



Rhythm & Shoes Company Purpose

The purpose of establishing a dance company is to provide dancers with opportunities to perform for various audiences, advance dance technique, learn life lessons, and build team comradery. Company is prepared early in the season to attend functions throughout the year. Rhythm and Shoes is contacted regularly to provide entertainment for various functions in and outside of our community. Some of these events include Razorback basketball games, Naturals games, Tremaine, Hollywood Dance Jamz, DanceMakers, Day of Dance at NWA Mall, performing at Disney World and others. The dance company will not only perform at area functions, but will also attend dance camps, dance competitions, and other performing opportunities.

We feel that performing is another important step in preparing our dancers who wish to attend dance related schools or pursue dance beyond college, either in performance or teaching.

Tap and Jazz Company Age Guidelines:

Junior Company: 6-10 years old

Pre-teen/Teen Company: 10-15 years old

Senior Company: 14-18 years old

We will also have auditions divided by age for lyrical/contemporary and hip hop companies. This is just how the tryout is divided, this does not determine placement.

We sometimes offer apprenticeships depending on tryout scores. Apprentices attend company classes to help push their dance technique and prepare them for auditions the following year, but they do not compete or perform with the company unless added on by the teacher. You do not have to be an apprentice first to audition for Company. Apprentices pay half of class tuition due to the time they step out of dancing, while we clean the group (closer to performances). Students may try out for their age group & try out for apprenticeship of an older Company if you receive teacher approval. Please speak with your teacher, if you prefer to try out for a different age category then we have listed.

All dancers under the age of 18 must have their parent's signed permission to audition for the company. This is very time consuming and you will have extra expenses such as Company dance costumes, Company Jacket, specific makeup, the cost of additional dance classes, traveling expenses, competition, and convention fees. All accounts are expected to be in good standing or student will unfortunately be pulled from dance.

To audition, you must be willing to attend dance company class on a regular basis. Only 3 absences, per each class you take (including your ballet and regular classes) per semester are allowed! Please contact your teacher or Sarah if you are going to miss. After 3 absences, continuation in company will be discussed with the director. Company has periodic practices on Saturdays or over holiday breaks. These are also mandatory and count against your 3 absences for the semester. We will give you plenty of heads up on any of these practices that might happen. Do

not miss the 2 weeks before a competition unless you have talked to the instructor well ahead of time.

Junior, Preteen and Teen age students will audition before judges for the Company. A dancer may audition for any combination of the following: tap, jazz, lyrical/contemporary, hip hop. If you are accepted for the tap division, you will be enrolled for a minimum of 2 classes of tap and 1 class of ballet, per week. If you are accepted for the jazz, you will be enrolled for 2 classes of jazz and 1 ballet. If you are accepted for the lyrical/contemporary division, you will be enrolled for 1 class of lyrical/contemporary, 1 jazz and 1 ballet. If you are accepted for the hip hop division, you will be enrolled in 1 hip hop and 1 jazz.

Senior age students audition before judges for the Company. A dancer may audition for any combination of tap, jazz contemporary/lyrical, and hip hop. Senior level dancers can try out for Company even if you are on a school dance/spirit team, if you are able to make it to practices at the allotted times. You still only get 3 absences each semester per class. If you are not on school dance team, you will be enrolled in 1.5 hour technique/company class, ballet, plus class of same division. If you are involved in school dance team you will be enrolled in 1.5 hour technique/company class and ballet. Your school practices each week counts as your extra practice.

Summer Classes/Intensives are recommended, but not required for summer 2020. Schedule will be on Facebook and Instagram. Unfortunately, we do have limited class time so please sign up for your spot online. We do offer a waitlist if it is full at first.

*Wear tight fitting black attire for tryouts! This can be leggings and tight tank, crop top or leotard, or (black, nude, or pink) tights with booty shorts and leotard. Hair should be securely pulled back. Shoe color does not matter.

On the following page is the application for auditions. If you feel that this is something you want to do, please discuss this with your family, fill it out and return it to the studio. We ask that company applications be turned back in by July 23, 2020 this year so that we can solve the tryout schedule since it will need to be after school the week of August 17-20. Thank you for working with us on that.

Solos, Duets, and Trios Auditions will be held differently this year. We would like for you to record your audition piece. You will tryout as a soloist even if you want to do a duet or trio. Students should pick their own music and choreograph 30-40 seconds in the style you wish to audition for. Make sure you showcase your best talents, and please ask a teacher if you have questions. Please make sure your music is clean! **If you are new to trying out for solo, duet, or trio, we highly recommend only trying out for one style of dance for an “extra”. If you previously competed in a solo, duet, or trio, you may submit more than one style of dance, but we would need an audition video for each style. Reminder-we encourage you to push yourself and work outside your comfort zone. Solos, duets, and trios are not about the trophy, they are about personal growth,

technique, setting new goals, and making your group dances stronger! If you have done a specific style a few years, please audition for a style that would push you in a different way! Please submit video to Sarah by July 23rd so we can set these ahead of August group tryouts. You must make apprentice or member of company of same style or “extra” option will be dropped. The videos will be scored by the same judges that will be at auditions in August.

You can try out to be selected for a solo, duet, or trio by a guest choreographer. There is a place to mark this on your application. If you are selected by the judges for this opportunity, you will be responsible for that choreographer’s fees/travel expenses to get to the choreographer to learn routine. (Heads up- their choreo fee will easily be \$600-\$1000/dance) You will be responsible for paying them in person the day you learn the piece. You will have a teacher here at the studio that will represent you. That teacher will only meet with you once a month in rotation to help you solve any issues or questions (teachers practice fee will apply). The majority of the practice time will be up to the student. We love the eagerness of all the students wanting to add on extras, and we hope this will provide opportunities for us to accommodate. Each teacher only has so much time and creative power and we definitely want to make sure we are still putting plenty of time into each student that we work with and we always want to make sure we give them quality pieces to put on stage! The interest is becoming more and more each year, so unfortunately, more than likely the judges will say no to more solo, duets, and trios this year. We will not be meeting solos, duets and trios weekly going forward. Most teachers plan to meet their “extras” twice a month during active season. Part of the growth we are looking for is your ability to push and work hard on your own.

Solo/Duet/Trio fees

\$350 choreography

\$40-50 music cutting fee

\$25/hour practice fee

+each competition’s fee

You will have a minimum of 8 hours required. These are set according to the teacher’s schedule.

You must be up to date on paying your teacher, and your teacher has to clear it with Sarah, before any performances.