

# BIG CITY DANCE CENTER

## COMPETITIVE TEAM INFORMATION

Home of the FDC Judges Choice award!

Revolution National Champions!

The only program in the community that offers a 3 day a week competitive program!

Open Audition: Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>

- 9:00 am – 11:30 am All dancers 9-11 years old (as of September 1, 2010)
- Noon – 2:00 pm All dancers 12 years and older (as of September 1, 2010)

### MISSION OF COMPETITION GROUPS

*To promote the art of dance through competitive dance with a strong emphasis on teamwork and technique. The company is meant to bring the dancers closer together. The competition groups are those individuals that wish to take a more intensive approach to dance.*

### AUDITION PROCESS

On Monday, June 21, 2010 any dancer nine years or older is welcome to audition for Big City Dance Center award winning competition group. Your dancers should be nine years old as of September 1, 2010, although exceptions may be made. Dancers will receive a number they will wear throughout the audition. The dancers will execute dance skills across the floor and learn a short center combination. They will perform for the judges their short dance combination in small groups of four. Please call the office at 248/960-0057 should you need to arrange a private audition.

The new company will be contacted via email by Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> if they were chosen for the exciting 2011 competition year. If picked for company, a parent must attend an informative meeting Tuesday, July 27, 2010. Your non-refundable commitment fee is due on or before this date. By exception only, dancers

can commit later in the summer; however, the commitment fee will be \$200 and the director will not be placing the dancer in any small group numbers and/or possibly guest choreographed numbers.

## DESCRIPTION OF COMPETITION GROUPS

STARS OF TOMORROW is a competition class designed for all Big City students who would like an introduction to competitive dancing. It is designed to be the stepping stone into company. Essentially, it is a mini version of our performing company. The Stars of Tomorrow will learn one jazz routine and compete it in three local competitions during the winter competitive season March 2011 – May 2011 under the direction of Christie Scott. We intend to have two groups a Mini (5-7 year olds) and a Jr. (8-9 year olds).

Fees: \$ 50 commitment fee due on or before July 28<sup>th</sup>.

\$ 30 competition fee per competition

\$ 100 costume including trims, bows etc.

\$ 75 shoes and tights

Requirements:

Summer: One Ballet and one Turn & Leap class per week during our summer session

Fall: One Ballet, one Turn & Leap, and the STARS rehearsal class per week during our fall session

THE PERFORMING COMPANY: Being a part of Big City dance Center's Competition Company requires a strong commitment from dancers. It is a 3 day per week program. Dancers must commitment to attending all rehearsals and training classes unless ill, family emergency or graded school appearances. The company is required to participate in all studio appearances including but not limited to: Walled Lake Memorial Day parade, Walled Lake market days, a Piston ½ time show and any other special appearances.

## THE TIME COMMITMENT

The Big City staff places your dancer for ballet, tap and turn & leap classes according to their ability and age. These training classes will occur mostly on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Dancers are expected to make-up training classes if they are missed. Every company dance will have a specific rehearsal time throughout the week and continue the entire year.

i.e. Pretty Wings      Junior small group lyrical      Thursday meeting time: 4:30-5:15pm

The company is given notice if classes are cancelled, extended or added via the company bulletin board and email. Longer rehearsals should be expected close to competitions or appearances. Dancers must be flexible with their schedules around competition. Three weeks prior to competition, attendance is absolutely mandatory. Our rehearsals take precedence over outside commitments. In rare cases, the director will excuse dancers from competition rehearsals. If dancers miss rehearsals three weeks prior to competition, including extra rehearsals the dancer will be staged out of numbers that were missed. The

dancer will be staged back into that number for the next competition. Parents will not be reimbursed for the competition entry fees as they are non-refundable.

**“FIRST STEP” COMPANY MEMBER:** All young dancers 9-10 years old will be introduced into the company by performing three company numbers. They will also be required to take one ballet class, one turn & leap class and one tap class. They will be placed in 3 competition numbers. In total, they will take 6 classes per week. The director may agree to additional dances based on certain circumstance. The First steppers are only at the studio 2 days per week.

## **PARENT COMMITMENT**

Parents play a strong role in the success of the group every year. The most important aspect a parent contributes is the positive support to the dancers and teachers. As a parent you are responsible for:

- Making sure your dancer arrives on time to all competitions and events
- Providing funds for competing on a timely basis
- Working one recital show
- Work one committee
- Sell one business ad in recital program
- Serve on one competition prop committee

All parents are expected to set the example for the children regarding great sportsmanship and professionalism during public events.

## **THE COST OF COMPETING**

*Performing Company Only*

### **NON-REFUNDABLE COMMITMENT FEE:**

\$175 if paid on for before Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>

\$200 if paid on or after Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>

### **WARM-UP CLOTHING**

All competitors are required to purchase a warm-up outfit of: one pair sweat pants, one company tank top, one company jacket, and a company backpack. You need not purchase these items every year. Orders are taken and paid for by September 15, 2010.

