



mason dance center, inc.  
808 Reading Rd. P.O. Box 553  
Mason, OH 45040

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## 2009-10 COMPANY INFORMATION PACKET

We have written this to give students and their parents a better understanding of all that is involved with being on our Company Program. Please read and discuss this information before auditioning. Upon placement with a Company we will also provide a handbook with even further details.

*A successful team is dependent upon committed dancers and supportive parents.*

### WHY BE PART OF THE MDC COMPANY PROGRAM?

Our Company & Jr Company Dancers -

- Attend Competitions for the extra performance opportunities and for critiques from other dance professionals.
- Attend Workshops to further expand dance knowledge & to experience other teaching styles & voices.
- Participate in our Nutcracker performance as well as other local performance opportunities or events.

### WHAT IS REQUIRED OF OUR COMPANY DANCERS?

☺ Upper Company– All~Stars & Super~Stars

- All compete in Jazz, Lyrical/Modern/Contemporary & Production; can also compete in Tap and/or Hip-hop
- Dance at least 3-4 days per week, 9 hours minimum- *Tentative schedule below*
  - Saturday– Ballet Class, Team Technique & Rehearsal– Approx 9:30-2:30 (30 min lunch break)
  - Monday– Technique Class & Rehearsal for Tap & Hip-hop– Approx 2.5 hours
  - Wed or Thurs– Modern class (Modern required for All~Stars, Jazz can be substituted for Super~Stars)
  - At least 1 Additional Ballet or Modern class– placement will vary by level
  - For those not competing in Tap or Hip-hop- additional classes to reach 9 hrs minimum per week
- Compete in 2-3 competitions and attend 1-2 workshops/conventions
- Attend 1 summer Nationals, workshop/convention or other performance opportunity (Tentatively 2010 will be either a June performance & educational trip to NYC or a convention/competition in N KY in July.)

☺ Jr. Company– Shooting~Stars & Rising~Stars

- All compete in Jazz & Tap; can also audition to compete in Hip-hop; Shooting~Stars option for Production
- Dance at least 2-3 days per week, 6 hours minimum- *Tentative schedule below*
  - Saturday– Ballet Class, Team Technique & Rehearsal– Approx 9:30-1:30 (30 min lunch break)
  - Monday– Technique Class & Rehearsal– Approx 2 hours
  - 1 Additional Ballet class– Placement will vary by level
- Compete in 2-3 competitions and attend at least 1 workshop/convention

☺ Both Company & Jr. Company Dancers-

- Perform in all shows of the recital
- Take summer classes– Ballet & Jazz for everyone, Modern, Pilates, Tap & Hip-hop also mixed in to reach the minimums required. Tumbling & Tricks class required to be considered to compete in Hip-hop. Six weeks of classes offered over July & August, minimums will range from 20 hrs for Jr Co up to 26 hrs for Sr Company. We prefer that the classes are spread over the summer as much as possible. You will be given a list of recommended summer classes. (Tuition for summer classes is included in the team fee and covers *unlimited* summer classes for team members. Please do not feel limited to attend the minimum.)
- Attend a mandatory camp/choreography week between August 16-25, exact dates TBD after auditions
- Participate with MDC in the Mason Heritage Parade & Festival on Saturday, August 22
- May have *unlimited* classes for a flat tuition rate of \$185 per month for an individual or \$265 per month for a family with more than 1 MDC student.

