

## **YMCA INSPIRATION DANCE COMPANY 2011-12 DANCE PROGRAM GUIDE**

Welcome to the YMCA Inspiration Dance Company's 2011-12 Dance Program! We are pleased to welcome back so many returning students, and are looking forward to meeting our new students and families. Our program is a comprehensive 32-week program that roughly follows the academic calendar, beginning on September 26, 2011 and ending on June 2, 2012 with a professional dance production at The Historic Elsinore Theatre in downtown Salem. Each month, students learn new material and review previously learned steps. Students are encouraged to begin dance classes in September and attend regularly throughout the year to enjoy the best dance experience and to make the most progress. Preparation of dance technique and work on dance steps for the June Recital dances begins with the first dance class of the season! We will accept new students through January in some of the dance classes, at the discretion of the Dance Director. See you in class and get ready to...Get Up and DANCE!!!

### **The Program Guide**

This program guide is designed to give you information that will help you and your student dancer get the most out of your dance experience with the Inspiration Dance Company (IDC). Please read it carefully and keep it for reference throughout the dance year. Our goal is to provide a stimulating, fun, creative, and physically challenging experience for all of our dancers, and to provide an open line of communication between our families, our instructors and the dance director throughout the dance year.

Students registering with the IDC are signing up for the entire 32-week program at the time of registration. The full calendar program runs 36 weeks, with four holiday weeks during which the IDC does not run classes: Thanksgiving Week November 21-26, 2011; 2-Week Winter Holiday December 19, 2011-January 1, 2012; and Spring Break Week March 26-31, 2012. These are the only non-class days between September 26, 2011 and June 2, 2012. Even if school is closed for an additional holiday, IDC classes are still held. Tuition payments are divided into eight equal installments for easy payment. If for any reason your student dancer does not wish to finish out the entire season, we ask only that we receive written notice of intent to withdraw at least 15 days prior to the last class that the student will attend. More detail on cancellation procedure is outlined in the "Tuition and Fees - Cancellations" section on page 4.

### **Mission**

The Inspiration Dance Company at the Salem Family YMCA is firmly committed to bringing the highest quality dance education to all children regardless of their ability because we understand that arts education is essential to children's overall education, that arts education promotes self-esteem and positive social skills, and that arts education develops and encourages a child's creative thinking skills. Further, the IDC is committed to assisting families financially to meet their goal of providing quality arts education to their children by providing financial assistance to those with demonstrable need of assistance.

### **Why Enroll in Dance Classes?**

First of all, because they are a lot of fun!

Second, because they keep you and/or your child physically fit!

And third, because they provide much-needed arts education!

***Research has shown that participation in arts programs:***

Improves children's overall academic performance.

Makes children more likely to have higher test scores than those with little to no involvement.

Develops skills needed by the 21st century workforce: critical thinking, creative problem solving, effective communication, teamwork and more.

Teaches children to be more tolerant and open.

Allows children to express themselves creatively and bolsters their self-confidence.

Keeps students engaged in school and less likely to drop out.

As state budgets for education are diminished, the arts are often the first area to be cut, and so it becomes ever more important for parents to seek out those arts experiences for their children. We applaud you for your commitment to bringing this important aspect of education to your child. We at the IDC will support you in this endeavor through providing strong leadership with experienced faculty, clear communication regarding classes and special events, and by providing financial assistance to help meet tuition costs.

**The First Day of Class**

At the IDC we aim to make each child feel comfortable at their first dance class.

However, some new students will feel nervous in this new situation. We appreciate your helping them with their first day of class by bringing them to the YMCA a few minutes before their scheduled class time in comfortable dancewear. Prior to class start time, please wait outside of the Kells Room Dance Studio (or Anderson Room for Boys Hip Hop and Break Dance on Mondays and Intermediate Modern Dance on Wednesdays) until the door to the studio is opened by the instructor. Even if yours is the first class of the day, your instructor may be working on class plans.

