



BALLET CHICAGO®

Daniel Duell
Artistic Director
Founder

Patricia Blair
Associate Artistic Director
School Director



Student Handbook



BALLET CHICAGO®

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BALLET CHICAGO®

Profile

The School of Ballet Chicago

Ballet Chicago is an internationally recognized professional-track school of ballet dedicated to rigorous technical training in a culture that fosters personal growth. Co-founded in 1988 by acclaimed dancer/artistic director Daniel Duell and former ballerina Patricia Blair, Ballet Chicago believes every aspiring artist deserves the opportunity to explore his or her fullest potential, and strives to make classical ballet training accessible to all talented students who have the desire to dance.

The School curriculum is based on the ballet technique established by George Balanchine, who revolutionized the art form by expanding and streamlining the fundamentals of classical ballet. Ballet Chicago is known for its ability to transform dancers through highly focused guidance, correction, and validation for each student. Teaching impeccable technique and fundamental life skills, our students go on to find success in dance, as well as any other endeavor toward which their passion may take them.

Located in the heart of downtown Chicago, Ballet Chicago offers classes for students age three through adult. Our facility features five sunlight-drenched studios, all with sprung floors, pianos, and Harlequin slip-resistant vinyl flooring. Also featured are modern dressing rooms with showers, ground floor lobby with security, and 19th floor reception.

Ballet Chicago is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

The Ballet Chicago Studio Company

Composed of advanced-level students from the School of Ballet Chicago, the Ballet Chicago Studio Company replicates a professional company experience. The dancers perform masterpiece repertoire in theaters throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Each December the company dances the holiday classic *The Nutcracker* at the historic Athenaeum Theatre, presenting 11 performances, featuring a cast of over 100 performers. In May 2018, the Ballet Chicago Studio Company culminates its 20th Anniversary, and returns to the stage of the Harris Theater for Music and Dance. Within these twenty years, Ballet Chicago Studio Company Alumni have spanned the globe, performing in over 60 companies throughout the United States, South America, and Europe.

The Balanchine Repertory Project

The Balanchine Repertory Project offers our students the opportunity to perform the repertoire of George Balanchine, the 20th century's most influential classical choreographer. Mr. Balanchine founded the School of American Ballet and the New York City Ballet, and is regarded as one of the most significant artistic influences in the world of ballet. A prolific artist, Mr. Balanchine choreographed more than 400 ballets during his lifetime, some 150 of which are performed regularly by ballet companies all over the world. The project is greatly enabled and enhanced by Mr. Duell and Ms. Blair, who are official repetiteurs for the George Balanchine Trust.

Community Outreach and Educational Services Program

The Community Outreach & Educational Program services a broad range of diverse groups within metropolitan Chicago. Audiences range in age from pre-school children to senior citizens and hail from the inner-city neighborhoods of Chicago to the outlying suburbs. Each year, over 10,000 people in metropolitan Chicago experience our programs and performance offerings which include in-school residences, lecture demonstrations, full-scale public performances, and specially designed children's programs.

Ballet Chicago reserves the right to change without notice any statement in this handbook.

Artistic Direction



Daniel Duell
Founder and Artistic Director, Ballet Chicago
Repetiteur, The George Balanchine Trust

Ballet Chicago Artistic Director Daniel Duell is a force in the development of American Classicism, and is passionate about the advancement of ballet technique in its purest and most energetic form. As a dancer with the New York City Ballet from 1972-1987, he was taught and coached daily by George Balanchine. Quickly rising through the ranks, Duell was promoted to Soloist in 1977, and then Principal Dancer in 1979. He performed a wide-ranging repertoire, dancing leading roles in the ballets of George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Peter Martins, and Jacques d'Amboise, among others, including multiple works that were created for him. A Ford Foundation Scholarship recipient from the age of 13, he trained with the Dayton Civic Ballet, then at The School of American Ballet, and at the age of 19 was invited to join NYCB. In addition to his fifteen years at NYCB, he was a featured guest artist for numerous companies nationwide and performed for several PBS Dance in America public television programs. Duell has been choreographing since 1980 and has created works for Ballet Chicago, Ballet Hispanico of New York, Dayton Ballet, Harkness Dance Theatre, The Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and The School of American Ballet. He also collaborated with WTTW Channel 11 in Chicago to design two programs; the first, an Emmy Award winning special (outstanding cultural programming) on Ballet Chicago, and the second entitled "Love in Four Acts," a program showcasing four Chicago choreographers selected by Duell. He was also awarded the 2000 Ruth Page Award from the Chicago Dance Community for the Artistic Direction of The Ballet Chicago Studio Company.