### **COSTUMES**

Female costumes range from \$100 - \$175. Male costumes are typically street clothes purchased through local stores. We have private designers that create most of our competition outfits.

In some instances, costumes from previous years are re-used for a group piece. If you are renting a costume for a year the cost is \$50 (for the year) to the owner of the costume. Their company account will credited. You are responsible for damages or misplacement, if it occurs.

## **FALL TUITION FOR PERFORMING COMPANY SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE 2011**

- UNLIMITED CLASSES, REHEARSAL CLASSES & EXTRA WEEKEND REHEARSALS

\$163 per month for the dance season September through June

- FALL TUITION FOR STARS OF TOMORROW

Normal class rate for the studio

***There is a 10% discount for families***

## **SUMMER TUITION FOR PERFORMING COMPANY AUGUST 3 - AUGUST 26**

Summer program fees: \$45 per class

\$250 for unlimited classes

*(PURCHASE EARLY! \$50 discount offered on unlimited card if purchased on or before June 1, 2010)*

## **COMPETITION SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

***Seven monthly payments (separate from STUDIO tuition) will be collected to pay for items such as competition costumes, competition fees, dance conventions, props, etc.***

Instead of asking for lump sums of money in the winter to pay for your entry fees, competition fees, etc.; we have a formula for competitors to make 7 monthly payments held in an escrow account. This way you can budget "competition" associated costs into your monthly budget. The director draws from these funds when fees are due for competition, costumes, shoes, etc.

This formula is a GUESTIMATE not the final and actual cost of everything we will spend on competing. It varies from year to year if we are slightly over or under this amount.

Your seven monthly payments are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month beginning in September. A late fee of \$10 will be assessed to your account after the 20<sup>th</sup> of that month. NEW! An additional late fee will be added of \$15 if you are beyond 20 days late. Your final company payment is due on March 15, 2011. If you have a balance, national fees will be deducted from the credit balance. If you have a credit past national fees, your credit will be transferred to your studio account; zeroing your company savings account for the year. If you have a balance due, it must be provided no later than April 1, 2011. National fees are not included in your 7 payments. No credit balances are returned to you in the form of check or cash.

Any account 60 days in arrears may be removed from company. Please understand that Big City is a small business and not a bank. Parents have to provide the funds on a timely basis for their child to participate in this activity.

## FORMULA FOR 7 ESCROW/SAVINGS COMPANY ACCOUNT

The following is the formula that is used to calculate your costs for competing. It is based on everything associated with attending a dance competition.

### FIRST COMPETITION DANCE

Average costs of costume:	\$140
Rhinestones/Trims:	\$ 30
Tights (2 pairs):	\$ 30
Shoes (2 pairs):	\$ 75
Misc. Props:	\$ 20
Dance Convention (2)	\$ 250
<u>4 Competition Fees</u>	<u>\$ 120</u>
Budget for 1 <sup>st</sup> dance:	\$665 / 7 months: \$95

### EVERY COMPETITION DANCE THEREAFTER

When adding additional company numbers after the first one, only the costs are considered:

Average costume:	\$ 140
Rhinestones/Trims:	\$ 20
Props:	\$ 20
<u>4 Competition fees:</u>	<u>\$120</u>
Additional co. dances:	\$300 / 7 = \$43

The following is a typical scenario for a company member:

My dancer is in 3 company dances. What is my monthly escrow/savings company payment?

First Dance:	\$95
Second Dance:	\$43
<u>Third Dance:</u>	<u>\$43</u>
Monthly payment:	\$ 181.00 per month beginning September 15 <sup>th</sup> – March 15 <sup>th</sup>

At anytime you may request an account ledger to monitor what we have charged you for. You will see itemized charges for the above costs.

**THERE IS NO "CONTRACT" WITH THIS PERFORMING COMPANY;  
HOWEVER, IF YOUR DANCER IS UNABLE TO FINISH THE SEASON (AUGUST  
2010 – July 2011), YOU WILL FORFEIT ANY ALL MONIES PROVIDED TO**

**YOUR COMPANY ACCOUNT. IF ANY DANCER IS INJURED AND UNABLE TO COMPETE, YOUR COMPETITION FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE, AS INDICATED BY THE COMPETITION COMPANIES.**

### **COMPETITION NUMBERS/REHEARSAL TIMES**

You will be issued a placement sheet at the first parent meeting scheduled for July 27, 2010. Company members should be prepared to join 3-5 competition numbers. Parents are asked to consider expense of each number and confirm the number of dances your child can participate in including guest choreography. By August 20, 2010, your dancer will be issued a placement schedule based on your written commitment to number of dances. NEW!!! If you request a change to your original schedule, after dances are assigned your account will be charged \$75 per change. It takes 3-4 weeks to create the placement. Please consider the number of dances your child can be placed in. The director takes no requests for placement. Dancers are placed according to a number of different things mostly considering their overall training and experience as they grow at Big City. NEW!!! No late joiners to company will be eligible for guest choreography or small groups unless an unusual spot should open up.

