

DANCESTREAMS

Dance Year 2010/2011

What is Dancestreams:

Dancestreams is the performing group sponsored by the Vancouver Island Youth Dance Theatre Association, a non profit registered charity. The Dancestreams Company consists of talented and committed dancers, aged 11 to 19, who enjoy the challenges of working in a professional setting. Dancers from all over Vancouver Island are chosen by audition each year.

What does Dancestreams do:

Dancers accepted into the program meet every Sunday from September to May in a central location (usually Parksville). The day begins with a technique class, either ballet or modern, with one of the artistic staff. This is followed by rehearsals for a further 4 hours. Often dancers will have the opportunity to take class with visiting artists and to work with one of the many professional choreographers who are commissioned to set works on the company. From time to time, other professionals will visit to teach class or give lectures (ie Pilates, nutrition, physiotherapy). The season culminates in a performance tour. Usually this is on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, but occasionally the company undertakes a major tour, such as the tour to China in 1994, Los Angeles in 1998 and 2001 and the Germany tour in 2003 and 2007. The company also offers "school shows" - educational programs presented in public or private school settings.

Who is eligible for Dancestreams:

Dancers from Vancouver Island between the ages of 11 and 19, with strong technical backgrounds, a keen interest in dance and a capacity for hard work. Dancers must be enrolled in a dance school and be taking a minimum of 3 ballet classes per week in their home studios. Parental support is mandatory for dancers wishing to take part in the program. Dancers *must* be able to commit to attending the complete Dancestreams season. Dancestreams currently has a Junior company and a senior company. The seniors dance from 11am-5pm on Sundays and the Juniors dance from 11am-2pm (this time may lengthen closer to performance dates).

Why is Dancestreams different from the dance school:

Dancestreams is **NOT** a dance school. Dancers receive outstanding supplementary training from Dancestreams, but as the company meets only one day per week, the home studio remains the source for core training. What Dancestreams does is provide an enriched setting for the most talented dancers from each community to come together in a non-competitive, creative atmosphere where they often learn as much from each other as they do from the teachers and guest artists. Dancestreams is also run on the same principles as a

professional dance company. Casting is undertaken purely on ability and knowledge of parts and dancers are expected to behave and work in a mature and responsible manner.

What does it cost to belong:

The annual fee for dancers accepted to Dancestreams is \$850 for seniors and \$425 for the junior and apprentice members. This is, in fact, only a small portion of the actual costs of the Dancestream program, which can run approximately \$3000-\$4000 per dancer annually. The balance of the funding comes from the YIYDTA Bingo, grants, raffles and other fund raisers. For this reason, parents of Dancestreams members are expected to assist the board of directors by sitting on at least one committee and committing to a fund raising quota to be determined annually. The types of committees, which require parental assistance, are: *Communication (press releases, advertising), fundraising, special events (wind-up, Christmas social), travel, newsletter/archives, heavy equipment, and costume mistress*. Each committee will be struck at the AGM and a committee leader/co-ordinator will be chosen. This member will report to the board and/or the artistic director on the progress of their committee or to receive direction. Parents must attend at least 2 Dancestreams board meetings per season. Many of the meetings are held on Sunday while the dancers are rehearsing (please check schedule for dates/times).

Do parents need to provide additional costumes:

NO. Dancestreams provides all costuming. We do however require a costume mistress from each group, who looks after the costumes, ensuring that any small repairs have been made, that they are cleaned between performances and that they costumes required for any given performance are allotted to the correct cast member. The costume mistress will also ensure the costumes are returned to the costume storage cupboard at Parksville Ballet School, after the last performance. Dancers are required to provide their own foot wear for each dance. They are also responsible to be dressed appropriately for class, including hair.

What supplies will the dancer require:

Dancers are expected to provide their own footwear as required, rehearsal clothing (tights, bodysuits etc) and stage makeup as required by the Artistic Staff.

What about absences:

If there is a particularly important reason for a dancer to be absent from rehearsal, the dancer **MUST** give written notice to the Artistic Director a minimum of 2 weeks (and preferably longer) ahead of time. Dancers and parents must realize however that if their absence occurs while casting is taking place, performance opportunities for the season can be affected. In the case of illness, the dancer should alert the Artistic Staff as soon as possible, or if injured, should try to attend the rehearsal to take notes.

Health Issues:

Dancestreams expects its dancers to arrive healthy and fit for dance each week. It is the dancers and parents responsibility to ensure adequate rest, nutrition, and conditioning for the heavy demands of this program. If the Artistic Staff deems that the dancer is not fit to perform safely, the dancer may be removed from the performance cast and participation in class and rehearsals limited.

What is Retreat:

Each new season of Dancestreams begins with a "retreat". The dancers and staff go away to hike, camp, have dinner together, talk over the coming season, discuss everyone's hopes and concerns and then have a sleep over. This event has taken place in Port Alberni, on Newcastle Island and several other areas. This is a very important time for the company to bond, and a lot of valuable communication takes place here. It is essential that those dancers chosen to be part of Dancestreams attend the retreat. This years retreat takes place on Saturday September 18 and Sunday September 19 in Parksville.

Communication:

Dancestreams and the Artistic Staff are committed to helping each dancer to have a fun and fulfilling season. It is important, therefore, that **ANY** concerns or problems be communicated directly to the Artistic Staff or a member of the executive as soon as they arise.

Vancouver Island Youth Dance Theatre Association AGM

The next AGM will be held

Sunday September 26, 2010

Parksville Ballet School, 11:00 am

One or both parents are required to attend this meeting. Committees will be struck, parental participation starts here!

For further information please call 250-723-9525 or e-mail dancestreams@shaw.ca .