

# *Perseverance Dance Company*

The Perseverance Dance Company is a competitive dance team consisting of dancers ages 9-18. PDC dances under the direction of Missy Ridgway. Perseverance dancers compete at competitions and conventions on a regional & national scale. PDC provides an opportunity for dancers to train and compete at a high level. PDC is always looking for dancers who are willing to work hard and enjoy team spirit.

The director, Missy Ridgway, is the founder and owner of PDC. Perseverance is recognized for their incredible technique and performances that are simply breathtaking. Specializing in jazz and lyrical, *Perseverance Dance Company* is widely known throughout the dance world as one of the top dance companies in the nation.

## **Auditions**

PDC auditions will take place on Wednesday, June 10 at Impact Dance Studio in Countryside, IL. The company list will be emailed 10 days after the audition. All dancers chosen are asked to return a commitment agreement along with a non-refundable \$250.00 deposit no later than July 1, 2009. This deposit fee will be put towards costumes in the fall.

## **Time Commitment**

For the most part, PDC dancers take class and rehearse as a unit. Although PDC does have dancers ranging in ages, they are not broken up into different age groups/companies like Resilience Dance Company will be. PDC will compete in the junior, teen & senior categories, however they will be rehearsed in a blocked out rehearsal schedule.

## Mandatory Weekly Class Schedule

All classes & rehearsals will take place at Impact Dance Studio Countryside. The address is 6475 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525 (708) 469-7678.

Tuesday 6:00-9:00 pm Jazz/Lyrical Technique – Missy Ridgway

Wednesday 6:30-9:30 Ballet – Lizzie MacKenzie/Reggie Harris

\*Saturday 12:00-7:30 pm – Rehearsals

Sunday rehearsals will be required as the competition season approaches

\*Juniors typically rehearse from 12:00-4:30 pm & the Teen & Seniors cross over 3:00-7:30 pm

## **Monthly Tuition**

- The PDC monthly tuition is \$415.00. This cost covers 4 Tuesdays, 4 Wednesdays, & 4 Saturdays per month the first 5 numbers your dancer is in. Once a dancer is involved in 6 or more numbers, the fee increases to \$425.00 per month (this includes production, large groups and small groups. It does not include solos, duos and/or trios.).
- Tuition is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month. Please plan ahead, tuition is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> regardless if there is class on that day.
- Dancers will not be charged for days no class or rehearsal is given (i.e. if it is a competition weekend, dancers will not be charged for the Saturday).
- When it is necessary to have extra practices, other than the regularly scheduled time, the fee is \$11 per hour. The need for any extra rehearsals will be determined by the director and are usually during competition season. When needed, extra rehearsals are often scheduled for Fridays & Sundays.
- The director releases a monthly rehearsal calendar and the amount due for that month will be stated on the top along with regular monthly tuition on the first of every month.

### **Late Fees & Returned Checks**

There is a \$20 late fee imposed on the second of the month if tuition is not received by the first. For each 7 days your payment is late, there will be an additional \$20 added until account is up to date. Please feel free to submit a post dated check to ensure your payment is received on time.

A \$30.00 fee will be collected for all returned checks.

### **Costumes**

The costumes are designed by the director and made by Bodywaves, Adriana Ashton. Each costume carries an individual fee, but the *average* cost is \$250.00 per costume. For the 2008-09 dance year, the least expensive costume fee was \$100.00 and the most expensive costume fee was \$385.00. Costume deposits are required. As you commit to additional numbers (such as an additional group number, solo, duet and/or trio's), an additional \$100 deposit is due at that time. The balance for that costume will be due within 10 days of the statement date showing your outstanding balance due.

### **Competitions & Conventions**

The director will choose all PDC events. PDC will be required to attend a total of 7 competitive events:

- 4 conventions which include workshop classes and competition
- 3 dance competitions (no classes involved)

#### Example of competition & convention fees (these are approximations)

Convention classes – \$125.00-\$200.00 per dancer

Competition fees – \$35.00-\$55.00 per dancer per group number, \$40.00-\$50.00 for duo/trios & \$70.00+ for solos

PDC will also travel to an out of state nationals in the summer of 2010. Nationals will be required for all PDC members. Please be sure to budget for this.

### **Teacher travel & accommodation fee**

The director's surcharge for PDC events is \$10.00 per dancer, per dance. This means if your dancer is involved in 4 competition dances, an additional \$40.00 will be adding to your invoice for that convention/competition. This fee covers her time and out of pocket expenses while she is at the event. The nationals surcharge is \$15.00 per dancer, per dance.

### **Solos, Duos & Trios**

If dancers choose to perform a solo or duo/trio, the fee is \$70 per hour for solos and \$50 per hour per dancer for a duo or trio. There will not be any choreography fees collected in addition to this fee. The director will select dancers who would be best paired together for duos & trios. All solos and duo/trios are totally optional. Permission is needed from the director in order to compete any outside choreographers dance.

### **Outside Choreographers & Master Classes**

It is extremely important for artists of any kind, especially dancers, to work with different teachers in addition to their regular training. To ensure the dancers versatility, the director will arrange for outside choreographers to teach and choreograph competition dances for PDC. These teachers will give master classes which will be reserved only for Perseverance dancers. These classes will be mandatory for all dancers to attend and their classes will carry additional fees.