Duell is a frequent lecturer on ballet, music, and the arts, serves on several not-for-profit boards and advisory boards, and has been an adjudicator for the National Endowment for the Arts and The Illinois Arts Council. He is also a repetiteur for The George Balanchine Trust and stages ballets across the United States. He conducts master classes in both the United States and Europe, including repeated teaching engagements at The School of American Ballet, The University of Iowa, and the Bulgarian National Dance Academy in Sophia, Bulgaria. In Spring 2011 and 2012, Duell worked with the Royal Danish Ballet teaching and coaching the company in preparation for its New York Season and its Copenhagen performance of Balanchine/Stravinsky masterworks. Duell is also an Adjunct Professor of Ballet for Indiana University Bloomington.



Patricia Blair
Associate Artistic Director and School Director, Ballet Chicago
Repetiteur, The George Balanchine Trust

Patricia Blair was born in New York City, began studying ballet at the age of 7, and launched her professional performing career at the age of 17. She trained in many schools including North Carolina School of the Arts and Harkness House for Ballet Arts, but attributes her summer at the School of American Ballet with igniting her love for and commitment to the Balanchine Technique®. A fun fact — while a student at North Carolina School of the Arts, she was chosen to dance the role of "Myrtha" in *Giselle* alongside principal dancers Svea Ekloff (Grand Théâtre de Genève) and American Ballet Theatre's Burton Taylor — a true honor. After leaving NCSA, she returned to NYC, studied with David Howard and Nanette Charisse, and subsequently joined the Eglevsky Ballet under the direction of NYCB former principal, Edward Villella. Six years later, while still dancing full time with the company, she became one of the organization's Ballet Masters.

Ms. Blair performed as a guest artist developing new works with numerous NY choreographers, danced in musical theatre productions across the US and on Broadway, and briefly entered the LA motion picture world with *Pavanne for a Dying Princess*, a solo dance film created especially for her.

Artistic Direction Continued...

Ms. Blair is highly committed to the artistic education and personal well-being of young dancers. She began working with children when she was only 15 years old, and to this day, her love and respect of classical ballet and passing that on to young artists is one of her greatest passions. She was an active teacher in New York City at both Harkness House for Ballet Arts and Steps NY. Additionally, she volunteered to teach at-risk youth in churches and community centers.

She came to Chicago in September 1987, at the invitation of former NYCB Principal dancer Daniel Duell, to stage ballets for Chicago City Ballet's fall season. After working together for only three weeks, Duell invited her to relocate to Chicago and join his artistic team. From 1988-1997, she was Ballet Master for the newly established Ballet Chicago. For a brief period, she even filled in as the organization's Interim Executive Director. In 1995 Duell and Blair formed The School of Ballet Chicago where she serves as School Director and Associate Artistic Director of the Ballet Chicago Studio Company. In addition to her work with Ballet Chicago, she has been a guest teacher for the Pacific Northwest Ballet School in Seattle, the National Dance Institute and New Mexico School of the Arts in Santa Fe, and Indiana University in Bloomington. She has also had the honor of teaching at The School of American Ballet in New York City.

Ms. Blair has a lifelong love for the ballets of George Balanchine, and values both the privilege of having performed so many of them, as well as the joy of passing them on to today's dancers. As a repetiteur for the George Balanchine Trust, she is responsible for staging and maintaining a large body of work for Ballet Chicago. She has also staged Mr. Balanchine's ballets for St. Louis Ballet, Indiana University Bloomington, and most recently, Huntsville Ballet.



Ted Seymour
Resident Choreographer, Ballet Chicago

Ted was born in Dallas, Texas where he began his training at The Dallas Metropolitan Ballet. He later moved to Chicago to study with Daniel Duell and Patricia Blair at the School of Ballet Chicago as a member of The Ballet Chicago Studio Company. Ted choreographed his first ballet for BCSC, *Toccata for 5*, in 2001. Later, Ted moved to New York to attend the School of American Ballet. While at SAB, Ted choreographed two ballets for the Student Choreographic Workshop and was invited by Peter Martins to create a new work for The New York Choreographic Institute.

