

MPD Dance Company

Dancer Contract 2022-2023

The Performing Company will give dedicated dancers the opportunity to study Ballet, Tap, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Lyrical and Jazz more in depth. This performing group is a **year-round commitment**. Our focus will be creating, leading, and guiding dancers on a disciplined and rewarding path that will instill the fundamentals of dance.

Requirements

Dancers must be in second grade or above. Dancers must complete a Company Application and Company Contract. Company Applications and Contracts must be turned in by our first rehearsal. Dancers are required to attend rehearsals, technique classes and performances on a regular basis and practice at home. No dance experience is needed! No audition required.

Benefits of Joining the Dance Company

The training our students will receive within the company will provide them with confidence and valuable communication skills they can use in a future dance career and in their everyday life. They will learn discipline and responsibility. They will make strong bonds with other members and learn how to work as a team.

Attendance & Time Commitment

The Performing Company is a team. Just like sports teams require all players to attend practices, dance companies require their dancers to attend all classes/rehearsals. Absences will not only affect the individual dancer, but the Company as a whole.

Company members are required to attend the Company Rehearsal held on Fridays from 5:45-7:45pm from September-May. **Specific call times and rehearsal schedules will be provided on a monthly basis.* There may be other extra rehearsals throughout the year at different times. You will be notified at least one week in advance about these rehearsals.

Each dancer is allowed up to three (3) unexcused absences from Company classes and rehearsals.

**Excused absences must receive prior approval from Miss Lora; advanced notice of absence does not mean it is excused.*

The following are considered “excused” absences:

- Death in the family
- Scheduled school programs or performances
- Wedding or religious dedication of you or a member of your family
- If the dancer is seriously ill or infectious

Dancers will watch company class/rehearsal in the case of injury or mild illness.

Punctuality is just as important as attendance, please arrive on time and prepared for class. Two (2) occurrences of tardiness will count as an unexcused absence.

Company Members are required to take at least 1 hour of Innovation Arts Connection dance

technique classes. During these classes company members will learn the skills needed for company choreography and they will build strength in their muscles. These classes will also be a great opportunity for them to meet other dancers in the school. Company members are STRONGLY recommended to take multiple IAC technique classes at MPD School of Dance. The more classes dancers take and the more days of the week they are enrolled in class the stronger they become. Dance is just like any other skill, the more you practice the better you get and classes are the best way to ensure training is happening on a regular basis.

Dancers are expected to attend all performances & competitions. Company members will perform throughout the community and at local events during the year. Ideally, we will perform once-twice a month. We will also perform in the Spring Recital. Please notify Miss Lora two weeks in advance if there is an excused reason for not attending a performance.

Company members will participate in 1-3 competitions. At Innovation Arts Connection we believe competition is a time to learn and grow. Competition is not about winning awards. Any dancer or parent/guardian that does not support our belief system and positive sportsmanship may be asked to leave the company.

Company members must be present in their class/rehearsal the week prior to every performance and competition.

Being a member of a dance company is a privilege and comes with responsibility. Personal accountability is essential for a successful season, and commitment to your other company members is a vital component of this success. When a member of the company is not present, it negatively impacts the entire team. Please do not consider being a part of the Performing Company if you expect scheduling conflict with other sports or activities for class time or performances.

Failure to regularly attend Company classes, rehearsals and performances may be cause for dismissal from the Company. No refund of payment shall be given in the event of dismissal.

Dance doesn't have an off-season! Members who attend summer rehearsal see HUGE benefits in their dance skills including increased flexibility due to hot weather, a greater focus on dance because they have no other commitments, and they stay active during the 3 month break. It is encouraged that dancers participate in summer dance classes, camps or private lessons.

Courtesy & Respect

All company members will be held to the highest standards of conduct. Communicating negatively about anyone in or outside our studio will not be tolerated. Company members are expected to show courtesy and respect to all instructors, Innovation Arts Connection & Medinah Park District Staff members, volunteers and other dancers. Any Company member who exhibits repeated negative or disrespectful behavior will be asked to leave the Company.

Company dancers are always respectful, supportive, encouraging and are positive in spirit, attitude and behavior.

It is also expected that guardians of company members are also respectful toward all instructors, dancers and other company family members. We want this to be a challenging experience for the dancers, but as a community organization our focus is on education, fun and inclusiveness. Please remember that all instructors have the dancers' and the team as a whole, best interest at heart. We are all well educated dancers and teachers. We are not going to allow choreography in a performance that is unsafe or that dancers are unprepared to execute. We ask that you support our dancers by providing praise. Thank you in advance for your respect, support and trusting our abilities and talents.

