

## **SCHOOL OF DANCE POLICIES**

### **CLASS PLACEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT**

New Students will take a placement class during which the instructor will determine the correct class for the student. Placement depends on several factors including age, physical strength and development, maturity, personality and interest level. Class placement is determined by the Director of the School of Dance and the faculty. We take placement very seriously out of our commitment to each student. Placement decisions must be respected. Class Advancement can happen at any time during the school year, but predominantly occurs at the beginning of each fall term. Most students will remain at each level for at least 2 years in order to master that level's techniques. Merely executing an exercise is not the definition of mastery. In dance, executing each movement with precision and with physical accuracy is the goal. We work hard to ensure our young students have a solid grasp of the foundations in dance so that they gain confidence, ability, and mastery as they get older.

### **DANCE ACADEMY DRESS CODE**

Dance training clothes are meant to keep the body warm, allow free movement, as well as give the teacher the ability to see the placement of the student's limbs, muscle work, and proper positioning. Without this ability, the student will learn bad habits and patterns which could lead to injury. At the same time, clothes must not be distracting, immodest, nor hinder proper movement. If you have any questions about appropriate attire, please consult the School of Dance Director. Please follow the School of Dance Dress Code

#### **All Classes:**

Jewelry: No dangling earrings, piercings, rings, watches, bracelets, necklaces, or loose jewelry. Stud earrings are acceptable.

Cover-ups: Students are to wear sweat pants or coverings when in the lobby or outside areas.

#### **Creative Movement, Pre-Ballet, Ballet-Tap Combo**

Girls: Pink short-sleeve uniform leotard\*, pink footed tights, pink ballet shoes, hair neatly swept into a bun.

Boys: White T-shirt, black jazz or athletic pants, black ballet shoes.

#### **Ballet**

Boys: White tight fitting T-shirt, black tights or jazz pants, black ballet shoes.

Girls: Uniform leotard\* (see chart below for appropriate color according to level), pink tights (classic mesh transition tights with back seam preferred for Ballet 3-6), pink ballet shoes, hair pulled away from the face and NEATLY swept into a bun. Buns that are held together with only a rubber band or stick out far from the head are not allowed. Ponytails are not allowed for ballet class unless a student has VERY short hair. No colored sports bras allowed!!! If undergarments are necessary, only nude-colored undergarments that are specially made for dance are allowed. Wrap around skirts may be worn during center work with teacher's permission for levels 3-6. Black or pink form fitting leg warmers allowed during cold season. No booty shorts allowed.

**\*Ballet uniform leotards must be purchased through the Culture House**

**\*Sizing chart listed on School of Dance home page.**

- Creative Movement Pink short-sleeve leotard\*
- Ballet Tap Combo Pink short-sleeve leotard\*
- Pre-Ballet Pink short-sleeve leotard\*
- Level 1 Light blue tank leotard\*
- Level 1 10+ Royal blue tank leotard\*
- Level 2 Orchid camisole leotard\*
- Level 3 Coral camisole leotard\*
- Level 4 Peacock camisole leotard\*
- Level 5 Teal camisole leotard\*
- Level 6 Eggplant camisole leotard\*
- Open Teen/Adult Ballet Any black leotard

### **Modern**

Girls: Colored uniform leotard (Pre-Modern: colored uniform leotard or black leotard if not enrolled in a ballet class), black or pink tights, no shoes required. Optional: Black fitted capris over tights; no cut offs. Hair pulled away from the face and NEATLY swept into a bun or ponytail.

Boys: White tight fitting T-shirt, black jazz pants, no shoes required.

### **Jazz**

Girls: Colored uniform leotard or black leotard, black jazz pants, capris, or tights (black or pink), black jazz shoes. Hair pulled away from the face and NEATLY swept into ponytail or bun. No bare midriff allowed.

Boys: Black or white tight fitting T-shirt, black jazz pants, black jazz shoes.

### **Tap**

Girls: Colored uniform leotard or black leotard, black jazz pants, capris, or athletic pants (cannot cover the shoes) and black oxford tap shoes.

Boys: Black or white tight fitting T-shirt, black jazz pants or athletic pants (cannot cover the shoes) and black oxford tap shoes.

## **Hip Hop**

Baggy, loose-fitting tops and pants with sneakers. Baggy sweat pants or basketball shorts that are past the knees are preferred. Ladies need to wear a leotard underneath shirt. No bare midriff allowed. No black soled shoes allowed on dance floor!!! Jeans, jean shorts, sandals, flip-flops, soccer shorts, and booty shorts are strictly prohibited.

## **Adult Classes**

Dress modestly. No bare midriff allowed.

