

**2012-2013 Brand new Format for Performance Company  
and the addition of the  
Pre Professional Conservatory Program**

**Auditions** for Performance Company and the new Conservatory program will be held at River Valley Dance Academy June 25-28 from 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. Classes will be taught by RVDA and guest instructors to provide an educational experience for our auditionees. After assessing dancers skills, work ethic, and potential to pick up combinations, the new Performance Company and Conservatory Members for 2012-2013 will be provided on Friday June 29<sup>th</sup>. You may go to our website at [www.rivervalleydanceac.com](http://www.rivervalleydanceac.com) to learn the results.

**What kinds of things does performance Company do? Why would I want to be on it?**

Some of the things Performance Company has done that is worth all the hard work has included Performing at Disney World, Performing on a Cruise Ship, Taking classes at Broadway Dance Center in NYC, Taking classes from performers from the Lion King, Wicked, Memphis, & Spiderman, (right here at RVDA, as well as in NYC), taking class at Radio City Music Hall with a Rockette, Performing at Timberwolves and Vikings Games, attending Dance Conventions in the Wisconsin Dells, Minneapolis, and Chicago, visiting the Shedd Aquarium, performing in Branson at Silver Dollar City, and opening a Branson Show. We also perform at Community Service Events to assist such organizations as Gillette Children's Hospital, Fraser, Juvenile Diabetes Association, and Nursing Homes. We've had holiday parties, sleepovers, movie nights, gone out to dinner as a team, and attended productions at the Ordway, Orpheum, and Chanhassen Dinner Theatre.

*By observing, performing, doing, and practicing, we open our eyes to the world of dance, and what might be out there for us.*

**Who can be on Performance Company and Conservatory?**

Dancers who are entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade and above, who have reached level III, may audition for the Performance Company. They are dancers looking to dance three or more hours a week. Everyone who auditions does not necessarily make the Team. We look for dancers with double pirouettes, flexibility, & who are able to pick up combinations fairly quickly. For dancers who are not interested in Performance Company, or who are not yet ready for it, please know our progressive program continues through advanced levels. If you are not looking to dance 3 or more hours a week, we still have many classes your student can progress with.

There will be three 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Teams, and two 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade Teams that work on technique, artistry, and progressive skill development in the areas of Jazz **and** Ballet that will make up our Performance Company. There will be one hip hop team grades 7-12. *How is this different from the past?* The New Conservatory program will serve our dancers who love classical ballet. For Performance Company dancers, we will have eliminated the separate ballet and jazz team concept. By ensuring our dancers all receive ballet and jazz training within their new team schedules, students are able to study for 2 hours back to back, making scheduling easier for them, and ensuring the same level dancer is in the room for appropriate skill building.

The Performance Company : The purpose and opportunities remain much the same as in the past. They will perform throughout the local community, more often than the annual recital, (on an average 4-6 times a year). They will have the opportunity to enter into Competitions, and participate in Annual studio trips. Each

year we alternate the trip (educational/ vs performance) As members of the Performance Company you will have an increase in the number of pieces you perform in our annual recital, as compared to a regular progressive level class. Two to three costumes will be purchased per year for each team, which will provide your costuming for all performances and recitals your team will be assigned to. (This is a decrease in costume purchases, by one, than how we previously did our teams). Can people on Performance Company, but NOT in Conservatory still participate in the classical ballets? In 2012 & 2013 you will have an opportunity to participate in the Nutcracker by audition if that is something you are interested in, and in Swan Lake if your team is assigned to that recital. (The Hip Hop Team will purchase one to two costumes per year, as in the past)

Our new pre Professional Conservatory program will serve Advanced Dancers grades 9-12 who will study Classical Ballet, Pointe and Modern Dance. You may not be in the Conservatory program if you are not on pointe. This program will be made up of our most serious dancers, considering “dance” as a potential future endeavor. They will have repertoire rehearsal time built in to their schedule as they prepare for their Classical productions. In 2012-2013 they will present the Nutcracker, and Swan Lake. They will have an opportunity to attend any trips that the Performance Company will be taking. Only dancers in the Conservatory Program will be in your classes.

