



# COMPANY INFORMATION

## The Dancers' Studio Competitive Team



Dear Students and Parents,

Thank you for your interest in our competition team newly recognized as The Dancers' Studio Company. We are entering our 16th year with our Dancers' Studio team, and are very excited to get going again. Our studio team competes in a variety of areas of dance including jazz, tap, hip hop, contemporary, and ballet. By offering this variety to our students, we have opened the doors for our students to expand their training in the performing arts, and become well-rounded performers. Many of our former and current team members have had success at auditions within the industry and are recognized for their professional training. Some of our former members have received college scholarships for colleges like UCI, CSULB, and NYU. We've also had members find success performing for artists on tour, Emmy award winning tv shows, music videos, community arts, and Disney! We are so proud of the performers our program has produced. Our team director and choreographers are all looking forward to working with so many new and talented young people!

Our goal for each of our team members is to develop excellent performance skills by being given extra opportunities to perform each year and by receiving an elevated form of training. Our fabulous performers have had the opportunity to dance at a variety of wonderful events including community events, Disneyland, and Storm Stadium. They've also earned high scores and honors at competitions and conventions across Southern California and the fabulous Las Vegas!

*"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life."*

**Audition Eligibility:** All students enrolled at The Dancers' Studio are eligible to audition for The Company as long as the student's tuition, costume, and team accounts are current with no past due balances from previous seasons, and has completed his/her commitment during any and all previous seasons. All team members are expected to commit to the full season of events and attend all team performances and competitions. Any conflicts must be presented to our director well in advance. Students who do not honor their team contract will not be allowed to finish the remainder of the season on team, and will not be eligible to audition for teams in future seasons.

**Auditions will be held on Saturday, September 16th, 2023 from 10:00am-1:30pm.** The Audition process will include a morning of class/choreography in Contemporary, Tap, Jazz, and Hip Hop followed by auditions. The first portion of the day will give dancers who are new or curious about team an opportunity to meet the instructors and veteran members. Dancers will be divided by age and evaluated by skill and overall dance experience. After the class/choreography portion is over, dancers will be given the opportunity to audition for our director and instructors for team placement.

### **Ages 4-6**

12:00pm-12:15pm

12:15pm-12:45pm

12:45pm-1:15pm

Check-In

Mini's Class

Auditions

### Ages 7+

9:30am-10:00am	Check-In
10:00am-10:15am	Warm-Up
10:15am-10:45am	Contemporary
10:45am-11:15am	Tap
11:15am-11:30am	Snack/Break
11:30am-12:15pm	Jazz
12:15pm-12:45pm	Hip Hop
12:45pm-1:30pm	Auditions

Dancers ages 7+ must stay for the entirety of the day and must participate in all classes and the audition. Dancers ages 4-6 only need to attend the Mini's class (12:15-12:45pm) and audition for our director and instructors from 12:45pm-1:15pm.

If you are not able to attend auditions, please arrange a private audition in advance. During audition check-in, you will fill out a form where you will give us a little information about you and your child and list any conflict dates you may have for the season ahead (September-June). This will help us plan ahead for the new year. All participants must audition in all styles of dance including Jazz, Contemporary, Tap, and Hip Hop.

**Routine Placement:** After auditions, the director and team instructors will be placing each performer in the routine(s) he or she will be working and performing in throughout the year. The audition experience is good practice for future performance opportunities and is also the time in which instructors can observe and invite students into solos or groups. For groups, each dancer will be considered for placement in a jazz, hip hop, tap, or contemporary (or any combination of the 4), and a full team production number (required). **Dancers who audition are carefully chosen by our experienced instructors and director to participate in groups that are thought to be the best fit for both the individual and the collective team. Dancers do not have the option to select specific groups to perform in; instead, they are placed where their talents and potential will shine brightest. It's essential to note that if a dancer decides to drop from a group they have been selected for, they will forfeit their place on the team entirely. We hope that both parents and dancers will place trust in our professional judgment and rest assured that we always prioritize the best interests of our dancers, aiming for their growth and success. All solos, duos, trios and private lesson group routines must be approved by the director.**

**Note:** We divide our groups into 5 possible divisions: Minis, Petites, Juniors, Teens, and Seniors. After auditions, should we not have enough students in any division to create a group of 4 or more, special arrangements may be made to accommodate that group of dancers.