***What to Bring***

It is very important that your child has gotten a good night's sleep so that they have lots of energy to dance. Please check the next section for the appropriate dance attire for your child's class. Do not worry if you don't yet have the proper dancewear for their first class. Just bring them in loose, stretchy clothing. Your child's teacher can answer questions regarding dancewear and dance shoes for class. You may send your child to dance class with a water bottle. Students will be given a water break during class at which time they may use a water bottle or get water from the drinking fountain outside of the dance studio. **NO FOOD OR DRINK EXCEPT WATER IS ALLOWED IN THE STUDIO AT ANY TIME.**

***Dance Attire for Class***

The following is a list of required dancewear for the IDC dance classes:

**Creative I, I/II, II, II/III and Creative III:** Girls: Tights, leotard, pink leather ballet shoes with leather soles (no "slippers" of any kind), dance skirt okay but not required, hair up and secured away from face.

Boys: T-shirt, sweat pants, and bare feet (no socks) or black leather ballet slippers.

**Pre-Ballet and Ballet:** Girls: Black leotard, pink tights, pink leather ballet shoes, hair in tight bun. Pointe: Bring both slippers and pointe shoes to first class. If you do not yet have pointe shoes, do not purchase before consulting the instructor at the first class.

Boys: Black t-shirt, black stretch pants or tights and black leather ballet shoes.

**Pre-Hip Hop, Hip Hop & Break Dance:** Loose comfortable clothing (long pants – no shorts please) with non-marking, clean tennis shoes. NO SOCKS OR BARE FEET, PLEASE! Knee pads required for Break Dance and encouraged for other levels.

**Modern Dance:** Neat dance attire, such as leotard, tights, jazz pants. Bare feet or dance sandals. See instructor at first class for specific dancewear requirements.

**Jazz/Lyrical:** Leotard, black jazz pants, black jazz shoes and/or lyrical sandals. See instructor at first class for dance shoe preference.

**Pre-Tap/Tap:** Leotard (any color), tights or jazz stretch pants, tap shoes. Pre- and Beginning levels, please consult instructor on first day of class for advice on tap shoes.

### ***Hair***

Hair for boys and girls in all dance classes must be secured away from the face. If hair is long enough to cover the eyes it must be secured with a hair-tie, headband, securely tied bandana and/or barrettes and bobbypins.

### ***Where to Buy Dance Supplies***

At this time there is no dance supply store in Salem. The IDC recommends two on-line dance suppliers: Curtain Call for Class ([www.curtaincallforclass.com](http://www.curtaincallforclass.com) / 800-677-7053) and Discount Dance Supply ([www.discountdance.com](http://www.discountdance.com) / 800-328-7107). Both companies are great to work with. Websites are easy to use with a detailed on-screen sizing chart, their phone sales associates are very helpful, and returns and exchanges are processed quickly with no questions asked. Brochures for Curtain Call for Class are also available from your dancer's instructor.

If you prefer doing your dance shopping in person, some supplies are available at Target in Salem. However, it is important to purchase "real" ballet slippers for Creative Dance and Ballet classes. These should be full leather with a suede sole (standard ballet slipper from any dance supply company). The cloth or satin "slippers" that are sold at local discount and department stores are too slippery and do not fit the foot well enough for the children to dance well in them. The leather ballet slippers must be purchased either from a dance supply company or at a dancewear store. Two dancewear stores in the Portland area are: The Leotard at 2432 N.E. MLK in Portland, phone # (503) 284 9244, Dance Togs at 3835 SW Hall Blvd in Beaverton, phone # (503) 644-7545.

### **Tuition and Fees**

#### ***Monthly Tuition Payments***

This year, the Salem Family YMCA requires that IDC program members pay their tuition through Automatic Withdrawal (EFT) from a Bank Account, Debit Card or Credit Card. Tuition payments for the 32-week program are divided into eight (8) equal monthly payments, with the first payment due at time of registration and the remaining 7 payments deducted from your account or card each month on the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month from November 5, 2011-May 5, 2012. Families unable to participate in the EFT method of payment must pay the first four months of tuition at the time of registration and the second four months of tuition on February 1, 2012. Registration for a dance class is for the entire 32-weeks. Students not wishing to take dance class for the entire year have the option of canceling enrollment at any time. Please see "Cancellations" section below for details. **Students registering for multiple classes receive \$10 off of the monthly tuition per month for each additional class after the first class is paid at the full monthly rate.**

### ***Annual Registration Fee***

There is a one-time per student annual registration and processing fee of \$30 due at the time of registration. This is in addition to the first monthly tuition installment which is also due at the time of registration. **No student can be registered for a dance class or be held a spot in a dance class before the \$30 registration fee and the first month's class tuition is paid.**

### ***Financial Assistance***

Financial assistance is available to those who qualify. Please stop by the YMCA Front Desk to pick up an application for financial assistance. This application must be completed before registration. After completing your application, you will receive written notification of your award through the mail. Please bring this letter with you when registering. If you have already registered and paid the first month's tuition before applying, you may still receive financial assistance for the remainder of the year's tuition.

