

Dance Theatre Fairbanks

Aurora Dance Ensemble Rules and Requirements

January 13, 2012 – June 3, 2012

Company Contract for Senior and Junior Aged Dancers

Must be signed and turned in no later than Saturday January 14, 2012

Company member's name: _____ Age: _____

General

Placement in the company is by audition only. Company members must be at least 11 years of age.

Dancers in the company must attend a minimum of two ballet classes (one of which must be at their own level), two Pointe classes (if performing en Pointe), two other dance classes, and one personal development hour per week for the duration of the regularly scheduled semester. Classes above and beyond these requirements may be requested of a dancer, based on individual reviews from staff and directors. Additionally, a dancer may be asked by the Company Directors to take a specific class, such as Partnering, to prepare for a role. (*Note: if asked to attend a certain class, failure to comply may result in loss of a role.) Zumba does not count toward other classes. Students must be at an intermediate or advanced Pointe level and receive director approval to be considered for a Pointe role. Students assigned to assistant teach a class may consider this activity as their personal development hour if they receive director approval prior to the start of the semester. Personal development hour activities could include such things as a school club or organization (ballroom club, student government, etc.), weekly volunteering at an approved location, or an after school job. To be used toward Ensemble requirements, all personal development activities must receive Director approval. Absences from classes should be prearranged with instructors, with the exception of illness, and must be made up in another class within fourteen days of the absence regardless of circumstance. Ballet classes must be made up with ballet or Pointe classes. No more than four absences which are not made up will be permitted per semester. Special arrangements to meet class requirements may be made with the Company Directors if necessary. At the beginning of each semester, company members must submit a list of classes they wish to have considered for their requirements to the Assistant to the Directors.

Company members must present a mature approach to classes, performances and rehearsals as well as a dedication to dance. This includes appropriately managing their time to ensure that all family, school, and company commitments are met. Dancers will be expected to arrive on time and be prepared for all classes, rehearsals, and performances, and are expected to follow all studio rules, including dress codes. Dancers should bring all shoes and required items with them to all rehearsals and performances. Company members will be approaching a professional level of dance technique and artistry, and must be able to perform accordingly. They must demonstrate a clear understanding of dance vocabulary, theatre etiquette, and skill in teaching and fostering younger and/or less experienced dancers. Language, behavior, and overall personal appearance should, and will be of the highest quality both in the studio and at any studio related function.

If a dancer chooses to leave company prior to the end of the contract period for any reason other than medical or family emergencies, he or she must inform the company directors personally and appear at the next company rehearsal along with a parent. The student must address the company and explain the reasons he or she is leaving company. A parent or teacher may not do this for the student. The dancer must take on this responsibility personally. Additionally, the student is responsible for teaching any understudies the roles that are now being vacated. Failure to meet any requirements outlined in the company contract may result in disciplinary action such as loss of company privileges, removal from performing opportunities and/or dismissal from the company for breach of contract. Other disciplinary issues will be covered on a case by case basis.

Performances and Rehearsal

Company selection and final casting for all performances will be decided by the Company Directors. Audition panels will consist of the Directors and Assistant to the Directors, other Dance Theatre Fairbanks faculty and board members, and important members of the community. All company members will be expected to attend every audition. There are no exceptions. Failure to comply may result in dismissal from the company.

Company rehearsals are held on Fridays from 5:00 to 8:00pm and Saturdays from 11:30 to 2:30pm. Additional rehearsal times may be posted and required of company members. An open level ballet class is held from 4:00 to 5:00pm on Fridays and it is expected that company members attend this class as a warm up. If unable to attend this class, company members are responsible for warming up their bodies and preparing for rehearsal. Dancers will not be permitted to sit in the building and not take the class.

Rehearsals start promptly. Any dancer more than ten minutes late to a rehearsal will be counted as absent and may be subject to disciplinary action. Students missing more than three rehearsals per semester may be pulled from pieces and dismissed from the company if attendance does not improve. Absences from mandatory rehearsals will not be tolerated. All mandatory rehearsals will be posted in writing a minimum of two weeks prior to the rehearsal dates. It is the company member's responsibility to know when and where these rehearsals take place and arrange appropriate transportation. Many students participate in a car pool or take advantage of public transportation. As a parent of a company member it is important to know that a student can be dismissed due to a parent's chronic lateness. Our attendance policies are absolute.