**After Auditions:** All company members will receive an email with placement information and details. We thank you in advance for your patience as our director and instructors take time to create groups for the new season. Our company groups and soloists **list will be posted no later than Saturday, September 23rd**. A mandatory **parent meeting will be held on Saturday, September 30th at 10:30 AM** followed by the first choreography weekend. The meeting will introduce the performance schedule and team wear, and will also cover what to expect throughout the season as a team member. We would also love to answer any questions you have during this time. **Weekly scheduled rehearsals will begin the week of October 2nd.**

### **Choreography Weekend Rehearsals:**

September 30	11:00am-6:00pm
October 1	12:00pm-6:00pm
October 7	10:00am-6:00pm
October 8	12:00pm-6:00pm

This time will be used to get a jump start on learning routines. Some company members may need to attend most hours of these rehearsals, while others may need to attend fewer. A detailed schedule for the rehearsals will be made after auditions. We are lucky to have a talented group of instructors choreographing for and working with our teams. This allows us to use in-studio choreographers instead of outsourced choreographers which can be very pricey. **All group members will have a one-time \$65 Choreography Fee due at the the mandatory meeting September 30th.** This helps us compensate our wonderful instructors for their time and skill. Soloists may use choreographers outside of the studio with our director's approval. There is no extra choreography fee for soloists who are learning choreography from an instructor/choreographer who they are working with at The Dancers' Studio weekly.

### **Weekly Rehearsals October - June:**

Auditions and the information you provide on your Audition Form will determine the number of groups and selected styles of dance that best fit our dancers. Groups will rehearse weekly. A weekly schedule will be available at the meeting September 30th. We will use family conflict dates for reference when creating the rehearsal schedule and will do our best to accommodate the scheduling needs of our members.

All groups: Additional rehearsals may be scheduled as we get closer to competition. (e.g. Dress Rehearsals, Final Run-Through Rehearsals...)

### **Required Classes:**

In order to join The Dancers' Studio Company, you must be enrolled in a minimum number of classes at The Dancers' Studio each month from September 2023 through June 2024 (Recital month). **Mini company members in only 1-2 routines will have a Team Fee of \$65 per month and company members in our petite, junior, teen, and senior groups participating in 1 or more groups will have a Team Fee of \$120 per month.** These rates are in addition to regular monthly tuition. Please see our studio price sheet for more details on our class prices. Students who are taking unlimited classes still pay the flat rates for teams. Team rates are not included in tuition prices.

Each year we strive to make changes and improvements to our program and find ways to help students build their technical skills to a level that will be competitive. Our dance team members are required to take classes that will work on their strength, flexibility, and technical skill.

A breakdown of requirements to participate in our performance teams is listed below:

**Minis Ages 4-6:** Weekly Team Rehearsal (\$65 per month), plus a ballet class and jazz class weekly.

**Petites, Juniors, Teens, and Seniors Ages 7+:** Weekly Team Rehearsal(s) (\$120 per month), plus the requirements below.