### ***Cancellations***

If your student decides not to finish out the season, you may cancel his or her registration in the dance program by giving written notice of your intent to cancel by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to when he/she will stop attending. (For example, if your tuition has been paid on February 5<sup>th</sup> for the month of February and you decide that you will not be continuing dance classes in March, the IDC must receive written confirmation of your cancellation of registration by February 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid being charged for tuition on March 5<sup>th</sup>.) The Front Desk Staff have cancellation forms which must be filled out and signed, then returned to them for processing. You will receive a confirmation e-mail within two weeks of filing the cancellation form. Cancellations may also be processed via email by sending a notice of intent to cancel to Director Valerie Bergman at [inspirationdanceco@yahoo.com](mailto:inspirationdanceco@yahoo.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to the month the student will stop attending classes.

### ***Recital-related Fees***

The annual dance recital is an exciting culmination of the dance season, with every student getting to perform onstage in a professionally produced dance production at Salem's finest theater, The Historic Elsinore Theatre. Fees for dancers' costumes and tickets to the show are in addition to the class tuition. Please refer to the section titled "Spring Dance Recital" on page 7 for details.

### ***Refunds***

The IDC does not issue cash refunds except in the unusual instance of a dance class being cancelled. At the discretion of the Dance Director, a credit voucher may be issued to a student on a per case basis.

### **Communication**

#### ***Questions and Concerns***

All questions regarding the dance program should be communicated to the Dance Director, either by e-mail ([inspirationdanceco@yahoo.com](mailto:inspirationdanceco@yahoo.com)) or phone (503-399-2784). Appointments for meetings with the Dance Director can also be scheduled via e-mail or phone. Feel free to direct questions about dance attire, hair, etc to your dancer's instructor, but please refrain from long conversations with instructors before and after dance class, as they often have only a few minutes to transition between classes. If you

want to have a more in-depth conversation with the instructor regarding progress in class, suggestions for practice, etc, it is best to schedule an appointment with them in advance.

### ***Announcements and Schedules***

Studio announcements will be posted on the bulletin board in the glass case next to the Kells Room. Please check this board each week when you bring your dancer to class. A monthly calendar will also be posted here which will list holidays and special event days. In addition, important announcements will be sent out via e-mail. Please be sure that the email address you have given us on your registration form is one that is checked regularly.

### ***Electronic Communication***

Our primary communication tool between the IDC and our students and families is via email. Throughout the year, we will send e-mail notifications regarding upcoming IDC and/or community events, notification of closures due to weather or other unforeseen event, and recital news in the spring. Please be sure that you have provided on your registration form an up-to-date, regularly checked e-mail address. If you do not have access to email please arrange to receive updates from another IDC participant. If your e-mail address changes during the year, please notify the IDC immediately. Our e-mail address is: [inspirationdanceco@yahoo.com](mailto:inspirationdanceco@yahoo.com)

Our office phone # is: 503-399-2784

YMCA Front Desk #: 503-399-2755

### ***Parent Meetings***

A few times during the year, parent meetings will be scheduled. These are a great time to meet all of the IDC instructors and other parents, keep up-to-date on studio events, and ask questions about the dance program. Parent meeting times will be announced well in advance of the scheduled date. The most important one of these will be in late April or early May regarding the Spring Dance Recital.

### **IDC Faculty and Staff**

#### ***Experienced, Professional Dancers***

The IDC faculty is comprised of some of the most highly trained dancers in the Salem area. All of our instructors are university graduates with degrees in Dance and the Arts. Three of our instructors are current or former professional dancers with the touring company Rainbow Dance Theatre.