Upon leaving SAB, Ted joined Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, dancing for choreographers such as Edwaard Liang, Nicolo Fonte, and Benoit-Swan Pouffer. Ted joined Suzanne Farrell Ballet in 2007 where he has danced featured roles in Balanchine's *Episodes*, *La Valse*, and the Act II pas de deux from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* among others. He has been a faculty member since 2009, and was named Ballet Chicago's Resident Choreographer, choreographing for the company's mainstage performances and educational programs. Ted choreographed the critically acclaimed *Creatures of Prometheus* for the 2012 International Beethoven Festival, *Celestial Rites* for Ballet Chicago's 25th Anniversary Season at The Harris Theater in 2013, *Intermezzi* for Ballet Chicago's 2014 Spring Repertory Season at The Harris Theater, *Danzon!* for 2015 and *Secrets de Printemps* for 2016.

Admission Information

Students may enroll in all Preparatory Division levels and the first two Student Division levels without an audition.

For Student Division Level 3 and up an audition is required prior to enrollment. Auditions may take place in a scheduled Ballet Chicago class or by special arrangement.

For enrollment information on all levels, parents may contact Danny Valente at dvalente@balletchicago.org, Brittany Hurst at bhurst@balletchicago.org, or by calling the Ballet Chicago main phone number, 312-251-8838, and asking for Mr. Valente or Ms. Hurst.

Evaluations

Evaluations focus on progress and goals achieved, class processes and professionalism. Evaluation meetings can be scheduled through the School Administrator. All student evaluations are kept strictly confidential. Please do not approach teachers or directors without a scheduled meeting, as interrupting instructors during or between classes is disruptive.

Promotions

Many factors contribute to each student's progress in the accomplishment of skills and the understanding of classical ballet technique. Body type, natural flexibility, growth rate of bones, and muscular development, as well as emotional and physiological development are factors in determining progress, and vary from student to student. Other factors include consistent class attendance, and individual commitment to training. As a student advances through the school, **expect that more than one year will be spent in each level**. Promotion to the next class level may take place at any time, as proper individual development is the most important factor in studying classical ballet - a commitment to which the directors, faculty and staff of Ballet Chicago are dedicated.

Attendance - Class

Regular attendance is essential to the development and advancement of each student. Absences, regardless of the reason, can affect a student's ability to move to the next level. Students with exemplary attendance gain a better understanding of their physical abilities, proper ballet technique, and the art form overall.

Attendance - Rehearsal

Attendance and being on time for all rehearsals is required in order to ensure that a student can appear on stage in Ballet Chicago performances. Signing up for these performances is the first step in securing one's ability to be on stage! Please carefully consider your commitment to these activities – **students are required to be at every rehearsal, on time, dressed, and ready to enter the studio or theatre**. Fulfilling these requirements is mandatory. It is the only way the dancer is sufficiently prepared to realize the excitement and benefits of dancing on-stage with confidence and joy.

Tardiness

Being on time for class and rehearsal is as important as attendance. Proper muscular preparation, development, review of material covered, and the progression of each class are carefully planned. Students who are late for class may be asked to observe. This is at the discretion of the teacher.

Absences

If a student is ill and cannot attend class, please notify the School Administrator prior to the start of class. Classes can be made up in the level below the student's assigned level and must be scheduled through the School Administrator. Injured students are required to observe all assigned classes and rehearsals unless prior excusal is given.

Notice of Non-Discriminatory Policy

Ballet Chicago admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship, programs, financial aid programs, and other school-administered programs.



BALLET CHICAGO®

Programs

The Preparatory Division

Ballet Chicago's Preparatory Division classes provide an inspired introduction to the arts with a focus on creativity, group interaction, motor skill development and the joy of self-expression.