## **ANNUAL END OF THE YEAR PRODUCTION**

Since 2000, The Culture House Dance Academy has provided students with an exciting performance experience through its productions. An annual tradition of dance schools worldwide, the production is an important rite of passage for young dancers, giving them a chance to shine in front of family and friends. The experience helps build self-esteem and contributes to a sense of confidence. Although performance opportunities can help prepare some students for a possible career in dance, they also contribute to better school presentations, improved social skills and strong communication skills. The rehearsal process is also a tremendous learning experience, helping students develop their retention skills and team cooperation. Dedication to the production commitments is the responsibility of both the students and their parents. The information below is an effort to clarify what we expect from you in terms of commitment and responsibility to the annual production, the school, and other students and parents. All students enrolled in dance classes are required to participate in our annual dance production. Our production is an extension of the benefits derived from the dedication of dance training.

## **Production Planning and Communications**

Production information and updates will be posted on The Culture House website, at [www.culturehouse.com](http://www.culturehouse.com), in the newsletter, on the school bulletin board or sent to your email address. Please stay up to date with this important information and note any deadlines. It is our goal to make the production experience organized and exciting: students, parents, teachers, and staff are all key players in the success of the production.

## **Costume Policy**

A dance costume is required for each class the student is enrolled in. Many hours are spent determining the correct costumes for each class, making sure they are age-appropriate and of the highest quality possible.

The costume fee of \$70.00 is a rental fee per costume. All costumes remain the property of The Culture House and must be returned at the end of the performance. Costume fees will be billed out in October. All costume fees must be paid in full before construction begins. Accessories, such as headpieces and gloves, are included in the costume fee. Additional costs such as tights and shoes are the responsibility of the student and parent and are not included in the costume fee. We recommend that the student's name be placed on all shoes, hair nets, hair pin bag, accessories, and tights. Pack accessories in a clear plastic bag with your child's name on the bag and on each individual item.

### **Costume Committee**

At the beginning of the school year, a Costume Committee will be organized, comprising of parent/seamstress volunteers to help make the costumes. This volunteer committee is very important as purchasing readymade costumes is extremely expensive and they are often of a inferior quality. The Culture House costumes are well known to be the highest quality in design and fit at a low cost.

### **Dress Rehearsal**

Dress Rehearsals allow students to become familiar with the auditorium and to feel comfortable with their costume(s) and their performance on stage. Lighting, music cues, set changes, and all other logistics for an organized and professional performance are rehearsed. Participation in the dress rehearsal is mandatory. Dress Rehearsals are closed to all but the directors. We recommend making a checklist of your child's routines and gather all accessories, shoes, and makeup several days in advance so you'll know if something is missing or isn't right before going to the rehearsal. Parents or guardians should bring the students and sign them in and out of the greenroom, where they will be under the supervision of their teacher and/or their class mom(s). Students will be informed about any make-up requirements so that they can arrive ready to participate. Students will pick up their costume in the greenroom and may change in the dressing room.

### **Auditorium Rules**

Students will remain in the greenroom/dressing rooms with their class during dress rehearsal and the production when they are not onstage. Parents are not allowed to take their child into the auditorium during the performance.

### **Greenroom & Dressing Room Etiquette:**

Each class will be supervised by the teacher and/or a class mom. Students must respect other students' space and property in the greenroom/dressing rooms. Students in the show should stay in the

greenroom between their pieces. Due to allergies, no peanut products are allowed in the greenroom/dressing rooms. Parents who wish to visit the Greenroom must have a current background check on file and the appropriate identification.

### **Backstage**

Family members and friends are not allowed backstage or in dressing rooms during rehearsals or the production. The same applies during intermission and after the show.

### **Greeting Performers**

Those who wish to greet a performer after the show or present flowers should do so after the last finale.

### **Flash Photography**

We ask that flash photography not be used. Flashes can interrupt concentration and endanger the performers.

### **Production Volunteer Information and Child Protection**

Volunteering is a fun and positive way to support your child in their efforts; many times the entire family may be able to participate. In keeping with The Culture House's Child Protection Policy, all volunteers will be required to complete a volunteer packet, All volunteers are required to submit to a background check and attend a parent meeting.

All volunteers must abide by the policies set forth by The Culture House's Child Protection Policy and its Volunteer Handbook. All volunteers will receive an identification badge at the dress rehearsal, which must be worn in the theater at all times. Please do not bring guests, including children while you are volunteering.

If you are interested in volunteering or heading up one of the committees please let us know as soon as possible.

### **Fees**

Production Fee- \$65.00 per student

Costume Rental Fee- \$70.00 per costume

Refunds No refunds will be made if a student withdraws from class.

### **Parent Meetings**

At least one parent of every student participating in the production must attend all parent meetings. It is at these parent meetings that parents will be informed of volunteer opportunities, receive information regarding ticket sales, multi-show family tickets, rehearsal schedules, costumes and much more. Missing these meetings will put parents and students at a disadvantage and jeopardize the overall process of the production. Please make a note of the time and dates of these meetings on the TCH calendar and plan now to attend.