#### ***Highly Trained Dance Educators***

In addition, all of the IDC faculty members are highly trained dance educators, with years of experience in the field of arts education. In addition to their university training, the IDC training system includes in-service training with the Dance Director, mentoring of new faculty by experienced faculty, and off-site workshops and conferences for faculty members.

#### ***Sharing a Passion for Dance***

The third key ingredient that each of our faculty brings to the IDC Dance Program is a love of dance and a passion for sharing this love of dance with students young and old. They bring to their dance classes a unique balance of discipline and creative fun, providing a safe and stimulating environment for individual and group learning.

## ***Ballet Syllabus***

Ballet instruction at the IDC follows the Russian (Vaganova) syllabus as interpreted and modernized by New York City's Finis Jhung. Mr. Jhung has had a long and distinguished career, first as a ballet dancer with the Harkness and Joffery Ballet Companies, then as a Ballet master and mentor to professional Ballet and modern dancers in New York and throughout the world. He currently teaches Ballet at the Alvin Ailey Dance School in New York City and is Ballet Master for Broadway's smash hit, *Billie Elliot*, training all of the young men who play the title role.

## ***Meet the IDC 2011-12 Faculty***

The IDC Open House from 6:00-8:00 PM on Tuesday, September 20th is a great opportunity to meet the faculty of the IDC. The Open House will feature performances by faculty members, sample mini-classes for all ages and levels, meet and greet with the director and instructors, and open registration for all classes. Invite your friends to attend with you so they can join in the excitement!

Our faculty this year includes our best veteran instructors: popular Hip Hop, Broadway Jazz/Tap and Break Dance instructor *Carl Massey*; and lead Ballet instructor *Hanna Coreson* who will be teaching three levels of Pre-Ballet and Ballet as well as Jazz/Lyrical. These two amazing instructors will be joined once again by Western Oregon University (WOU) Dance and Musical Theater graduate *Andee Fischer* who will add to IDC's diverse class offerings with classes in Musical Theater and Tap as well as two new classes: Pre-Tap and a Ballet-Jazz combo class. In addition, *Miss Andee* will lead our youngest dancers to delight in Creative Dance. *Jessica Kirkland* returns to the IDC full-time this year, leading classes in Hip Hop, Pre-Hip Hop, Creative Dance, Modern Dance, Fosse and Ballet. This fall *Jessica* will introduce her popular summer class, Mommy and Me for those littlest dancers ages 6 months to 2 years along with their dancing Moms and Dads!

## **Studio Etiquette**

### ***Attendance and Punctuality***

We appreciate your bringing your dancer to class regularly and on-time. Both regular attendance and on-time arrival for class are important for your dancer to get the most out of their dance experience. Lateness also disrupts the flow of the dance class, and can be especially unsettling to the other dance students in the class. Please arrive soon enough that your child has time to put on dance shoes, use the bathroom if needed, etc. before the start of class. With regular attendance, the dance student will gain greater confidence, as skills are introduced and then built on throughout the year. We want everyone to enjoy their dance experience and to take pride in themselves as they progress through the year.

### ***Class Observation***

**We ask that parents not stay in the dance studio during their child's class.** We have found that the students focus better on the teacher and their fellow dance students without a parent in the room. There are windows in the studio doors through which you may observe the class. From time to time, you will be invited in toward the end of the class period to see what the students have learned and to encourage them with your positive comments and applause. Some classes may also prepare a short dance routine to present in the studio. We hope that you will enjoy your "time off" and explore the

other resources that the Salem Family YMCA has to offer, knowing that your child is busy creating and learning in the studio.

**The one exception to this is on the first day of a student's participation in their dance class. If you feel that they will be more comfortable getting to know their teacher with you present, you are welcome to stay in the studio for that first class.**

### **Spring Dance Recital**

Every year IDC puts on a top quality, professional production to highlight our dancers and all of their hard work. This year the Spring Dance Recital will be held on June 2, 2012 at The Historic Elsinore Theatre in downtown Salem. This is a magical night for all of the dancers, one that will create memories that last a lifetime. It is an opportunity given to all dance students who desire to be a part of it and have been continual participants in the dance program from their first date of enrollment. **However, the recital is optional and not a requirement for registered dancers.**

### ***Recital Costumes***

Costumes for the dancers are ordered months in advance of the recital. Costumes are made to order by top costume supply companies which require 3-4 months advance purchase when ordering. Costume fees for the 2012 Recital are as follows: \$55 per costume per student in Creative Dance classes, \$70 per costume per student for all other classes, PER CLASS. There are no refunds on costume fees.