Uniform Requirements

Each female dancer in the company must have her own pink canvas Capezio style 2030 shoes, Pointe shoes (if applicable), Capezio style 1816 convertible tights in ballet pink, black and suntan (or light suntan) without holes or runs, a flesh colored Natalie N235 leotard, a Capezio style CC100 camisole leotard in black and a Eurotard 14" black wrap skirt style 10362. This will be the company uniform leotard and skirt used for lecture demonstrations, photos, and some performances. It is recommended that ladies in the company also have a pair of flesh colored high legged briefs or thong and a flesh colored clear backed clear strapped bra to wear under costumes. Ladies should become proficient at securing their hair in a danceable French Twist as this is the required look for most company related activities.

Male company members' uniform consists of a plain white Bal Togs style 385 shirt, as well as a pair of M. Stevens style 1099 tights in black, and a flesh colored dance belt Capezio style 5936. Gentlemen should also have a pair of black canvas Capezio style 2030 shoes.

All dancers are expected to be dressed appropriately with appropriate hair styles and their own shoes for any class or rehearsal in which they are involved. Therefore, it is recommended that each dancer have tap shoes, character shoes, sneakers and jazz shoes on hand in addition to their required company shoes. Dancers should also have a dance bag and water bottle with their name clearly marked.

As a side note, while we cannot require it, we highly recommend that all dancers who wear glasses also have contacts that they can wear during rehearsals and performances.

Other Obligations

Company members in school must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Student report cards will be submitted to the Assistant to the Directors twice a semester. Dancers that do not meet this requirement may be asked to take a leave of absence from the company or be asked to submit grade reports once a month until grades improve.

Company members are required to perform non-dancing volunteer work each semester. This amounts to 8 hours per semester for senior aged dancers and 5 hours for junior aged dancers. These hours can be performed at DTF or any other valid community location such as the Food Bank, Stone Soup Cafe, etc. Volunteer hours performed at DTF must be written in the logbook kept at the front desk and initialed by a staff member. If volunteer hours are performed off site, a signed note from the director of the volunteer activity must be presented to the Assistant to the Directors. If we do not have documentation we cannot count the activity.

Evaluations

Dance Theatre Fairbanks prides itself on producing high quality dancers and productions. To ensure this continues there will be end of semester evaluations. Each member of the company will receive a written evaluation with feedback from each of their instructors and the company directors. It may also include notes from the Executive Director, board members, costume department, and other persons of importance. The Directors will sit down and present these evaluations to each dancer and a parent. This will help us work together to better ourselves as dancers and members of the community.

The Directors reserve the right to not renew a contract. A contract may not be renewed for a variety of reasons including but not limited to struggles with grades, illness or injury, poor attitude, or disregard for the rules. In the event that a contract is not renewed, a dancer will have the opportunity to re-apply at the next regularly scheduled audition. The decision to not renew a contract may only be overturned by a majority vote from the DTF staff and Board of Directors.

Students and parents will also be asked to review the Directors. Dancers and parents will each be handed a form to fill out. They may then choose to hand it in anonymously or present the evaluation to the Directors in the same manner they received their evaluation. We believe in being accountable to our students and parents just as we expect you to be accountable to us.

Parent Participation

As most company members are under the age of 18, parent involvement is critical. Parents receive emails containing rehearsal and performance times, costumes lists, etc. and are expected to pass this information along to the student in a timely manner. In addition to receiving these notifications themselves, parents may choose to have schedules and other information emailed directly to the student. To choose this option parents must sign a permission slip that allows the Directors to contact a student via email. (*Note: a parent will always receive a copy of correspondence sent to the student.)

Company parents are highly encouraged to volunteer each semester. There are many positions available during our theatre and show weeks and this is the best time and place for you to volunteer. To find out where you can help, contact the Technical Director for the upcoming show. The Technical Director for the Spring 2012 show will be Jessica Cooper. If you have a special skill such as costume construction or advertising, please let the Technical Director know as soon as possible.

Signatures

I certify that I have read and understood all rules and requirements cited above.

Company member _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____

Director _____ Date: _____

Director _____ Date: _____