- Creative Movement (ages 3-4)
- Pre-Ballet (age 5)
- Introduction to Ballet (ages 6-7)

The Student Division

The School of Ballet Chicago offers a comprehensive training environment that provides students with the skills necessary to pursue a career in classical ballet and inspires each of them to reach their very best potential through the study and discipline of classical ballet. The technique taught at The School of Ballet Chicago is based on standards established by George Balanchine and emphasizes the energy, musicality, articulation, and generosity of spirit that is the hallmark of Balanchine trained dancers.

- Bravo! Boys (ages 7-12)
- Ballet 1 (ages 7 & 8) - no audition required
- Ballet 2 - audition required
- Ballet 3 - audition required
- Ballet 4 - audition required
- Ballet 5 - audition required

The Professional Division

The Professional Division offers a comprehensive training program for the serious student. Admittance to the program is by audition only. Students train daily to master advanced technical skill, consistency, musicality, articulation, and natural expression. Through the Ballet Chicago Studio Company, the program provides professional-level performing experience crucial to a student's development. Composed of advanced level students, the Ballet Chicago Studio Company was inaugurated in 1997 and performs a masterpiece repertoire in theatrical venues throughout metropolitan Chicago. The company's repertoire consists primarily of works by George Balanchine, whose ballets are performed by professional dance companies all over the world. The unique opportunity to perform the ballets of Mr. Balanchine is made possible through special arrangement with the George Balanchine Trust.

- Ballet 6 (ages 14 and up) – audition required
- Ballet 7 (ages 15 and up) – audition required
- Men's classes (ages 15 and up) – audition required

To schedule an audition, contact Brittany Hurst at bhurst@balletchicago.org, or by calling the Ballet Chicago main phone number, 312-251-8838, and asking for Ms. Hurst.

There is a \$25 audition fee.

Career Counseling

Ballet Chicago offers exceptional guidance to students regarding career counseling. When a dancer is ready to seek a professional position, he/she is invited to attend a meeting in which they are introduced to the industry details of auditioning for a ballet company. After the initial group meeting, each dancer is met with and counseled individually. They are taught how to research companies, available positions, and organize audition information. They are assisted with the creation and assembling of all necessary collateral - resume, photos, video selection, and cover letters. As auditioning for companies usually requires travel, they are also advised and supported in their selection of which auditions to attend. Having placed dancers in over 60 companies throughout the United States, Europe, and South America, Ballet Chicago's dedication to its students and the focused guidance offered each individual, has proved to be highly successful.



Performance Opportunities

The Preparatory Division

- The Nutcracker
- Annual School Performance

The Student Division

- The Nutcracker
- Spring Repertory
- Annual School Performance

The Professional Division

- DanceVision
- The Nutcracker
- Spring Repertory
- Annual School Performance

DanceVision

Each fall, Ballet Chicago's *DanceVision* fosters the making of new works by bringing together young choreographers and Ballet Chicago students. The element of live music played by talented young musicians is added through collaboration with Midwest Young Artists. The program culminates in two performances at either the Chicago Cultural Center or Kenwood Academy each year for hundreds of CPS children, sponsored by the International Music Foundation.

The Nutcracker

The Nutcracker is an exciting holiday tradition that has been performed for over a century. Participating in *The Nutcracker* is a wonderful experience and an invaluable part of a young dancer's education. This December, Ballet Chicago will present 11 performances, **8 public and 3 school shows**, of *The Nutcracker*, featuring a cast of over 100 dancers, at the historic Athenaeum Theatre in Chicago's Lake View neighborhood.

Spring Repertory

Through a special arrangement with the George Balanchine Trust, Ballet Chicago gives students the ability to perform a repertoire often reserved for professional companies. Every May at the Harris Theater, The Ballet Chicago Studio Company performs works of George Balanchine as well as Artistic Director Daniel Duell and Resident Choreographer Ted Seymour.

Annual School Performance

The School of Ballet Chicago concludes the school year with our Annual School Performance. This performance is an opportunity for students to demonstrate the skills they have gained throughout the year. It is a wonderful experience and a valuable part of each dancer's education. The showcase features students from the Preparatory and Student Divisions as well as a short excerpt from the Professional Division students.



BALLET CHICAGO®

Summer Training

Summer is the ideal time for a dancer to increase his or her skills and passion for classical ballet. The expanded daily intensive training can catapult a dancer forward, resulting in improved confidence, stamina, focus, technique and artistry.