### **COMPETITIONS THE COMPANY ATTENDS**

All competition groups attend four local competitions these event are held on the weekend and take place around the metro Detroit schools. These competitions occur February 2011 – May 2011. You will have actual dates for the four competitions we are attending by October 2010. All soloists are encouraged to enter these competitions. Solos/Duo/trios may enter other competitions on their own.

### **TWO DANCE CONVENTIONS**

We require all company members to attend WILD the one day convention. Our company members will have a choice between two of where to go for the winter convention. The monies for these convention are included in your monthly tuition.

The dance conventions are held on the weekends around the metro Detroit area. You will have the exact dates of the convention by September 2010. The STARS and other Big City dancers are welcome to join us.

### **NATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

The company attends one out of state national competition to be held sometime in June or July 2011. The parents will have a choice to vote for the 2011 national's year between 2 different nationals. In the past, we have traveled to Ohio, Chicago, Myrtle Beach, and Washington, D.C. You will have the dates for nationals by October 2010. All company members are required to attend nationals. There is rehearsal for nationals between the recital through nationals. Please keep that in mind when making summer family vacation plans.

## **OUTSIDE APPEARANCES**

In previous seasons, we have appeared at Piston Basketball home games, movie premiers for Jeff Daniels, and Walled Lake community events. All appearances are considered mandatory unless a special exception is made by the director.

## **PROPER ATTITUDE FOR COMPANY MEMBERS**

Big City Performing Company has a terrific reputation for well disciplined, friendly dancers that work hard. We believe the specific ingredients to our success are:

- Work hard in rehearsals
- Set specific goals for the year and dedicate ourselves to them
- Treat each other with respect and care
- Respect the discipline of the art of dance
- Attend your ballet and technique classes
- Be respectful to our fellow competitors
- Appreciate any awards we are given
- Listen to your teachers as they are attempting to lead you
- Try your best at every performance
- Have a perfect attempt at perfect attendance
- Have fun, we are a family!

## **PARENTS**

Without the parents we would be half successful. The company has always had an abundance of support. The parents of the company are assigned to one committee for the year. In addition, all parents are required to work on the prop committee at one competition.

*Tasks include, but are not limited to:*

Costume Committee	Holiday party	End of the year party
Prop creation	Parade Decoration	Historian committee

Parents need to work one of the two recital shows; as well as, sell a program ad for the recital program to help offset printing costs.

Parents and family members must exhibit great sportsmanship in public when representing Big City Dancer Center. Parents are encouraged to arrange private meetings with Lisa Gilmore, the director, or any other teacher if issues arise throughout the year. Any parent that acts inappropriately may be asked to leave public appearances if they are interfering with the goals of the performing company.

## **DANCE CLASS/REHEARSAL CLASS REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPANY**

Competition rehearsals are not training classes. Therefore, all competitors must take specific training classes to keep up with their technique. The following is the minimum requirement for various groups.

SUMMER SESSION AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup> – AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>

- Stars of Tomorrow: One ballet class & One Turn & Leap class per week
- Performing Company: One ballet class, One Turn & Leap, One tap, One hip hop, One Turn class, one "other" class per week

You may fit these requirements into 3 weeks in the event you are traveling. Please make arrangements with the director if you have summer time conflicts.

FALL SESSION SEPTEMBER 2010 – JUNE 2011

- Stars of Tomorrow: One ballet class, One turn & leap class, Stars class (jazz class)
- Performing Company: Two ballet classes, one turn & leap class, one tap class, one "other" class such as Pointe, jazz, hip hop, extra turn class etc.
- First Year performing company members 8-10 year olds: One ballet class, one turn & leap class, one tap class

## **OPTIONAL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO COMPANY MEMBERS**

Solos and duo/trios: are approved by the director only. These separate commitments require a special attention to working hard in technique classes and practicing on your own. Solos, duo/trios must be arranged through the director no matter what teacher you are working with. Our guest choreographers are available for choreography at separate fees. Again, please arrange a meeting with Lisa Gilmore to discuss solos/duo/trios.

Typical costs for solo/duo/trios:

\$100 Commitment fee due September 1, 2010

SOLOS: \$22 Private fee per half hour

Duo: \$ 15 per duo person for semi-private half hour

TRIO: \$12 per trio person for semi-private half hour

***The director deserves the right to change or amend the rules at anytime throughout the year to enhance the program.***

## **2010/2011 Company Calendar**

June 21	Company audition
July 27	Parent meeting, commitment fee due 6:00pm
August 3	Summer Session begins
August 19	Receive company placement
September 7	Fall classes begin including company classes
September 15	First company payment due
October 2010	WILD dance convention
December 2010	Holiday Sleepover party at studio
Jan/Feb 2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dance Convention
March –May 2011	4 regional dance competitions
Nationals:	Revolution or Starpower