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### **Ledwig Dance Academy Company 2023-2024**

We are so glad you're interested in joining Ledwig Dance Academy's Company (LDAC). Our competitive dance team is a great way to further one's dance abilities and learn to work with others on a team.

Your child's dedication is important to the Company. When joining a team, your commitment is for the whole year (August-May). **You are committed to attending all practices, working on your dances away from the studio, and attending all performances and competitions. We work as a team and need all members for the team to succeed.**

**Parents are also very involved when their child is an LDAC member.** Dancers need their instructors at dance class to push them and continually help them set goals for themselves. They can only achieve these goals at a quicker rate with practice at home. This is where parents come in. We want you to encourage your dancer to practice at home. It also helps when you sit down with them for a few minutes each day to work on their dances and skills.

Your child will experience excitement when they master that new skill they have been working on for a while or are put in front of the formations in the dance. They will also experience disappointment – when they set a goal that they didn't meet by the end of the year; or when they want to move up in company every year but aren't quite ready yet. It's a great life skill to learn that the answer isn't always going to be yes.

Please remember that we are a dance family. We are to encourage one another and be a part of a team. We do not allow talking down to another parent, student, or staff member from students or parents. Our dancers are in competition together, not against one another.

Because we believe that dancers improve when learning from various teachers/choreographers, we attend conventions and/or travel to other states as a learning opportunity. For MOST conventions you must be at least 5 years of age to attend. Conventions may be required of our Intermediate-Senior dancers (1 per year). More details are below.

Please read this packet carefully and through its entirety. There is a fees list and important dates sheet included. We schedule meetings, practices, and payments which will be available on the calendar. We will also send out a calendar once dates are finalized.

## 2023-2024 Teams/Requirements

We have 4-5 teams a part of our LDAC:

- Tots (Beginner)
- Intermediates (Intermediate)
- Juniors (Intermediate-Advanced)
- Seniors (Advanced)

**NOTE - We may add or remove any team if circumstances change. Teams can be combined or split at any time.**

Students are placed in groups by audition only. *Auditions are held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the studio.* There is an audition fee of \$15/dancer. This fee is due at the time of auditions with your audition form. We will NOT be accepting any payments/forms before May 5<sup>th</sup>. Any student who misses the audition can schedule a private audition on another day.

## Costumes

All company dancers will need costumes for their dances. Prices are listed:

- Tots & Intermediates (2 costumes) - \$65 each plus tax
- Juniors & Seniors (3 Costumes) - \$70 each plus tax each

## Classes

All company members must register for their designated weekly company class. Listed below are the classes required for Company. *These may alter/change until the Fall 2023 schedule is released.* We require regular dance classes so dancers get their technique in.

- **Tots** - Ballet/Tap/Jazz Class (or Ballet/Tap if Kinder), Tot Skills Class, Company Class
- **Intermediates** – Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Strength/Improv, Company Class
- **Juniors & Seniors** – Ballet (twice weekly), Jazz, Lyrical/Contemporary, Strength, Company Class

*Other classes that are encouraged but not required – Acro, Hip Hop (Tap for Jr/Sr)*

## Summer Requirements

All company members are required to register for and attend summer classes. **NEW:** We are offering a few “Company Only” classes. Dancers will be asked to take a number of regular classes (non-Company Only) and a number of Company classes. They are also required to attend their August choreography classes. The summer schedule on the website has details.

Below are the requirements:

- **Tot** – 2 regular summer classes, 1 Company Only class
- **Intermediate** – 2 regular summer classes, 2 Company Only classes
- **Junior & Senior** – Must sign up for at least 1 ballet class, 1 regular class, and 3 Company Only classes.

All company students are encouraged to take more classes than what is required.

## Attendance

- All company dancers are allowed **ONLY** 4 absences combined from regular required classes and company classes. This is in affect from September-December.
- From January through the end of competition season (March or April), only 2 absences are allowed from regular classes and company classes.

- To be counted present the student must be in class for 75% of the class time.
- Make-up classes or private lessons are to be scheduled for anyone who is absent more than what is allowed. If our staff are unable to schedule private lessons, your dancer will need to makeup by attending another dance class.
- In the event that more than the allowed number of classes are missed for any reason, the dancer may be pulled from a dance for one competition.