Children's Programs

Children's Theme Camp

Join us for an enriching summer experience exploring the magical world of ballet! Our youngest students enjoy days filled with dance classes to live music, costume decorating, ballet videos, and healthy (organic, gluten and peanut free) snacks. Each camp session focuses on a different theme from classic children's stories or world-renowned ballets. We even have crafts provided by *American Girl Place, Chicago!* Ballet Chicago's Theme Camp strikes the perfect balance between structure and creativity.

Junior Intensive

Ballet Chicago's Junior Intensive, designed for dancers ages 7-12, gives students the foundation necessary to excel. We inspire students to get excited about beautiful posture and teach them how to combine purity of form with expressiveness. We show them how to increase their capacity to focus their minds as well as their bodies.

Two class levels are available; placement is based on age, amount of prior training and level of advancement. The program culminates with an in-studio viewing for parents and family members. Both in the classroom and in performance, Ballet Chicago builds ability, awareness, and self-confidence.

Professional Training

Ballet Chicago Boot Camp

A one week "get in shape" workshop that prepares dancers for summer training programs. Technique, pointe, and stretch class make up the daily curriculum.

Annual Summer Program

Ballet Chicago's five-week Summer Course offers the serious ballet student an unparalleled training experience. Our comprehensive curriculum is both demanding and inspiring; student improvement is palpable with every class.

Advanced Intensive

Ballet Chicago's two-week Advanced Intensive is a perfect complement to our five-week Summer Course, as learning and perfecting repertory is a key element of the Advanced Intensive. Daily coaching enables the student to gain the skill, musicality, and self-confidence to transform classroom technique into stage-worthy artistry.



BALLET CHICAGO®

Registration and Tuition

To register, complete the registration forms found online at www.balletchicago.org or in the Ballet Chicago School Office. Please return to administration with tuition payment. All students are charged a yearly registration fee. Please add the registration fee to the first payment.

Full payments may be made by check or credit card and are due by the first day of the semester. If you choose to take advantage of the monthly payment option, a credit card must be provided and tuition will be automatically deducted between the 1st and 5th of each month, September through May. In all cases, late payments, bounced checks, or declined credit card charges will be billed a \$30 per incident fee. Once a student is enrolled, annual tuition is non-refundable.

All Student and Professional Division dancers must audition before registering. Full year enrollment is required. If you choose the monthly payment option, you are responsible for a deposit and eight monthly payments until the annual tuition is paid in full.

Once the student is enrolled, tuition is non-refundable.

Preparatory Division

Level	Annual Tuition
Creative Movement (ages 3-4)	\$620
Pre-Ballet (age 5)	\$620
Introduction to Ballet (ages 6-7)	\$620
Bravo! Boys	\$620

Registration Fee: \$35

Student Division

Level	Annual Tuition
<i>Ballet 1</i>	\$955
<i>Ballet 2</i>	\$2,000
<i>Ballet 3</i>	\$3,450
<i>Ballet 4</i>	\$4,500
<i>Ballet 5</i>	\$5,700

Registration Fee: \$50

Professional Division

Level	Annual Tuition
<i>Ballet 6</i>	\$6,750
<i>Ballet 6/7</i>	\$7,800
<i>Ballet 7</i>	\$7,800
<i>Men</i>	\$7,800

Registration Fee: \$75



BALLET CHICAGO®

Dress Requirements

Class Uniform for Girls:

Preparatory Division:

- Creative Movement I and II: Pink tights, any color leotard / pink leather ballet slippers
- Pre-Ballet: Pink tights, buttercup leotard / pink leather ballet slippers
- Introduction to Ballet I and II: Pink tights, light pink leotard / pink leather ballet slippers

Preparatory Division students are permitted to wear tutus and tiaras / tunics and crowns so that they can experience the full joy of being a young ballerina or future male danseur!

