

August 2009

Dear Parents & Students,

Wow ! It's great to be writing to you again...yes...it's time...Enjoy these summer days, while you think of your goals & plans for the new school year ahead !!!

First, I was so very proud of each & every dancer at mini recital in June! It's amazing to see how well everyone performs with only 6 classes to learn!!! If you have comments &/or suggestions... please jot it down & put it in your wallet until Parent Conference time....or drop at the office. Your priorities in your student's well rounded education gives me hope for our future society who cares and takes time to reach for quality and excellence ! Thank You !!!!

If you have slightly used tap or jazz shoes to sell please bring them to the studio by Aug. 21st..labeled with your name & price. Equipment sizing will be done on Aug. 27 & 28.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners, Marissa Marinello, Nicole Campbell, and Kaitlyn Lucker! Thank you to all of you who support the scholarship fund !!!!

Studying dance is important...but seeing helps understanding....so look around our communities for excellent live entertainment! From the Mendel Center to Miller Auditorium, the Morris Civic...from Kalamazoo to Chicago....there is a lot available. Share the joy with them...or send them with a friend.....seeing is learning what dance & performance is all about ! Watch for group rate sign-ups at counter...

We're getting ready for a new season of sharing & caring, movement & dance, "Studio Dance Theatre", scholarships, informal arts concerts, fall festival, City Kids, and mini-recitals! Wow!...there goes the year....please help us in planning efficiently, by returning your registration ASAP....Please remember we have placed your student where we feel they would benefit the most (please see the schedule on the reverse side). Students advance on their own proven ability, not by age or years of experience. Other classes may be available, however the marked class is our recommendation. If you feel a conference or audition time is needed, please phone after Aug. 21st.

- - - -Please read this carefully and make notes on your calendar- - - -
Former Students Registration, by MAIL ON OR BEFORE FRI. AUG. 21st, 2009

Please be aware, that beyond the Beg./Basic levels, all students are evaluated & are placed in classes according to their mental & physical abilities vs. their age & years of training. I do my best to get this to you early enough, so other activities may be planned around the class best suited to your student, choose appropriately. Class titles are merely titles. This tentative schedule is subject to change, (if you do not register & the class is not up to minimum capacity (5 students) it will be opened to new students for "Open registration") Registration is on a first come - first serve basis. Thank you for your cooperation. Classes marked "*" must have previous dance experience & "****"/ "*****" , 2/ 3 classes per week minimum.

- OPEN REGISTRATION for new students, and EQUIPMENT PURCHASES, will be
Thurs & Fri. AUGUST 27 & 28 from 2:00 to 8:00 pm
- CLASSES BEGIN the week of Sept. 14, and continue on a monthly basis through June 12.
Vacations will be - Christmas - Dec. 21 to Jan. 3
- Spring - April 3 to April 11.

There are a total of 36 weeks of lessons throughout the entire school year, equivalent of nine 4 week periods.

- "Recitals" Dance Arts Reuve 2010 will be held June 12th at Lakeshore Community Auditorium.
- "Footnotes" will be sent home monthly to keep you informed of current events.
- Parent Conferences will be held the first week of Nov.-please sign up at visiting week.

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Clip & Return

Please register _____ for the following classe(s).....

Parent Signature _____ Tuition enclosed \$ _____ + Registration fee \$10._____

~REGISTRATION~

FORMER STUDENTS...BY MAIL...before Aug. 21st. (please don't be late)

NEW STUDENTS...IN PERSON, AUG. 27 or 28

between 2:00 & 8:00pm (2425 W. Marquette Woods Rd, at I-94 exit #23)

The studio reserves the right to 1. Refuse applicant to limit enrollment (class minimum is 5 students & maximum 20). 2. Require audition before enrollment for proper placement. 3. Dismiss a student for improper attire.

The first month's tuition is required at the time of registration. Enrollment is not official until payment has been made. There is a \$10.00 REGISTRATION FEE per family.

CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPT. 14TH

& continue on a monthly basis until June 12th, 2010

ALL REQUIRED CLOTHING SHOULD BE PURCHASED PRIOR TO THE FIRST CLASS

Dance Arts is a studio devoted to the teaching of dance as an ART FORM, to both children and adults. Our staff provides each student with instruction, encouragement, and personal interest to succeed. Dance is the finest exercise known, producing a graceful, strong, and healthy body. As a result of this personal interest and instruction, we now have many former students dancing and teaching with professional companies, colleges, and theatres all over the United States.

Our curriculum consists of the following, and students are carefully evaluated and guided to a schedule best suited to their needs, be it a career, or the simplicity of enjoying movement !