## OTHER IMPORTANT RULES, GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

- ☺ As a Company Dancer you become an integral part of the Mason Dance Center. It is a *privilege*, which should not be taken lightly. Consider this a “select” team with all the additional benefits as well as the additional commitments.
- ☺ Placement on a Company is by audition or teacher recommendation. Complete the attached audition application and return it to the office by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Auditions will be held Sunday, May 17, 1:00-5:00 pm and Monday, May 18, 6:15-9:00 pm. Students will be taught combinations on Sunday that they will perform for the panel of teachers on Monday. Level of dance technique and performance quality will of course be a large factor in placement. Approximate age groupings are below. Number of groups may vary according to number selected.  
Rising~Stars- 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr    Shooting~Stars- 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> gr    Super~Stars 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> gr    All~Stars- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> gr
- ☺ Final selection for the various numbers within each Company will be made in August at the end of summer classes.
- ☺ As a member of a team, you must love dancing! You should enjoy working hard and striving to perfect your performance. You must endeavor to do the best you can in all of your dance classes and set a good example for the other students at Mason Dance Center.
- ☺ Company Dancer Dress Code- Black leotard, tan or pink tights, proper shoes, hair in a bun or similarly secured, black shorts or black skirts are permitted, black jazz pants and cover-ups are only allowed during warm-up. If supportive undergarments are visible, limit these to black also. The instructors need to be able to clearly see your body and lines to correct you. Too many colors or floppy clothes make it more difficult to make corrections on the group; the instructor should be able to clearly see the lines of each dancer. Leg musculature can be better observed in pale colored tights versus black tights or jazz pants. A plain black, close-fitting T or tank are the only allowable tops for class and rehearsals. Boys– see director for dress requirements. Dancers coming to class or rehearsal in the incorrect apparel more than twice will need to call home to have the right items brought in and will have to sit out until they arrive. This will count as an absence if not rectified.
- ☺ As a Company Dancer, we expect full dedication to your team. It is understood that things come up, but slacking off will not be tolerated. Roll will be kept at all times and will be reviewed regularly for problems. Teachers have the authority to pull dancers from a performance or competition for missing too many classes and rehearsals. A positive, supportive attitude is also a very important trait for Company Dancers, during class as well as when we performing in public.
- ☺ Company Dancers may only have 4 excused rehearsal absences and 10 excused class absences per season (Sept-June). The class absence rule applies to all your required technique and ballet classes. It is simply not fair for the other Company Dancers to be held back because of someone else’s repeated absences. You should at least come to observe class whenever possible. Missed classes should be made up either in a class or private lesson if necessary. Any unexcused absences may be grounds for dismissal.
- ☺ We try to have our complete schedule for the year set by early-October. Please inform the office, *in writing*, of any anticipated commitments or scheduling conflicts for the year by Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> (ie band trips, academic tournaments, church confirmation, etc.) For conflicts that arise later in the year, please send *in writing* any reason for classes unattended prior to the event if it is known, or upon the dancer’s return if it was sudden. Written notes or emails should come from a parent please, not from the student only. It is important for teachers to know when you will not be in class, especially when setting or rehearsing numbers. A phone call to the office stating the reason for a sudden absence is appreciated but does not replace a written note or email. If no phone call or note is received, dismissal from the team or removal from the next performance may occur. Likewise, dismissal may occur for excessive absences.
- ☺ The skills and dedication learned by being a Company Dancer can help make you a better student and athlete. It also makes you an attractive participant in school activities and community theater events. When planning your activity schedule for the year Company Dancers are asked to think carefully and not to overbook themselves. Too many commitments leave everyone short-changed.

- ☺ Missing classes or rehearsals the two weeks before a performance or competition may result in not being allowed to dance in one or more of your pieces. Dancers recovering from injuries also may be asked to sit out of a performance if unable to dance full out by at least the 2 weeks prior.
- ☺ Company Dancers should arrive to class *early* so that you can be dressed, stretched out and ready to go when class begins. Late arrival or being unprepared for class may result in probation and may also be counted as an absence.
- ☺ Company Dancers must respect the property of others. Stealing, purposeful breakage or other destructive behavior will not be tolerated and will result in probation and possible dismissal from your team and the studio.
- ☺ As a Company Dancer, you are required to keep your grades up. You must be responsible for your homework and managing your schedule well so that your school work is done in a timely manner. If your grades start suffering because of dance, your parents and your dance instructor will decide if you should restrict your dancing schedule until academic improvement is sufficient for you to resume.
- ☺ Company Dancers are expected to be drug, alcohol and smoke free. No visible tattoos or facial piercings are allowed for any of our performances. As representatives of MDC, public exhibition of any of these behaviors will result in dismissal.
- ☺ Company Dancers are expected to be respectful to all teachers, fellow dancers and parents. Our staff strives to promote high moral and ethical standards of behavior in our students. As a Company Dancer, please conduct yourself in a manner consistent with these standards, in class and in public. You will be representing your team as well as Mason Dance Center; inappropriate behavior towards your teachers, fellow dancers and parents may result in probation or dismissal. No discussion of inappropriate subject matter is permitted, especially when other younger dancers are present. When at competitions and performing in public places, you must always be on your very best behavior as a representative of your team and MDC.
- ☺ Company Dancers must come to class knowing their choreography. Keeping a notebook and rehearsal CD to practice with ***is required***. Attending class without knowing steps of the previous week may result in removal from all or a part of the piece. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to find out and learn what you missed even if this means getting together with teammates or scheduling and paying for a private lesson with the instructor.
- ☺ Timely arrival at competitions is a must. You need plenty of time to be prepared. You will be given specific check in times. When a competition runs over the entire weekend, we expect our MDC Company Dancers to attend the full event whether or not they are competing on a particular day. We work as a team, always available to support each other. Staying for your Awards is also expected.
- ☺ Most competitions are on Saturdays and Sundays, some may start on Friday evening. Parents and students must be willing to give up some of their weekends to be on a team. We do not get exact days and times until 5-7 days before a competition so your flexibility is also important. We need 100% participation to give competitions our best effort. If you have dates you know you cannot participate we must have these in writing by Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise everyone is expected to participate in every competition. In the case of serious illness or injury, you may need to lend your costume to a substitute dancer.
- ☺ Extra rehearsals may be called prior to a competition or performance if needed. These are covered by your Company fees. Attendance at extra practices is mandatory, regular absence rules apply.
- ☺ As a Company Dancer you must realize that doing your best is more important than winning 1<sup>st</sup> place. Each competition is different, with varying levels of difficulty. You should realize as a Company Dancer that sometimes you will win 1<sup>st</sup> place, sometimes 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> but striving to do your best should be your own personal goal. Through participation in competitions, we hope to instill in our students an appreciation for other dancers and schools. We are not out to beat anyone; instead, we hope to motivate both students and faculty by exposing them to the highest caliber of talent available. Only then can we produce the best dancers and teachers possible. For us, competition is an education!