### Accounts

- Accounts are to be up to date always. This includes company fees and regular dance class fees. Your account should **never** be more than a couple of weeks past due. Late fees of \$10 will be applied to all fees where payment is more than a week late. No exceptions will be made.
- Communication is key. Please let Ms. Stephanie know if you need to make financial arrangements for the year.
- Students will be dismissed from company if account is more than one month past due.

### Fundraising

- We offer several fundraisers throughout the year. Most are optional.
- We will be doing a **mandatory** raffle fundraiser. Details will be sent out at a later date.
- **NEW**: To help with the mandatory fundraising cost, dancers will have dues to pay. These dues are to be paid by August 10<sup>th</sup>. Cash or check only. Dues are \$45/dancer.

### Competitions

- We attend 3 competitions a year. Competitions are mandatory unless otherwise stated.
- Competitions usually fall between the months of February and April.
- Specialty numbers are not required to attend more than one competition but are welcome to.

### Special Performances

- The LDAC members perform at least once per year in the community. Performances are mandatory and you are notified as soon as possible.

### Specialty Numbers

- Company dancers have the option to do a specialty number (solo, duet, trio).
- Dancers must be approved for a specialty number before picking music and a choreographer. **You will need to turn in a form (found below) no earlier than May 22<sup>nd</sup> and no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- If your dancer wants to do a specialty number, they (and you as the parent) must understand that a lot of practice and work at home is important to succeed. You are a representation of LDA and we only want the best for your dancer!
- Choreographers must be staff at Ledwig Dance Academy.
- Music must be approved by LDA staff before choreography can be started. **NEW**: Some songs are NOT suitable for a dance competition. Because of this, our staff are to be honest with you about your song choices so that your dancer may succeed. You can send up to 5 song choices to your choreographer. Please do not send more as this takes up a lot of time. IF your songs are not approved, your choreographer will send you 3-5 songs to choose from. Again, we choose songs that we know are suitable for competition.
- Specialty numbers must be started by October 1<sup>st</sup> to allow time for practice.

- The choreography fee varies (\$140 – solos, \$75/dancer – duet, \$60 /dancer – trios) and your specialty number will not be started until this fee is paid in full. Lessons to learn the choreography are the cost of a private lesson, \$40.
- Dancers younger than 10 doing a specialty number are REQUIRED to take a minimum of six hours' worth of private lessons.
- **NEW**: Depending on the number of specialty numbers, dancers may NOT be doing their specialty number in recital. Recital is for our recreational classes and meant to present those dances. If we are only able to pick a few specialty numbers to perform, it will be based on scoring at competition. No one is GUARANTEED to perform their specialty number in recital.

### Communication

- We communicate via email and our private Facebook group (Ledwig Dance Academy Company Parents). **READ YOUR EMAILS**. There is always a lot going on in Company and we don't want you to miss anything!
- All members are required to sign up for our convenient text updates. Text @ldacompa to 81010. The service is free and helpful to us both!

### Dress Code

- For company practices, all members must be in black fitted dancewear.
- Tights are not required for company classes.
- Jazz shoes are required for ALL groups.
- Intermediate and Tot groups will need black tap shoes. (Lace up shoes for Intermediate)
- Juniors and Seniors will need lyrical toe paws.
- Hair must be up and away from the face.

### Behavior

- Company members are to be on their best behavior at all times.
- They are to display respect for their fellow dancers and instructors while in class.
- If any teacher feels a student is disrespecting the teacher, students, or environment, the student will be asked to leave.

### Conventions/Trips

Every other year, Junior & Senior dancers will be required to attend a convention (required for 2023). Depending on age, Intermediates might be required as well. Convention can be pretty expensive which is why we encourage fundraising. The cost ranges from \$280-\$380 per dancer. The convention lasts for two days and dancers train from the TOP instructors and choreographers in the industry.

Info coming soon for the Fall 2023 convention!

## Company Fees

Company can get very costly which is why we have all of our fees listed below. Please note that regular dance fees are not included in these fees (Example: tuition, recital costumes, etc.). Budget accordingly as paying late WILL NOT be accepted.