CLASSICAL BALLET * POINTE * LYRICAL * JAZZ * TAP * HIP-HOP* TUMBLING * MOM & ME /
TINY TOTS * PRE-DANCE * BOYS COMBO * LIMBERING/PILATES/YOGA

(beginning, basic, elementary, intermediate, advanced & adult levels are available in most forms)

A student may remain in the same level for 1 to 3 years, advancing upon their own proven ability. The titles I, II, or III are primarily based on age group & are simply titles within the level. Note classes marked with * have requirements to meet.

A NOTE To Parents and Students

Dance training consists of 95% hard work and only 5% natural talent. The more you work, the faster you advance. It teaches self-awareness, individuality, and appreciation for an art form. Self discipline and physical development go hand in hand, right from the start in dance training. Although, a great deal of attention is paid to gaining a child's trust & respect for their teacher so that it is an enjoyable experience with steady progression, built on a strong foundation.

One lesson weekly is adequate for the beginning and elementary students, however, children over 9 years of age, should be taking two or more lessons weekly. Ballet is the recommended beginning form of dance. Ballet is easy to feel & understand unlike other forms, that at a beginning level, are merely imitated...not learned. The anatomy of the young growing body is best suited to benefit from this correct form of dance. Tap, jazz, modern & tumbling are excellent additional classes, but can never be, what they could be, without previous ballet training.

***Parents are encouraged to observe class at visiting, every six weeks.*

TUITION

- ◆ Class lesson (1 hour).....\$36.00 per Mo.
- Class lesson (1 1/4 hrs).....39.00 “ “
- Class lesson (1 1/2 hrs).....42.00 “ “
- ◆ **MULTIPLE CLASS PLAN**
- 2nd Class.....add.....33.00 “ “
- 3rd Class.....add.....31.00 “ “
- 4th Class.....add.....30.00 “ “
- ◆ **SINGLE CLASS PLAN**
- per 1 hr lesson.....12.00
- per 1 1/4 hr lesson.....14.00
- per 1 1/2 hr lesson.....16.00
- ◆ **SEMI-PRIVATE** (45 min. 2 to 4 students)
\$52.00 per month or \$14.00 per single lesson
- ◆ **PRIVATE** (30 min.) single lesson - \$18.00
- ◆ Lesson fees are due, IN ADVANCE the first week of Each Month. (There are a total of 36 classes during the year, excluding the 2 weeks at Christmas & the week of Spring Break. Although some months only have 3 weeks of classes, others have 5 weeks, it breaks into nine monthly payments for tuition.)
- ◆ A \$5.00 bookkeeping fee will be added to unpaid accounts after the 15th of each month.
- ◆ Tuition is non-refundable. Any classes missed, are to be made up in another class. To change your method of enrollment, the office must be notified by the 1st of the month. Classes under 5 students fall to semi-private tuition.
- ◆ Class changes after the 1st 6 weeks - \$10.00 charge.

FACULTY

RHONDA RABBERS>DIRECTOR OF DANCE, has studied all forms of classical dance, & had her formal teachers training under the direction of Mrs. Karen Rodda, former owner. From her beginnings with the founder of this studio, Billie Jacobson, she continually spends as much time as possible training herself. She studied at The Harkness House of Ballet, The American Ballet Center (home of the Center City Joffrey Ballet) and Luiji, in New York City. In Chicago, with such greats as Gus Giordano, Nan Giordano Frank Hatchett, Joe Tremaine, Fernando Bujones, & Lane Alexander. She attends annually in Grand Rapids to study with Al Gilbert, Janice Barringer (author of The Pointe Book), & Daryl Retter. Locally, at LMC College, with Audre Deckmann Mendel, international, Jelko Yuresha, Richard Ellis & Christine DuBoulay, Eileen Cropley, as well as The Russian Seminar with Jurgen Schneider, & greats of the Bolshoi from 1993 to 1996 & instructors from the American Ballet Theatre (Gelsey Kirkland), and the Alvin Ailey Co. She did the teachers training at the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters in '98, the David Howard Intensive at WMU in '99 , the Summer Dance Institute at WMU in 2000, & Jazz World Congress in 1994, 2002, & 2005. She has studied at Broadway Dance Center & Steps in NYC. "Miss" Rhonda has been a performing member of dance companies in both Michigan City & South Bend, and still loves to perform! Since performance is the highlight of learning dance...she founded, & is the artistic director of The Studio Dance Theatre & is excited to continue the performing team - "City Kids" this season. Both groups perform their show publically & privately, from shows with The Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, Venetian Festival, Nursing Homes, & informal concerts. She has choreographed several area musicals and community events, and oversees the Dance Arts Scholarship Committee. She is a dedicated and devoted teacher for 40 years at this studio & was honored in the WCA's "Tribute to Women". Rhonda, her husband Thom, children Sarah & Garrett, bid you a heartfelt welcome!