### **Schedule for Performance Company:**

**ALL THREE 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Teams** will meet on Monday nights from 7:15-9:15 p.m. They will be divided into three rooms based on JV, Varsity, or Elite team assignments. They will work for two hours as a team, and will have Gena, Kirsten and Jocelyn as their instructors. Taking the place of the technique requirement: As an 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grader you now have a choice if you will take Ballet Technique on Wednesdays from 8:00-9:15 p.m. Or Modern on Tuesdays from 8:15-9:15 p.m. as your additional class to help make you a better dancer. Since everyone will already be receiving ballet and jazz on Monday in their team schedule, this allows dancers interested in more contemporary movement, the opportunity to build their foundation in that direction.

**BOTH 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> Grade Teams** will meet on Tuesday nights from 6:15-8:15 p.m.. They will be divided into two rooms JV or Varsity. They will work for two hours as a team and have Gena and Jocelyn as their instructors. They will also be expected to take the Saturday morning 9:15-10:45 a.m. Technique and Conditioning class, as a team. Those are the only requirements.

An aside: Leaps and Turns (Friday 3:45-4:45), and Modern (Thursdays either 4:15, or 7:15) are both classes that would be great for your skill development, and are encouraged / available but not required.

**Hip Hop Team** will be comprised of 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders (one team) and will rehearse on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. To be a member of the hip hop team, you must also take one other class to make you a better dancer.

### **Schedule for Conservatory:**

Conservatory dancers will have class on Tuesdays from 7:15-9:15, and Thursdays from 7:15-9:15. They will participate in classes with Kirsten, Rachel and Jocelyn, where they will study, Ballet, Pointe, Modern, and have rehearsal time for repertoire work built in to their schedule. Most ballet classes will be taken on pointe.

### **Can I be in both Performance Company and Conservatory?**

YES, if you want to audition for BOTH Performance Company and Conservatory you may. They will be two entirely different experiences. Performance Company is about a “showy” style of dance, leaning toward “team”, competition, trips, and friends, and is for dancers who are ready to move beyond the recreational, and progressive programs. They are looking to spend more than one or two hours a week on building their skills to become a more advanced dancer. **Conservatory** is about a serious approach to the classics for our most advanced ballet students on pointe, and is a pre professional program for ballet and modern dancers considering a collegiate experience for their future.

### **Considerations for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

Students attend dance classes for many reasons; some come for friends, some to build confidence, some for a recreational experience or exercise, while others are preparing themselves to audition for something in their future. Some individuals want to receive a background for Musical Theatre, and see themselves on the stage, others are competitive athletes and they see themselves on their High School Dance Teams. Finally, there are also students who love the “art” of dance, and are preparing for a major or minor in dance at a University, because they hope to become a company member somewhere, or perhaps an instructor.

The careful balance of time for homework, time for high school activities, and commitment to dance is always a juggling act for any young person. We want them to enjoy their journey, and always hope to be supportive in their choices. (Remembering that professional dancers take ballet technique 6 days a week, and can never “grow out” of the need to perfect their skills. “We are never as good as we can be... in any sport”.) The challenge is “What are our intentions for the future, what do we intend to be preparing for, and what do we enjoy?”

We believe the students that choose to do their high school dance teams as 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders can make either Performance Company OR Conservatory work if they attend Chaska High School. We would not recommend trying to do your high school team, Performance Company and Conservatory. This would most likely not be possible.

If you attend Chanhassen High School, Conservatory will not work for your Dance Team Schedule, but Performance Company would, if you chose that. By having two consecutive hours on Monday nights, we believe we will be able to eliminate most of the “extra” practices that get scheduled throughout the year.

. If you attend another high school, you will be able to see based on the schedule provided, if our “Teams” or Conservatory, work for your schedule.

### **Currently on our teams, and not sure if you can make your high school team work with our schedule?**

If you have chosen participation in your High School Dance Team, and are still interested in staying with the studio, but are unable to make either Performance Company or Conservatory work, you may participate in either the JV Lyrical/ Leaps and Turns (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) or Varsity Lyrical/Leaps and Turns (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) class on Wednesdays with Gena. You may either take this class all year, or Fall and Spring (before and after

competition season: This will require two lump sum payments, and ordering your costume in October, before you begin your season).

You are also provided the opportunity to participate in our technique class on Wednesdays from 8:00-9:15 p.m. This can be done all year, or before and after your season, same as the Lyrical option.