- ☺ At competitions, Company Dancers will not only be supportive of fellow students, but will set a good example by applauding and cheering for other groups as well. Good sportsmanship is always the best thing for everyone involved. It is also important that you watch as many of the other numbers as possible especially the MDC Teams.

## COMPANY EXPENSES

- ☺ Part of the commitment to the Company Program is being up-to-date with all accounts related to participation. Tuition is due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Payments not kept current could result in disqualification from the program. If you prefer a weekly payment plan, please check with the school office to set this up.

- ☺ In addition to your monthly tuition we total up projected expenses for the season and divide those over 10 payments. This Team Fee will begin in July and end in May, skipping December. Expenses included in this had previously been paid throughout our season. Rather than yo-yoing throughout the year, month to month, this will be a constant amount due each month. In late April we will review all actual charges incurred and adjust the final amount due in May, up or down as needed. The monthly amounts for

  - \*Upper Company (Jazz, Lyrical/Modern/Contemporary & Production) will be \$99

    - \*Dancers also competing in Tap and/or Hip-hop will be an additional \$19 per month each

  - \*Junior Company (Jazz & Tap) will be \$79

    - \*Dancers also competing in Hip-hop and/or Production will be an additional \$19 per month

Included items are -

- ✓ Required Summer Classes for 2009.
- ✓ Company fee- \$120. You will receive a Company leotard, shirt & shorts as part of your fee. This fee will also help defray our cost of additional staff hours needed for extra Company rehearsals and events. (New team members will also have to purchase their team warm-up. All 2008-09 members should already have their warm-up and will only need a new one if outgrown or worn out. )
- ✓ Nutcracker Participation/Costume Rental fee- \$40 per student. We provide all costumes needed for the Nutcracker. This fee helps cover purchasing, upkeep, cleaning and storage of all the costumes and props. The Nutcracker performance is a benefit show with all ticket proceeds going to the Mason HS After Prom. (Tickets are sold by the MHS After Prom are approx \$8. Tickets are not included in team fees.)
- ✓ Competition Entry Fees- These range from \$30-\$40 per student per group entry. You pay an entry fee for each dance entered. Unless we have received written explanation in advance of the due date, you will be responsible for paying your entry fees. Once submitted to the event, entry fees are non-refundable. *Even in the instance of injury, illness or being removed from a piece, entry fees are non-refundable once submitted.*
- ✓ All Company Costumes- Approx cost \$75-90 each. (Ballet & other non-team costumes are not included)

- ☺ Other expenses not included in the above team fees are below -

- ✓ Team warm-up- if new to program for 2009-10 or if a larger size is needed for returning members. Jackets have team logo embroidered on the back & have the dancer's name embroidered on the front. (approx \$95)
- ✓ Performance make-up requirements will be available by September. (approx \$45) Dancers also need performance earrings. (\$10)
- ✓ Traveling expenses to out of town competitions or conventions; gas, hotels, food, etc. Competitions may be in Dayton, Columbus, Indianapolis or Louisville. We try for at least one-two competitions per season in Mason or Cincinnati if possible.
- ✓ For Upper Company – Summer performance expenses. Tentatively 2010 will be either a June performance & educational trip to NYC or a convention/competition in N KY in July.

- ☺ We have a parents group, the MDC Parent's Association to help with fundraising to offset Company expenses as well as to promote camaraderie and team spirit. Participation is encouraged for all Company families. The Parent's Association is run by Company parents, not MDC.

- ☺ We make every effort to be completely upfront about all the expenses involved for the season to participate in our program. If chosen to join us, we hope that you will be able to plan your budget to remain on top of things. Being involved with the Parent's Association fundraising can really aid in this.



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*Company Audition Application for 2009-10*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age** \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_ Hair color \_\_\_\_\_ Eye color \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ My Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Mom's Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us how many years you have studied (starting with 1<sup>st</sup> grade, exclude Kindergarten & Pre-School)-

Jazz \_\_\_\_\_ Tap \_\_\_\_\_ Hip-hop \_\_\_\_\_ Ballet \_\_\_\_\_ Pointe \_\_\_\_\_ Lyrical \_\_\_\_\_ Modern \_\_\_\_\_

Have you competed in dance before \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, how many years \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you currently dance \_\_\_\_\_

Other Talents and Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Other Commitments (At school, at church, Scouts, sports, etc) and approx. time involved -

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Please tell us why you want to be part of our Company program -

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Please tell us why you think you would be an asset to our Company program -

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