In addition to the master classes the choreographer provides, they may choreograph one or more numbers for PDC. The director and or guest teacher will choose the group in which he/she will be working with. Parents and dancers always have the opportunity to say "yes" or "no" to an additional dance. Please

decide this before this choreographer arrives. The fee for class and choreographer varies on the choreographer. Each one carries a separate fee. Typically, we pay for choreographer's class fee, airline ticket, hotel stay, and food. This is divided among all the team members. The choreographer's fee for the number is divided among the chosen dancers who will be performing in their dance.

### **Food at Competitions**

Food is coordinated for the PDC dancers at all conventions and competitions. The goal is to stay under \$10.00 per meal. Each event will have a different team assigned to handle the food for that weekend. Once the competition schedule is released, the amounts of needed meals will be determined. At that time, parents will be asked for the money to cover their dancer's meals for the weekend. This will also include beverages (water/Gatorade) and snacks for the weekend. Over the past few years, PDC has made many friendships with different restaurants and tend to work out deals for our dancers.

### **Dressing rooms at competitions**

Unless asked for assistance by the director, PDC moms are asked to remain in the audience during the competitions. This is to ensure the dressing rooms remain calm and run as smoothly as possible.

### **Extras**

The following makeup items will be provided for each dancer: 3 piece eye shadow kit, eye primer, blush, lip liner, lipstick, liquid eye liner & pencil eye liner. Because we do not know exactly what the items will cost a year from now, the estimated cost of the items is about \$65.00. A group makeup lesson will also be offered.

All dancers will need a PDC warm-up suit. The cost for the suit will be about \$160.00. This cost includes both a Puma jacket and pants, and all embroidery of the logo and dancer's names.

### **Attendance & Absence Policy**

Any and all absences must be pre-approved by the director only. Groups cannot rehearse as a unit when people are missing. PDC and the director expect 100% commitment and professionalism from all of her dancers at all times.

- Please note: when dancers miss scheduled rehearsals, most likely extra rehearsals will be called to make up for that. Please make sure it is absolutely necessary that your dancer miss a rehearsal time because it could mean additional charges for extra rehearsals scheduled at a later date.
- PDC has class and rehearsals on school breaks and holidays.
- The director works with dancers schedules when dates are submitted in advance for events such as: homecoming, prom, graduations, family weddings, confirmations, etc.

### **Early Separation from PDC**

In the unlikely case a dancer leaves or is dismissed during the dance year, dancers are not permitted to perform any Perseverance Dance numbers in public, at competitions, etc. This includes solos, duets, trios and all group numbers. All dances, including solos are owned by Perseverance and dancers do not have permission to perform them unless they are a member of PDC. Also, no refunds will be given.

### **Competition Winnings**

Competition winnings are not something PDC can depend upon. There is never a guarantee any cash winnings will be brought home from a competition. It is important for parents to understand even when "The \$100.00 cash award goes to..." is announced, sometimes it is \$100.00 cash, but other times it is a \$100.00 voucher only to be used towards their nationals. If PDC is not attending their nationals, the "money" is no good then.

Although the director understands and greatly appreciates how much time and money the parents and dancers alike contribute to PDC, all duo, trio and group cash awards are kept by the director. These

chance winnings help cover the costs of purchasing, editing and duplicating all of the music for competition as well as the music licensing fees PDC must pay by law.

Solo winnings, however, will be given as a credit on your account. Any national winnings for a solo will be disbursed to the parent in check form.

### **Opportunities Won at Competitions/Convention**

The director requests dancers/parents interested in attending an event that was awarded to them at a competition or convention speak with her first. While the director encourages all dancers to pursue outside opportunities, it is important that PDC remains the #1 commitment, especially if it conflicts with PDC's schedule.

### **Facebook, MySpace, Social Networking Sites**

It is of the utmost importance to the director that the Perseverance Dance Company members represent themselves properly when posting anything on Facebook, MySpace or any other social networking websites. It is asked that no pictures should be posted of any dancer that could misrepresent themselves or Perseverance. This includes and is not limited to: pictures of improperly dressed children, suggestive poses, pictures at parties (drinking, etc.), and any photos that may misrepresent a single dancer or the team as a whole. If this situation arises, the director has the right to ask the dancer to remove undesirable material from the site. If the material is not removed, it could be cause for dismissal from the team with no refunds of any kind.

### **Create a Budget That Works For You**

Seeing as the amount of conventions, competitions, and additional fees are laid out ahead of time, parents are encouraged to do the homework and decide *ahead of time* what the family can afford. PDC, like every other competitive dance team, can quickly become costly if you do not set your limits. Also, the more dances you choose to participate in, of course, means more rehearsal time. ***PDC dancers are only required to be in a minimum of 4 dances.*** Choosing an unlimited amount of dances along with a solo and duo/trio will quickly become a heavy time and financial commitment. Remember, when you say yes to that extra dance or two, please keep in mind it is not just the choreography fee you are saying yes to, you are also saying yes to the additional costume fee, rehearsal time & fee, and the fee to compete it at every competition.

### **Year End Recital**

PDC will perform all of their dances in a year end show in June for family & friends to come and see.