**Costume Fee Payment Schedule:** Costume fees are due in full by November 30, 2011. Beginning on December 1, 2011, an additional \$20 per costume late fee will be assessed. Students must pay all costume fees by January 15, 2011 to guarantee that they will have a costume for the June 2 Recital.

### ***Recital Tickets***

Tickets for the recital, priced at \$10 per ticket, will go on sale one month in advance of the recital. First purchase choice will be given to families with dancers in the show. Due to rising costs for the production of the Recital at the Elsinore Theatre, the IDC will no longer be able to offer a complimentary ticket for a member of each student's family. The IDC will continue to give each student a complimentary ticket so that they may sit in the auditorium to enjoy the other dances in the Act in which they do not perform themselves. In addition, we strongly encourage each family to buy 8 tickets to the show in order to ensure that we have a full audience to cheer on our talented dancers and to help cover the high cost of this professionally produced concert. Please help with this by inviting extended family members and friends to come to the Recital. They might just decide to join an IDC dance class after seeing the magic onstage!

### ***Picture Day***

Picture day is on a weekend day during the second half of May. Individual and class photographs of the dance students in their recital dance costumes are taken by a professional photographer. Students may place orders for pictures with the photographer on Picture Day, but are not required to do so. We do ask that all dance students attend to have their picture taken with the other members of their dance class. These class photos decorate the walls of the Kells Studio and serve as a remembrance of the magic of Recital night.

## **Calendar**

### **2011**

September 1: Registration for IDC classes opens, with discounts offered for early registration and for full-year tuition payment.

September 20, 6:00-8:00 PM: IDC Open House at the Salem Family YMCA. Last day for early-registration discount.

September 26: IDC Dance classes begin.

**November 21-27: Thanksgiving Holiday, no IDC classes.**

November 28: IDC classes resume.

November 30: Last day to pay recital costume fees before \$10 late fee applies.

November 28-December 10: Costume measurements taken during class.

**December 19, 2011 – January 1, 2012: Winter Holiday, no IDC classes.**

### **2012**

January 2: IDC Classes resume.

January 15: Last day to pay recital costume fees with \$20 late fee. *Students are not guaranteed a costume for the Recital if fees not paid by this date.*

February 1: Final ½ year tuition due for those not on EFT.

**March 26-31: Spring Holiday, no IDC classes.**

April 2: IDC Classes resume.

April - May: Costume fittings in class.

April: Recital Parent Meeting, time and date TBA.

May 7: Recital tickets go on sale at the Salem Family YMCA for families of show performers, maximum of ten per family during this first week of sales. First day to place advance orders for program ads and flowers.

May 14: Recital tickets go on open sale at the YMCA and the Elsinore Theatre.

May 20: Picture Day. Last day to order recital program ads and flowers.

June 1: Technical and dress rehearsals at the Historic Elsinore Theatre.

June 2: Technical and dress rehearsals continue at the Historic Elsinore Theatre.

June 2, 6:30 PM: IDC Spring Dance Recital at the Historic Elsinore Theatre!

### ***Holidays and weather-related closures***

The IDC follows the Salem-Keizer School District's decisions on weather-related closures. Saturday classes will be held unless roads are impassable, in which case email notification of IDC closure will be sent out, and the YMCA front desk staff will be informed at least one hour prior to the scheduled class time.

Except for the four holiday weeks listed in the above calendar, the IDC holds dance classes every day, Monday – Saturday.

### **The Magic of Dance**

Thank you for joining us at the IDC to celebrate the magic of dance! Whether you are joining the IDC for the first time or have been with our program for many years, we value your participation and look forward to sharing with you and your child our passion for the art of dance. See you in class soon so get ready to....

GET UP AND DANCE!

Valerie Bergman, Director

Inspiration Dance Company

[inspirationdanceco@yahoo.com](mailto:inspirationdanceco@yahoo.com) / 503-399-2784