season, and divide the amount into three equal payments. You will need to turn in 3 checks on Nov. 1st dated: Nov. 1st, Dec. 1st and Jan. 1st for all competition fees for the season.

EXTRA FEES/ACTIVITIES

Photo Shoot As a team building activity, we have an outdoor photo session each year with the entire company for the new season. The date for the photo shoot is tentatively scheduled for the late afternoon/early evening of Saturday, August 19th. There is a \$35 fee for this photo shoot, which will give you access to all of the images.

Lock-in - Since we will not be attending a convention early in the season, we plan to have a company lock-in on Saturday evening, August 19th, after the photo shoot, at the studio to help our team get to know each other before the season begins.

Dress Rehearsal To prepare our dancers for competition, we will hold a dress rehearsal at an outside location so that they can practice on a stage. There is a \$10 dress rehearsal fee that will be due to cover the cost of the rental of the stage. The tentative Dress Rehearsal date is Sunday, Feb. 4th 2:00-7:00 p.m.

Big Sis / Little Sis We assign dancers with a big or little sis each year. It is requested that you do gifts for those dancers at the Christmas party as well as at our first competition of the year.

CONTRACT WITHDRAWAL

After contracts are signed and due on July 1st, should you recognize that you are unable to uphold your contract agreement, a withdrawal fee of \$500 will be due. We spend many hours configuring group dancers, formations, choreography, etc for a certain number of students. If that needs to change after it has been planned, it is extremely difficult for both the dancers and teachers, and always results in additional rehearsal time to make these changes. **WE ASK YOU TO STRONGLY CONSIDER YOUR COMMITMENT LEVEL TO YOUR TEAM BEFORE SIGNING YOUR CONTRACT, AND ACCEPTING YOUR SPOT, TO AVOID ANY WITHDRAWALS.** The commitment to your team includes attending rehearsals regularly, master classes, conventions and all competitions. Those are all **REQUIRED** events that you must attend.

FEES/TUITION

Monthly company class: Company class fees will be included in the monthly, tiered payment scale

Monthly technique classes:

1 Classes/Week = \$60 per Month	6 Classes/Week = \$260 per month
2 Classes/Week = \$110 per Month	7 Classes/Week = \$285 per month
3 Classes/Week = \$155 per Month	8 Classes/Week = \$310 per month
4 Classes/Week = \$195 per Month	9 Classes/Week = \$335 per month
5 Classes/Week = \$230 per Month	10 Classes/Week = \$360 per month

Classes over 10 classes, add \$20 per month per class

Choreography Fees: Solo \$600 per dance
*includes 4 hours of private lesson instruction to teach the dance
Duo/Trio \$700 per dance (not per dancer)
*includes 4 hours of private lesson instruction to teach the dance

Private Lesson Rates: 1 hour \$70
½ hour \$35

Monthly private lessons: ½ hour per week A private lesson schedule will be provided you in August. We will divide all of your private lesson dates over 9 months to determine your monthly private lesson fee.

Competition Fees: Company fees are approximately \$50/per dancer/per dance/per competition.
Solo fees are approximately \$120 per competition
Competition fees will be due on Nov. 1st, Dec. 1st and Jan. 1st, and are non-refundable
Each dancer will be charged a \$5 admin fee for each dance entered in competition

August Choreography Intensive: Mandatory choreography intensive (August 6-15th) schedule TBA
\$100 per dancer per dance (choreography and lesson fee)

Convention Fees: Tremaine Dance Convention is \$250 per dancer
DDI convention is \$80 (optional)

Costume Fees: Custom made costumes can cost up to \$250 per costume/per dance/per dancer.
If we order pre-made costumes, they will cost much less. We are considerate of these costs and try to only do 1-2 custom costumes per person, and try to order the rest.

Additional costs include: PDC warm up jacket (required for receiving awards), matching make-up, shoes and accessories.

EXPECTATIONS

In addition to regular attendance, students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and respectable manner that extends, not only to their instructor, but also to their fellow students. Bickering, bullying, disrespect and cliques will absolutely not be permitted. This extends to all parents as well. All students are expected to support their fellow students both in class and outside the studio. Furthermore, students must possess and display an exceptional work ethic that is imperative to excelling in dance. Because company members are role models to other students, it is of the utmost importance that students adhere to all policies. A student may be removed from the company at any time during the season if these policies are not met.

It is very difficult to make everyone happy and it is imperative that parents/guardians trust that Stephanie has every child's best interest at heart and does her best to be fair and amicable in all situations. Therefore, all dance and company related decisions made by Stephanie are final and must be respected by all company members as well as their parents/guardians. If there is a situation or question that a dancer or parent/guardian feels needs to be addressed, a meeting must be scheduled to address the situation. Problems or concerns will not be discussed during class time or during competitions. Also, any disrespectful action toward any dancer, parent or instructor is unacceptable and may result in immediate dismissal from the company.

Students must follow the dress code, be prepared for class/rehearsals with all shoes, props, etc. and arrive 10 minutes early to warm-up and review choreography prior to class. The qualities that Stephanie looks for in a "Premiere Dancer" should always be present: dedication, discipline, passion, respect and camaraderie. As such, company members are required to support other company members by watching other groups at each required competition. All dancers must stay for awards and wear Premiere Dance Company jacket. We are a team at Premiere Dance Company, and a proud example of what a great dance company can be.

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405-217-2363

IMPORTANT DATES PAGE

Sunday, May 21st Company Auditions

Friday, June 9th Kim McSwain Master Class

June 15th September tuition is due

Sunday, June 25th Jim Nowakowski Master Class

June 19th-July 28th Summer Classes

July 1st Contracts and first payment due

August 1st second payment due

August 6-15th Company Choreography Intensive

August 19th Photo Shoot (tentative) and Lock-In

August 25th / August 27th first Company Class of the season

Sept. 1st & 3rd No company class (class resumes again Sept.8 & 10th)

September 1st October tuition is due

Sunday, Feb. 4th Tentative Dress Rehearsal

March 24-25th Tremaine Convention/Competiton in Tulsa

***other required competitions will be announced by August 1st.**