Student Division:

- Ballet 1: Pink tights, white camisole leotard / pink leather ballet slippers
- Ballet 2: Pink tights, light blue camisole leotard / pink leather ballet slippers
- Ballet 3: Pink tights, lavender camisole leotard / pink leather ballet slippers
- Ballet 4: Pink tights, navy camisole leotard / pink leather ballet slippers, pointe shoes
- Ballet 5: Pink tights, black camisole leotard / pink leather ballet slippers, pointe shoes

Professional Division:

- Ballet 6: Pink tights, black/white camisole leotard / pink leather ballet slippers, pointe shoes
- Ballet 7: Pink tights, black/white camisole leotard / pink leather ballet slippers, pointe shoes

Class Uniform for Boys and Men:

- All Levels: Grey tights, white t-shirt / white leather ballet shoes and white socks

All female students are required to arrive at Ballet Chicago with their hair in a bun, neatly and securely fastened. Dancers with short hair will need to pull their hair back away from their face and secure with headbands and pins. If you need help, you may request a hair tutorial at the start of the term.

Approved brand and style numbers for tights, leotards, and shoes are available on the Ballet Chicago website and on file at Chicago Dance Supply and Motion Unlimited. Let the clerk know you are a Ballet Chicago student and provide your class level. They will let you know what style to purchase. If purchasing from Discount Dance Supply, you can access the information by logging on to the full year program section of the Ballet Chicago website.

Dance Supply Stores

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| • Chicago Dance Supply
www.chicagodancesupply.com
5301 N. Clark St., 2nd floor
Chicago, IL 60640
773-728-5344 | • Motion Unlimited
www.motionunlimiteddancewear.com
218 S. Wabash, 2nd floor
Chicago, IL 60604
312-922-3330 | • Discount Dance
www.discountdancesupply.com |
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Policies and Procedures

Code of Conduct

It is a policy of Ballet Chicago to promote a healthy and positive environment for all students and staff. Students are expected to behave in a responsible manner and are required to adhere to the School's Policies and Procedures. Students are expected to show exemplary conduct at all times, to treat other students, staff, faculty, volunteers and building personnel with respect. Ballet Chicago strives to ensure that the rules are reasonable and clear. Ballet Chicago reserves the right to dismiss any student whose conduct is found to be unsatisfactory.

The following are prohibited at Ballet Chicago:

- Verbal harassment, physical threats or intimidation, acts of violence of any kind
- Theft, destruction of school property or property of others
- Possession or use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs by any students attending the program
- Firearms or weapons of any kind
- Tobacco: Ballet Chicago facilities are designated non-smoking areas. Illinois State law prohibits persons under the age of 21 to smoke, and prohibits smoking in any public facility and within 30 feet of any building
- Photography or Videography in locker rooms or bathrooms
- Inappropriate use of the internet or social media
- Inappropriate use of cell phones

Violation of any of these rules will lead to immediate disciplinary action. Actions may include (but are not limited to) Expulsion, Dismissal from the Program, Suspension, Probation, Fines. Ballet Chicago reserves the full authority to enforce the Code of Conduct, which may include revocation of scholarships or financial assistance.

Building Rules

Ballet Chicago is located in a public, multi-use building. Parents are responsible for accompanying young children to and from the 19th floor. Parents are welcome to wait for their children in the main reception area. Please refrain from entering other floors of the building. Please also refrain from entering staff offices, unoccupied studios or the wardrobe room.

Attire

Students must wear street clothes to and from the studio.

Photo and Video

Photography or videography (including cell phone photos) is not permitted in any class, rehearsal or performance. Ballet Chicago shall not be liable in any way for images or footage that violate this policy.

Publicity

Enrollment grants Ballet Chicago the permission to use photos and videos from classes, rehearsals, special events, and performances for the purposes of marketing the School and Ballet Chicago performances. Enrollment waives any rights of compensation or ownership thereto. Ballet Chicago promotional material is inclusive of, but not limited to, Ballet Chicago marketing materials, brochures, information packets, videos, website photos, dance related newspaper and magazine articles, Facebook, and Twitter.

Dressing Rooms

Ballet Chicago has four dressing rooms: three female, one male. Both the men and advanced level female students have large dressing rooms with bathrooms and showers. The younger level students have a separate dressing rooms located across from the kitchenette and lounge.



Policies and Procedures Continued...

Casting

Casting is the selection of dancers for specific roles.