### Tuition/Month

- Monthly company tuition costs \$35 for tot and intermediate members and \$45 for junior and senior members. This will be added to your monthly tuition for regular classes. When you register, this monthly fee will already be included.

### Other Fees

- Company Dues – Each dancer will be required to turn in \$45 as part of their dues. This will help pay for the raffle fundraising costs. This fee is due by August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Drop Fee –If you must drop company for any reason, there is a \$25 drop fee due within 7 days of the drop day.
- Costume Fees – All dancers will need costumes for company dances.
  - Tot & Intermediate - \$65 (per costume)
  - Junior & Senior - \$70 (per costume)
- Privates (if needed) - \$40/Hour
- Competition Fees – Competition fees vary depending on competition. These fees are per dance, per dancer, and per competition. Here is a rough estimate:
  - \$75-\$95 Group Fees/ Dance
  - \$130-\$180 Solo Fees
  - \$60-\$75 Duet/Trio Fees
- Choreography – It takes time and talent to choreograph a solo/duet/trio. Solo fees are \$140, duet fees are \$75/dancer, and trio fees are \$60/dancer. Private lesson fees will apply to teach the dance to your dancer(s). The cost of a private lesson is split if dancer is doing a duet/trio.
- Jacket – All company members are required to have a company jacket which costs between \$85-\$100
- Performance Tee – All company members are required to have a performance tee which will cost \$25-\$35.
- Shorts – Company members will need black fitted shorts - \$12-\$18
- Nude tights – We sell nude tights which they will need for competition and recital - \$12
- Leotard – A plain black leotard is needed to wear under dance performance clothes at local performances.
- Earrings – Dancers will need performance earrings. We sell them for \$14 plus tax.

## Required Skills

The skills listed below are requirements for anyone hoping to join company. We take into consideration that some skills can be learned in a few classes. However, most skills will need to be learned before auditions. Our tot and intermediate groups don't have specific skills they need.

We encourage learning your split, pirouette, and a clean leap before auditions.

All dancers, ages 7 and under, will audition for the tot and/or intermediate competitive groups.

We look for dancers who are focused, love to dance, and want to learn more.

Any dancer between age 7-8 can be considered for a higher company depending on skill level. If they meet the required skill level needed for a higher company, they will be given the option to dance with the upper level group.

We also group our kids based on dancing alike and who dances well together.

- Double Pirouette (prep from 4<sup>th</sup> & parallel)
- Leap (right & left)
- Russian (right & left)
- Chaine Turns
- Double Coupe Turn
- Calypso
- Circular Disk
- A la second turns (2 consecutive & single or double pirouette finish)
- Control of arms & upper body
- Right leg split

While the skills listed are not the only ones needed to be considered for the upper level groups, they are the ones we expect them to master before being accepted.

**Ledwig Dance Academy**  
**Company Auditions**  
**May 5, 2023**  
*Please turn form in with \$15 cash or check.*

Dancer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How many years & where have you been dancing?

\_\_\_\_\_

What classes do you take? (Ballet, Jazz, Tap, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to join or continue with company?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What company group are you hoping to be a part of?

\_\_\_\_\_

What will you do if you do not make the group you were hoping for?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please read the following statement carefully and sign:

"I have read and understand the LDAC Information Packet for the 2023-2024 dance year. I agree to everything stated in the packet and will follow all rules and guidelines set out by the LDAC."

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Ledwig Dance Academy  
Specialty Number Form**

Dancer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Company Group \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Company \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:    Solo                  Duet                  Trio

If duet/trio, who are the dancers? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to do perform a specialty number?

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List 3-5 song choices with artist listed:

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List your two choices for choreographers. We will do our best to honor your request, but specialty numbers are based on first come first served. There is a slight chance you will be assigned someone who is not on this list.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** A specialty number is a big commitment for both the dancer and the parent. Practice at home will be required if you want your dancer to improve. Private lessons with our staff are to work with your dancer on cleaning and correcting their dance. Dancers will not improve if they are only attending private lessons but not working on their own. Please keep this in mind. This is a big responsibility for both the parent and dancer.