<b>Ages 7+</b>	<b>Levels 1 and 2</b>	<b>Levels 3-5</b>
<b>Required If Competing In Jazz or Contemporary</b>	Conditioning/Flexibility	Conditioning/Flexibility
	Ballet 1A or 2A (Once Weekly)	Ballet (Twice Weekly)
<b>Must be enrolled in the following classes if competing in these styles:</b>	Jazz 1 or Jazz 2A	Jazz
	Tap	Tap
	Hip Hop	Hip Hop
	Contemporary	Contemporary
<b>Additionally Recommended:</b>	Acro/Tumbling	Acro/Tumbling
	Leaps & Turns (read note below)	Pointe

**\*Level 1 dancer unable to take the advanced placement Ballet 1A whether because of scheduling or not meeting the prerequisites must also take Leaps & Turns in addition to their Ballet and Jazz classes if they are in a Jazz or Contemporary group.**

**\* \*Level 2 dancer unable to take the advanced placement Ballet 2A and Jazz 2A classes whether because of scheduling or not meeting the prerequisites, must also take Leaps & Turns in addition to their Ballet and Jazz classes if they are in a Jazz or Contemporary group.**

### **Solos, Duos, Trios:**

All team members will receive a \$20 monthly discount off private lessons. You MUST be in a group of the same style of dance in order to perform and compete with a solo, duo or trio, and must be enrolled in a private lesson to work on that routine. Students who are on the company team may compete and perform a routine in the

disciplines of ballet, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, hip hop, acro, or tap. A maximum of two solo routines can be prepared in one private lesson time slot for ages 12+. Soloists under 12 may only prepare one solo routine in one private lesson time slot. It is important that our soloists and groups be well rehearsed, clean and prepared for competition. Duos and trios cannot be rehearsed during the same private lesson as a solo.

\*\*\*Note: A Solos/Duos/Trios-only option is no longer available. We feel it is necessary our company members understand the importance of working amongst peers who support and push one another to a higher standard. We believe that the essence of competitive dance extends beyond individual excellence. Hence, we've made the decision to no longer offer a solo-only option. Our goal is to instill in our members the value of teamwork, camaraderie, and the power of peer support. A performer who has the opportunity to perform as a soloist or as a member in a duo or trio, should also be receiving the additional training that comes with performing in the same style of dance as a group. Solos, duos, and trios are a privilege. This change aligns with our commitment to fostering not only exceptional dancers but also well-rounded individuals who understand the significance of working together to achieve greatness. Thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to nurture both the skills and character of our talented dancers.

**Team Accounts:** Each student will have his or her own individual account kept throughout the year. We recommend depositing a small amount into your team account each month as a savings account towards costumes and competition fees. Students will receive an invoice for each competition within 6-8 weeks of the upcoming event. Balances in the accounts will be deducted from invoice totals otherwise the invoice will be due in full.

**Recital Participation:** All company members are required to participate in the June Recital. Company members are expected and required to perform all team routines, as well as class routines with all of the minimum required classes. Students must purchase a recital costume for each of the required classes for the Recital. The only exceptions to this rule are technique only classes. Participation in recital routines is required because students can not maximize growth in their training if they are not dancing the entire year in the required classes, and students not participating in a recital routine often do not complete the year of classes, or do not dance full-out because they are not given spots in formations. We expect our team members to be good examples of how hard work and dedication can pay off with serious training. Team members are representatives of our studio.

**An approximate breakdown of additional costs for the year is listed below: (Not including Tuition)**

	<b><u>1-2 Groups</u></b>	<b><u>3-5 Groups</u></b>
-Team Jacket	\$120.00	\$120.00
-Costumes and Accessories	\$200.00	\$500.00
-Tights and Shoes	\$200.00	\$300.00
-Competition/Performance Fees	\$500.00	\$1500.00
-Studio Fees (\$50 per event)	\$250.00	\$250.00
-Recital (Cast Fee, Costumes, etc.)	\$250.00	\$600.00
-Possible Disneyland Performance	\$300.00	\$250.00
Approximate Total Cost:	<u>\$1820.00</u>	<u>\$3520.00</u>

Please be aware that this is only an estimate; costs may be lower or higher, and this is the approximate cost for the full year. This cost breakdown does not include tuition for the year, just performance team costs, and does not include hotel accommodations if you choose to stay multiple days at any event. This is a base amount. Please be sure that you are comfortable with the financial commitment before auditioning. If you would like a more accurate total for the entire year, please include your monthly tuition and private lesson costs (each person's will vary, based on the number of classes/private lessons you take), and any additional travel expenses you may incur from traveling to competition locations.

