

Dancestreams
Audition Information

Welcome to the audition for Dancestreams. Dancestreams is the performing company for Vancouver Island Youth Dance Theatre Association. The Company provides talented young dancers between 11 and 19 years the unique opportunity to train and perform in a professional company environment and to work with some of Canada's top dance artists.

Dancestreams is based in Parksville, but is not affiliated with any one dance school or studio. Company members come from communities throughout Vancouver Island and receive their regular training with local teachers.

Dancestreams' members meet every Sunday from September through May to work with company dancers from other communities under the direction of the company's artistic staff and guest artists. Both the Junior and Senior groups start on Sundays at 11:00. The Junior group finishes at 2:00 (3 hours), and Seniors finish at 5:00 (6 hours). The Dancestreams program emphasizes the development of professional performance skills and the learning and rehearsing of Company repertoire and new choreography.

Opportunities to perform include the annual "touring" season each spring, school and community performances, exchanges with other youth dance companies and participation in community events. Occasionally the Company embarks on a more extensive tour, which requires extra fundraising.

Family Commitment

VIYDTA and Dancestreams operated as a non-profit registered charity. Aside from the artistic staff, the Company is run with volunteer help. The Company receives minimal funding to run its operations and relies heavily on fund raising, gaming and box office revenue and dancers' fees to carry out its programs. In order to make participation in Dancestreams accessible to talented and committed dancers, fees are kept as low as possible. Therefore, the Company expects a commitment from the families. As well as ensuring the health, well being and attendance of the dancer, families are required to assist in fund raising and gaming activities throughout the season. The Company also relies on family members for various jobs during the performance season. Details of the volunteer positions available will be discussed at the parent information session.

Dancer Commitment

Dancestreams offers a unique experience for young dancers considering a career in the performing arts. In return the Company requires a dedicated commitment for the full season from its members as outlined below. The typical season runs from September thru to the end of May (approx). Company members are expected to:

- attend every rehearsal throughout the season*
- be prepared to stay at the studio for entire rehearsal period*
 - i.e.: bring lunch and snacks with you*
- be punctual and ready to dance each week*

- notify the artistic staff in advance in case of injury or illness*
- maintain a minimum of 3 ballet classes per week at the home studio*

Attitude

The main goal of Dancestreams is to create a positive, healthy, safe environment in which to learn and grow. Therefore, everyone is expected to work as a team and to participate in a positive spirit of co-operation and commitment.

NOTE: if a dancer misses three sessions or fails to notify the artistic staff of an absence, his/her membership in Dancestreams may be terminated. Participation in festivals, home studio productions and recitals, auditions or any other dance commitments will be honoured only if the artistic staff is notified at least 3 weeks in advance. It is imperative the families look over the calendar when it comes out in September to see if there are any conflicts.

Audition Format

*Previously a separate event, auditions are now combined with a Master Class. Auditions are held the first Sunday in September at a central location. Everyone is welcome at the Master Class, and you can participate in a Master Class without having to audition. If you intend to audition, you will be given an audition form to fill out when you register, and be given a number to pin on your body suit. You will then be observed in the Master Class. After the Master Class, an Information Meeting will be held. **At least one parent must attend** with the dancer. Here, you will be given an overview of what participation in Dancestreams is all about, and what to expect this performing year.*

Typical Season Start Up

First Sunday in September – Auditions

First full week of September – final confirmation of successful audition.

Second weekend in September – Company Retreat, overnight at a mid-island location.

Third weekend in September, Saturday and Sunday –Technique Revival Weekend: two days of workshops & classes. Please note that this is a Saturday and Sunday rehearsal.

After the September startup , rehearsals proceed on Sundays.

Master Classes:

Master Classes with guest teachers will replace Company classes at various times throughout the year at no extra cost to Company dancers. Teachers and dates to be announced at the beginning of the year, and as opportunities arise. In order to take advantage of touring dance companies, Dancestreams may also from time to time bring in guest teachers outside its regular master class program especially for the Company. At these times, dancers may be asked to pay a modest fee to help offset the cost of bringing special teachers.

Repertoire:

Repertoire will consist of existing dances works in the Company's repertoire plus new works created by this season's guest choreographers.

Performance Season:

Dancestreams performance season begins in February and ends in May. All performances are booked for Saturdays or Sundays with the occasional performance on a Friday. Performances may include Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands and the Lower Mainland. Transpiration is provided by parents and volunteers.

Dance Odyssey:

Dancestreams hosts a day of master classes and performance for dance schools from all Vancouver Island. The performance takes place at the Port Theatre and is usually the first Saturday in February.

Please feel free to discuss any aspects of Dancestreams with the staff and Board members. Dancers and parents will also have opportunities throughout the year to discuss issues of general interest and concerns. As well, the artistic and administrative staff and the Board of Directors welcome the opportunity to discuss ideas, problems or concerns on an individual basis.