Criteria for casting include:

- The dancer's specific technical skills
- The dancer's artistic and interpretive ability
- The dancer's physical traits, including height and overall proportions
- The dancer's ability to learn, retain, and accurately execute choreography
- The degree to which a dancer develops artistically in any role he or she is assigned to learn
- The availability of costumes for a given ballet or role
- How a dancer fits into the overall look of a ballet or dance
- The dancer's degree of professionalism, including:
 - > Quality of daily work in class and rehearsal
 - > Degree of self-motivation toward best efforts
 - > Reliability of attendance
 - > Best possible physical condition
 - > Diligent focus on processes of preparation for daily training
 - > Not participating in gossip or negative speculation
 - > Support of peers, and being a good team member
 - > Positive, respectful attitude and behavior at all times
 - > Constant attention to the call board, as schedule and casting changes can happen at any time
 - > Care for the art form and any given ballet as a whole, not just one's assigned roles
 - > Graceful acceptance of casting decisions, whatever they may be

Criteria for casting do NOT include:

- Any form of parents' volunteer activity for the organization
- Any form of financial donations to the organization
- Student seniority
- Former appearances by a dancer in a given role
- Casting complaints

Other important notes:

- LEARNING ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT CASTING. Dancers learn many more roles than they end up performing as part of their overall education and development of skills.
- DESIGNATED UNDERSTUDIES are responsible for knowing and preparing any assigned understudy role whether or not they are cast to perform it. Illnesses and injuries happen unpredictably, and AN UNDERSTUDY'S READINESS TO PERFORM ANY ROLE UNDERSTUDIED AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE IS A STANDARD PART OF THE PROFESSION.
- CASTING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME.
- A PARENT'S ROLE IS TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILD'S SELF-ESTEEM REGARDLESS OF THEIR CHILD'S DISAPPOINTMENT OVER CASTING. WEATHERING DISAPPOINTMENTS WITH GRACE IS A LIFE SKILL IMPORTANT TO A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT.
- PARENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO APPROACH OR ACCOST ANY MEMBER OF BALLET CHICAGO'S FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION, OR ARTISTIC STAFF ABOUT CASTING.



Policies and Procedures Continued...

Communication

Ballet Chicago relays schedules and information regarding important future events in three different ways:

Callboard: Schedules and other important information are posted on the callboard

Emails: Ballet Chicago sends weekly e-blasts and/or emails with schedules and pertinent information

Website: Information is also posted on the parent's section of the Ballet Chicago website

Call Board

The callboard is a means of disseminating information that is an industry standard in the world of ballet and theatre. Schedules and important information are physically posted in a specific location and artists are expected to refer to the callboard as their primary source of information. The Ballet Chicago callboard is located in the main hallway opposite Studio 3. The Athenaeum Theatre callboard is located in the main backstage hallway, and the Harris Theater callboard is located in the Green Room. It is essential that dancers know their class level and to which rehearsals or roles they have been assigned. This enables the participant to be accurate regarding what information to look for on the call board. It is the dancer's responsibility to check the callboard upon arrival and repeatedly throughout the day. For our younger dancers, parents or legal guardians are required to check the callboard for their child.

Website

The parent's section of our website requires a username (your email address) and password (supplied to you by Ballet Chicago), in order to gain access. The login for the parent's section can be found on our website and you can choose between full year program or summer, depending upon which season it is. You can only gain access to the parent's section of the website if your dancer is enrolled at our school. Once you are enrolled you should receive a password from our staff.

Please note that schedules are subject to change, especially during performance season, so please check the callboard frequently. Dancers and or legal guardians of children participating at Ballet Chicago, agree to know their own class level, what learning assignment or role they have been cast in, and agree to check the call board upon arrival and before leaving the studio. You are responsible for your own schedule.

School Closings

In the event of inclement weather, please go to the Ballet Chicago website, www.balletchicago.org. Any cancellations will be posted on the home page. The School of Ballet Chicago generally follows Chicago Public School Districts guidelines for school closings.

Liability

Ballet training and the exercises associated with it places unusual stress on the body and carry with them the risk of physical injury. The School of Ballet Chicago, its faculty, staff or board members shall not be liable in any way for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted during attendance at the School or any of its related functions. It should also be understood that dance instruction involves kinetic corrections that may include physically touching students as part of regular class work and rehearsals.