**Below is a draft schedule for the year: (This is not final in any way, final schedule TBD.)**

December 15-16	Winter Showcase (Team Requirement)
January 5-6	Team Sleepover TBD
<b>February</b>	<b>Weekend Rehearsals, Please leave all weekends open!</b>
March 1-3	Starpower, Riverside, CA
April 4-7	Spotlight, Temecula, CA
May 24	Showstopper, Anaheim, CA
June 7-9	Starbound, Upland, CA
June 21-22	Recital 2024 (Team Requirement)



Regarding the above listed tentative schedule: Teams may not attend all of the listed competitions, and likely not only these specific competition companies. Optional competitions may also be added throughout the season. Once the dates are finalized, we will provide you with a final schedule. Should any events be changed after that point, we will let you know as soon as possible. Your commitment for the year is to the events on the final schedule only, which will be finalized and handed out during the mandatory parent meeting, and updated again in January, 2024 with more details. Finals in June/July are a requirement this year.

**Attendance:** In past years, consistent attendance has been a struggle for some team members. **Absent team members cause a great deal of work for instructors and other students, and ultimately compromise the quality of the pieces. A very strict attendance policy will be enforced in regards to team rehearsals and required classes:**

- 3 missed team rehearsals per season, per routine (September 2023-June 2024) will be tolerated. A doctor's note is required to dismiss an absence. Zero tolerance for missed rehearsals within 7 days of a competition or performance.

- 4 missed rehearsals- the student must provide a doctor note excusing the student from all activity. **Should no doctor note be provided, the student will no longer be allowed to participate in the group routine for the remainder of the year, and the alternate may take his/her place.** Should a doctor note be provided, the alternate will fill in and perform in the following competition or performance, after which, the original student may resume his/her spot in the routine, as long as we receive a doctor note releasing the student to participate again. Competition fees and studio fees will still be charged.

**Required Class Attendance:** We can not expect the standard of our teams to improve if team members are not consistent in their technical training. Regular class attendance is an important part of making sure our performers are receiving the proper training required to compete. In an effort to improve the skills of our competition teams and each individual equally, **there will be a ZERO absence policy** for any required class to be on the teams they are a member of. **Any missed required classes MUST be made up within two weeks of the absence.** For example, a company member in a jazz or contemporary group who misses a ballet class for any reason, with or without a doctor's note, must make up the ballet class in the level equivalent or below within two weeks. If a performer does not follow these regular class requirements they will be removed from the group number(s) for the following performance/competition.

**Company Contract:** Each student and parent will be asked to sign a contract at the time of auditions outlining the information contained in this packet, and all attendance requirements. Please read the contract carefully, so that you are aware of the requirements and commitment required to participate. Contracts will be available for you to read and sign at auditions.

In past years we have accepted all students who have auditioned for our teams, and hope to do so again this year. As our studio continues to grow, we strive to accommodate students of all levels on our teams, whether beginning, intermediate or advanced. Should we have a large number of beginning/intermediate level students audition, we may add extra groups to allow these dancers to be training at a comfortable level, rather than the students feeling as though they must keep up with advanced dancers who have been competing for multiple years. Should we not have enough new students audition at a beginning/intermediate level to create separate groups, we may encourage beginning/intermediate students to study for an additional year in classes before placing him/her on a team.

We have watched our performers grow immensely over the past years, and we are confident that participating in our competitive teams will be a rewarding and positive experience for you in developing your performing arts training. We look forward to seeing you at The Dancers' Studio's Company Auditions!

***-Victoria Jauregui  
The Dancers' Studio Director***