**If you are entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade,** and choose to do your high school dance team, our Performance Company will not work for you, due to our Saturday requirement. We would rather train a strong dancer and have her ready to make a valuable contribution to her high school dance team, then send out dancers who are not "cooked". We feel strongly about participation in our conditioning program as junior high students. If you are entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade and auditioning for your high school dance team, we would encourage you to remain in our progressive level classes, rather than audition for our performance company. You are able to take Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical and Modern, as you can fit them in to your schedule, and we would still love to be able to help you grow as a dancer. Unfortunately we are not able to make the Teams work for this age group, the way we can for 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **What about Pointe?**

Pointe I will be offered back to back with the 9:15-10:45 Technique/Conditioning class on Saturdays. Pointe I will be from 10:45-11:15 a.m. for dancers who will be 12 or older by December 2012, who have achieved level III skills. Your instructor must approve your participation in pointe I.

Pointe II/III will be held Mondays 6:30-7:15 for dancers not auditioning for Conservatory Advanced Pointe ( III/IV) will now become part of the Conservatory program, and is by audition.

### **Helpful Answers for dancers considering auditioning for Performance Company:**

#### **What are the costs:**

Tuition is the same as regular classes, multiplied by the number of hours you choose to dance. The minimum number hours for 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade is 3.5 per week. If you choose to add any additional classes, for example: Tap, hip hop, kick, modern, lyrical, leaps and turns, or pointe, on top of that; that is totally your choice.

3.5 hours is the required number of hours for Performance Company for 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade.

8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade: the required number of hours is 3 per week

Conservatory (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) the required number of hours is 4 per week

**Team Apparel.** Every 3 years we order a sweat suit. We use the same suit for 3 years. 2012-2013 will be a new design for our next sweat suit. One could anticipate this would cost between \$75 and \$120

**Costumes:** Any of our regular classes purchase one costume a year. For Performance Company, we will purchase 2 or 3 costumes. Keep in mind, if you were taking ballet and jazz, you would normally be purchasing 2 costumes. The prices of the costumes this last year were \$72.

**Activities:** We do participate in some team/ community building activities such as Feed My Starving Children, day trips to venues, renting busses, Choreography at the Water Park. Some of these events are mandatory

and some are optional. These costs for the year could range from \$80 (if you did only the mandatory events) to \$300, if you select to do everything, such as: see Broadway shows with us, and stay overnight at the Water Park Mall of America. Other activities we have done as a group in the past have included: Jump Zone, an Aqua Zumba class, a paddle boat cruise on Lake Minnetonka, taking class with National Broadway Tour Show instructors from Wicked, Lion King, & Memphis, seeing Billy Elliot, Hairspray, Altar Boys, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, sleep overs at the studio, the Nursing Home Tour.

Trips: Trips outside of MN are always optional. We have recently had a trip to NYC to take classes, and participate in the Behind the Scenes Broadway program, as well as see two Broadway shows. May of 2012, the team will travel to LA to Dance at Disneyland and California Adventure, Tour Hollywood, See the Cirque du Soleil show, and have a fun day at Universal. The 2012-2013 Trip will be a less expensive, closer to home option. We will select a dance convention in either Chicago or the Wisconsin Dells, perhaps coupled with some sightseeing. We will rent a bus for our transportation. Depending on the trip, they can run anywhere from \$250-\$1,000. These are optional.

Competition: is optional. We offer two per year. Group competition typically runs \$70 total per group for each style dance you participate in. Solos or duets would be additional if you asked to participate in those. They can run \$85 per competition. This is all money that gets paid directly to the competition company. RVDA rehearsal costs in the past have been \$20 total per routine. Dancers asking instructors to create solos for them is separate and between dancer and the instructor. On an average we have 2-5 dancers per year that are interested in this opportunity. With our new format, these rehearsals will be able to be simplified.

What is the number of hours most performance company dancers really dance? Most of our team dancers find themselves at the studio between 3 and 6 hours a week, depending on what they choose to take for classes. We have approximately half a dozen dancers that are here 8 hours a week.

**If your dancer is interested in either our Performance Company or our Conservatory Program, or both, they should plan on attending our auditions June 25-28. You can sign up when the summer brochure comes out next month, or any time before auditions. If you still have questions, please contact [Jocelyn@rivervalleydanceac.com](mailto:Jocelyn@rivervalleydanceac.com).**