EARLENE EMERY>INSTRUCTOR, has studied under Gail Kivett & Lena Pelio of Flint, as well as Ken Brelsfoard, Audre Deckmann Mendel, Jelko Yuresha, Ken Tepper, & Rhonda Rabbers. She has performed with The Flint Ballet Theatre & the SDT & has attended Dance Masters & Dance Makers workshops. "Miss" Earlene has been the dance instructor of the Renaissance Program in the Benton Harbor Schools and presently in the special ed. dept. She holds a B.A. & M.A. from Central Michigan & Western Michigan Universities and has a lot of discipline & grace to offer her students. "Miss" Earlene has been the SDT's Costume Mistress since 1984. She & her two children, Nichole & Andrew, live in St. Joseph.

CHRISTINE OKON-WATERHOUSE>INSTRUCTOR, returns to our staff this year. "Miss Christine began her dancing career at Dance Arts at age 12 & has continued dancing with the studio over the years. She has a varied background that includes training in ballet, jazz, modern & tap with local teachers, many Chicago workshops with Gus & Nan Giordano, and a degree from Michigan State University. "Miss" Christine has been a Dance Arts Scholarship winner, a Studio Dance Theatre member & later choreographer, and held the title of Miss Southwest Michigan in both 1992 & 1994. She has been the choreographer for many Blossomtime pageants and was the owner of a dance studio in Grand Rapids. She is the founder of "City Kids", works at the St. Joseph Public Schools & is their Pom coach, and the mother of 3 lovely children. She is excited to share her love of dance with her students.

PAIGE OLNEY> INSTRUCTOR, also has returned to our faculty after graduating from St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN this past spring. She earned a degree in Business Administration with concentration on Marketing, and minors in Advertising and Dance. Paige has danced since childhood under numerous teachers both great & small from Detroit to Chicago. She was a Dance Arts Scholarship winner in 2003, a member of the SDT & City Kids competing at the New York City Dance Alliance. Miss Paige was also honored to be Miss Southwest Michigan Teen in 2004. She is a 2005 Bridgman High School graduate & is excited about her engagement to Josh & moving here to Stevensville. Miss Paige is a delight with the children & is excited to be back in the classroom !!!

AMANDA MORLOCK>INSTRUCTOR, returns for her 2nd season on staff. Miss Amanda grew up dancing at The Patrice School of Dance in Coloma & continued at the dance department at Western Michigan University. She has studied ballet, jazz, tap, tumbling, modern, & hip-hop. She is a graduate of WMU & is continuing her education this year at MSU for her Masters degree. Miss Amanda has choreographed for pageants and the Eau Claire & Watervliet dance teams. She loves to dance and wants to share her passion & knowledge with others. Amanda lives in Watervliet on her family's farm.

MARISSA MARINELLO > INSTRUCTOR, will continue to delight our staff this year after demonstrating & student teaching under "Miss" Rhonda. "Miss" Marissa was a scholarship winner in 2006 , 2007, 2008, & 2009 and attended The Cecchetti Conference at Hope College. She has been an SDT member since childhood & began competing with the City Kids in 2006, attending the Dancer Makers Convention & Competitions. She is an accomplished dancer, studying ballet, pointe, tap, & jazz & is excited to share her knowledge & love of dance.

NICOLE CAMPBELL>INSTRUCTOR, student taught for 2 years and is back for her 2nd year on faculty. Four years on top of her years of gymnastic competition really show off on the mats in class and fused with a great knowledge of lyrical training... She brings her students into creative movement ~ our art! Miss Nicole has studied ballet for 10 years and has continued with pointe, jazz, lyrical, hip-hop, modern, tumbling & gymnastics. She is an SDT member & a City Kid competitor. Nicole has been a scholarship winner in 07,08, & 09 and attended the Cecchetti Conference at Hope College. Nicole attends St. Joseph High School where she is enjoying being on the pom squad.

**HELP ME IN WELCOMING A STAFF OF WONDERFUL, CARING, & EDUCATED HUMAN BEINGS.
THEY'RE GREAT !!!!!**

> *PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES* <

“The Studio Dance Theatre”

is open by audition to any area dancer, 10 years of age and older, that has had at least three years of formal dance training.

The SDT is strictly for dancers whom are very interested in the art form, and wish to devote more time into learning how to perform.

The non profit junior company was founded by Rhonda Rabbers in 1975 with a three-fold purpose: 1) To better educate young dancers in the performing arts.

2) To provide the community with a dance company.

3) To donate monies to a local charity.

This season, **auditions will be held**

Aug. 29th at 1:00 for senior members & at 4:00

for junior members for their Dec. 5th production of **The Nutcracker**.



“City Kids”

A great performing experience. This ensemble will perform for local organizations, & festivals. City Kids is dedicated to the joy of dance & the fun of performing, was developed by “Miss” Christine & is a special commitment. Please see “Miss” Rhonda to get involved.

“Dance Arts Revue 2010

will be held June 12th, at the Lakeshore High School Community Auditorium (Dress Rehearsal 6/11).