BALLET CHICAGO®

School Calendar

Semester Schedule

- First Semester
- Second Semester

September 5, 2018 - January 19, 2019
January 22, 2019 - June 1, 2019

Important Dates

- Registration Deadline
- Parent Open House
- Nutcracker Orientation Mtg - MANDATORY
- Nutcracker Registration Packets Due
- Nutcracker Rehearsals Begin
- Fall Fundraiser, Sunset Soirée
- Nutcracker Photo Day (Dolls & Mice)
- Nutcracker Photo Day (Angel, Party, Polli)
- Classes Resume
- Summer Registration Begins
- Class Observation/Fall Semester Ends
- Spring Gala
- Ballet Chicago Boot Camp
- Children's Theme Camp
- Junior Intensive
- Summer Course
- Summer Course Observation
- Advanced Intensive
- Advanced Intensive Observation

Wednesday, September 5, 2018
Saturday, September 15, 2018
Saturday, September 15, 2018
Saturday, September 22, 2018
Saturday, September 22, 2018
Sunday, September 23, 2018
Saturday, November 3, 2018
Saturday, November 10, 17, 2018
Monday, January 7, 2019
Monday, January 7, 2019
Saturday, January 19, 2019
Thursday, April 26, 2019
June 17-21, 2019
June 17-21, 2019
June 17-21, 2019 & July 29 - August 9, 2019
June 25 - July 27, 2019
Friday, July 26, 2019
July 29 - August 9, 2019
Friday, August 9, 2019

Auditions

- Nutcracker Auditions
- Summer Program Auditions

Saturday, September 15, 2018
Sunday, January 27, 2019

Dress-Up Days (optional)

- Halloween
- Valentine's Day
- St. Patrick's Day
- Derby Day

Saturday, October 27, 2018
Saturday, February 9, 2019
Saturday, March 16, 2019
Saturday, May 4, 2019

Performances

- DanceVision Sneak Peeks
- DanceVision @ Chicago Cultural Center
- Dance Along Nutcracker @ Chicago Cultural Center
- **Nutcracker School Performances @ Athenaeum**
- **Nutcracker Public Performances @ Athenaeum**
- Spring Rep Sneak Peeks
- **Ballet Chicago Studio Company Spring Rep @ Harris**
- **Annual School Performance (All School) @ Athenaeum**
- Summer Course Performance @ Studebaker
- Advanced Intensive Performance @ Studebaker

November 2 and 3, 2018
Thursday, November 15, 2018
Sunday, December 2, 2018
December 5, 6 and 13, 2018
December 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 1, 2018
April 12 and 13, 2019
Saturday, May 11, 2019
Sunday, May 19, 2019
Thursday, July 25, 2019
Friday, August 9, 2019

Holidays

- Fall Break
- Thanksgiving Break
- Winter Break
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- President's Day
- The School of Ballet Chicago Spring Break
- The Ballet Chicago Studio Company Spring Break
- Memorial Weekend Break
- Independence Day

October 6-8, 2018
November 21-24, 2018 (BCSC rehearses on 24 & 25)
December 17 - January 5, 2019
January 21, 2019
February 18, 2019
April 14 - April 20, 2019
April 18 - April 20, 2019
May 25-27, 2019
Thursday, July 4, 2019



Supporting Ballet Chicago

Ballet Chicago provides one of the highest caliber curriculums in the nation. We are the only Midwest school and company singularly dedicated to sustaining and developing upon the artistic legacy of New York City Ballet founding director, George Balanchine, which includes permission from The Balanchine Trust to perform select ballets from the master's opus.

We are committed to a positive working environment, to providing individual attention to each student, live piano music for all classes, and offering multiple main-stage performance opportunities for our dancers.

Ballet Chicago is a not-for-profit organization, and tuition covers only 50% of the cost of operating our school.

Gifts from parents, both past and present, are vital to the organization. Parents can donate through various means:

Performance Sponsorships

Masterworks Society Membership

Fall Fundraiser

Nutcracker Gifts

Calendar end-of-year Solicitation

Spring Gala and Paddle Raise

Fiscal end-of-year Solicitation

The money raised from these drives is essential in helping us bridge the very real gap between tuition and the actual cost of running Ballet Chicago. Visit balletchicago.org to view giving options and donor benefits, or to make your donation easily and securely online.

There is no correlation between parents' personal gifts to the School and a child's progress in Ballet Chicago classes or in performance casting.