



Ballet Company Information MDSA 2021-2022

General Overview

Who: Invitation Only - Those who have completed at least one year of Ballet 2 and up. This includes those in Ballet levels 2-4.

What: This is time dedicated to our Ballet Company projects. During Nutcracker season, we will be rehearsing our roles. After Nutcracker season, we will begin learning excerpts from other classical ballets to perform at recital and other performance opportunities. Our repertoire will also include one more “contemporary” ballet. Company members will not always be in the exact same pieces. This depends on their levels and the difficulty of the steps, however everyone will get to dance.

When: Fridays 7:30-8:30 - If you do not have a class before Company time, please come at least 15 minutes early to warm up. Being warm for our Company time will reduce the risk of injury and prepare you to rehearse.

How: You will add the Ballet Company Class when you register for your usual classes at MDSA. It will be a part of your tuition.

Essential Agreements for Ballet Company

1. I agree to attend all of my normal ballet classes and Ballet Company time. If I need to miss, I will notify Ms. Alie and/or MDSA immediately. Three to Four missed classes (including Company class) per semester is on the high-end of acceptable absences. If I begin missing more than this, I understand that I might be asked to step down from my roles in Company pieces and become understudies for those roles.
2. I agree to act respectfully in and out of the studio. I will not talk badly about other dancers, gossip, complain about parts, or purposefully hurt any other dancer. We are a company working together to create beautiful ballet and memories, not to bring others down!
3. I agree to always wear appropriate ballet clothing. Leotards and tights are expected in every class (both in company class and ballet class). I will wear my hair in a bun. I am allowed to wear any color leotard and tights in Company Class, but will wear a black leotard and pink/skin tone/black tights in my normal ballet classes. I will always wear my ballet shoes!
4. I agree to work hard to learn, memorize, and improve my roles in Company pieces. If I need help, I will make sure to ask Ms. Alie or another trusted dancer.
5. I agree to perform any and all Ballet Company pieces in MDSA's 2022 Recital and any other performance

opportunities that come up. If I am not able to perform, I will inform Ms. Alie immediately and my understudy will be prepped to dance.

6. I agree to have fun!

Additional Information

Understudies: This is a very common role that is needed for every Ballet Company piece that we learn! Understudies are expected to learn their assigned role as if they were cast in that particular role. Understudies help our Company keep rolling in case someone is absent or injured. It is also a great opportunity for dancers to learn roles that might be just above their level and/or might get to dance in the future. Understudies will mark/practice their assigned roles on the side of the room while we are rehearsing that piece.

Missed Company Class: If you do need to miss Company Class, make sure you reach out to Ms. Alie to let her know. Also, it is your responsibility to learn anything that you missed. You can get with the other dancers in that piece and/or your understudy to get caught up. Make sure to ask about any corrections and changes that were made as well. Ms. Alie is happy to walk through anything with you, but you do need to do your part by first relying on your fellow company members!

Ballet Company Hierarchy: The basic idea of hierarchy is that those with more experience get higher level roles. This applies to

our Ballet Company, and every professional dance company around the world. Experienced Level 4 ballet Company members will dance solos and have more leading roles. Lower levels will have their own roles as well, but will mostly be “corps de ballet” roles which means you are dancing together as a unit instead of individually. This is due to the nature of dance. More experience means that you can dance for longer periods of time and use more difficult steps/speeds which are what solos and leads require. All dancers will be assigned roles including understudy roles appropriate to their dance level. This also helps to avoid injuries, which we never want.

Contact: If you need to directly contact Ms. Alie, use her email MsAlieMDSA@gmail.com You can also call MDSA at 832-447-9532 and email the front desk at MDSAoffice@gmail.com