If a dancer or parent has any issues with choreography, rehearsals, etc. please contact Ms Lora right away at lora@innovationartsconnection.com.

Dress Code

All Company members must wear appropriate dancewear to every class. Forgetting dancewear, shoes, proper hair and/or wearing inappropriate clothing is not acceptable.

Class attire: leotard, tights, tan jazz shoes, hair pulled back and out of face. Jazz pants, form-fitting shorts or a ballet skirt are optional. All jewelry (except post earrings) is not permitted while in class. Certain choreography may need ballet shoes, tap shoes or hip hop sneakers.

Performance Uniform

All company members will be required to have tan jazz shoes, tan tights, black fitted jazz pants, black leotard, nude leotard, and a company performance costume. Certain choreography may need ballet shoes, tap shoes or hip hop sneakers as well. Other company specific dance clothing will be available to order but not required.

Teams

All teams are by grade groupings (this is their age on September 1, 2022). Sapphire Company includes all dancers second-fifth grade. Diamond Company includes all dancers sixth-eighth grade. Pearl Company includes all dancers in high school. If we have under 10 dancers they will all dance on 1 team.

Dancers will learn team choreography and full company choreography.

Additional Company Fees

Additional Fees for Costumes/Competitions for the year will be \$250 this year. You can pay cash/check directly to me. Checks can be made out to "Innovation Arts Connection". **They will be due by October 1.**

Optional Items:

Company Jackets = \$100

Company shirts, sweatshirts, bags = \$20-100

Items you must provide:

Tan Jazz Shoes

Pink Ballet Shoes

Black Leotard

Black Leggings

Nude Leotard

Fundraising

Mary has offered to head up fundraising again and she has already gotten started with a mum sale! She sent an email last night with info. If you have questions about the mums reach out directly to her. She will reach out with other info on future fundraising later in the season. Remember we will never require fundraising as I know it isn't for everyone.

Company Bootcamp

This was SO helpful to me last year, so we are doing it again. **Monday, Sept 12-Wednesday, Sept 14 from 4:30-6:30pm.** I know some of you may have polish school on Tuesday or other commitments. Come to as much as you can. We will do technique/conditioning classes, starting choreo and lots of fun bonding activities!

New members

We are accepting new members at this time. If you have friends who are interested please remind them that we accept all experience levels, genders and styles of dancers. Dancers just need to be in 2nd grade to join. If they have questions they can reach out to me.

Solos/Duets

I know many of you expressed interest in solos/duets this year. Ms. Miranda and I are able to each choreograph 1 solo and 1 duet. (or 2 solos and 2 duets total). In order to figure out the pairings **I need to know by Monday, August 22 who is still interested in a solo/duet this year.** (Please indicate preferred style and solo or duet). If we have more than 6 dancers interested and more than 2 interested in a solo we will do a **Solo/Duet audition next Friday, from 4:30-5:30pm** to decide. Additional fees for each option below due October 1:

Solos: \$560 Rehearsals (6-8 hours), \$125 Competition Fees

Duets: \$280 Rehearsals (6-8 hours), \$90 Competition Fees

***Costumes can also be purchased if dancers are interested in a new costume, otherwise we will work together to find something in my costume collection, dancer's old costumes or clothing they already have.

Company Calendar

[Click here for the 2022-2023 Company Calendar.](#) Some dates are still tentative and there are a more events that will be added (hoping we can do a nursing home performance this year and some more community events.) Please save this link and refer back to for updates.

Band App

We will continue to use the Company Band App this year. Dancers are encouraged to create their own account to access. I am going to try to use this tool often for both bonding, conditioning/practice outside of rehearsal and sharing info. Additionally, if dancers want to receive the weekly emails to their own email address please send me an email with their address stating that you approve of me sending them messages via email.

Contact Information

For more information please email Lora Vodicka at lora@innovationartsconnection.com.

Finally....

Don't forget to have fun! You'll gain a lifetime of great memories and friendships during this time together so enjoy every second! We strive to make this the most positive, educational and rewarding experience for our dancers and look forward to having another incredible year of dance!

MPD Dance Company Company Agreement 2022-2023

Please sign and return this page. Keep the Company contract for your reference.

Both dancer and guardian have read and understood all that is expected as a member of the MPD Dance Company. We understand that these policies are created to ensure the absolute best training and most positive experience for everyone. Both dancer and guardian understand that failure to meet the conditions set forth in this contract could result in the dancer's dismissal from the MPD Dance Company.

Dancer's Printed Name: _____

Dancer's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Guardian's Printed Name: _____

Guardian's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____