

BIG CITY DANCE CENTER

COMPETITIVE COMPANY 2024-25

25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR!

Open Audition 1: Sunday, June 9th

- 3:00pm – 4:00pm All dancers 8-11 years old
- 4:00pm – 5:00pm All dancers 12-13 years old
- 6:15pm - 7:45pm All Dancers 14 years and up

Open Audition 2: Monday, August 5th

- 6:00pm – 7:00pm All dancers 9-12 years old
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm All Dancers 13 years and up

* ages as of September 1st

** please contact us for a private audition should the above not work for your schedule

Kick off Parent Zoom Meeting: Tuesday, August 6, 2024

6:30PM (NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION)

7:15PM (ALL COMPANY FAMILIES)

CORE VALUES COMPETITION TEAM

To promote the art of dance through competitive dance with a strong emphasis on teamwork and advanced technique.

The company is meant to bring the dancers closer together. This program is for those individuals who wish to take a more intensive approach to dance and may be considering dance after high school to audition for advanced college dance programs, college dance teams, or professional careers.

AUDITION PROCESS: (pick either date)

On June 9th or August 5th, any dancer approximately 8 years-18 years old are invited to audition for Big City Dance competition company. Dancers will receive

a number that they will wear throughout the audition. The dancers will execute dance skills across the floor and learn a short center combination. They will perform for the judges their short dance combination in small groups.

Please call the office at 248-960-0057 or email bigcitydancecenter@gmail.com should you need to arrange a private audition.

New company members from the audition will be notified **via email the following morning of the audition**, if they were chosen for the exciting 2024/2025 competition year. If picked for the team, a parent must attend an informative zoom meeting Monday, August 6, 2024 at 6:30pm new families to company and 7:30p returning families. Your non-refundable commitment fee of \$175.00 is due on or before this date. By exception only, dancers can commit later in the summer; however, the commitment fee will be \$200 and the director will not be placing the dancer in any small group numbers and/or possibly guest choreographed numbers.

DESCRIPTION OF TWO COMPETITION GROUPS

Level Up Competition Team

Being a part of Big City Dance Center's Competition Company requires a strong commitment from dancers. It is typically a 3 day per week program. Classes occur sometime Monday through Thursday. Dancers must commit to attending all rehearsals and training classes unless ill, family emergency or graded school appearances. The company is required to participate in all studio appearances including but not limited to: Walled Lake Memorial Day parade, South Lyon Pumpkifest, Walled Lake market days, and any other special appearances.

THE TIME COMMITMENT

Technique Class and Rehearsal Classes:

7 technique hours + competition dance class hours

The Big City staff places your dancer for all technique classes: ballet, tap, modern/conditioning and turn & leap jazz classes according to their ability and age. These training classes will occur Monday thru Thursday. Level up company dancers will have a 3 day per week commitment to include technique and competition dance rehearsal classes. Dancers are expected to make-up training

classes if they are missed. All company dancers will take the following for minimum weekly technique training:

1.5 hour ballet class (2), Jazz technique turn and leap class, Modern class, Tap technique class, Acro/Conditioning/Contortion class, elective class of choice: i.e. pointe, turns, combo, barre etc.

Level up company competes 6-7 competition group dances with most to be rehearsed on a specific day and 30 min time slot.

I.E. Turning Pages Lyrical Sr small group Mondays 6:30pm -7:00pm

Dancers receive a well rounded group dance different genre schedule to include similar of the following:

- Hip Hop Line
- Lyrical Line
- Large Group Jazz
- Large Group Contemporary
- Large Group Musical Theater
- Small groups (1-2)

PRE PROFESSIONAL COMPANY

Company members who want an intense program are welcome to apply for our pre professional dance company. Interested parties will fill out an application and turn it in to the front desk by August 15th. The pre professional member is required to commit to the program for 10 months. These dancers are on fast track to excel and pursue technical levels to audition for college dance programs, a professional career or college dance teams. Pre professional members train more hours than the Level Up company, attend one additional outside dance convention/study trip, and participate in master class guest opportunities that arise.

Technique Class and Rehearsal Classes:

9.5 technique hours + competition dance class hours

The Big City staff places your dancer for all technique classes according to their ability and age. The pre professional training classes occur sometime Monday thru Thursday. Pre professional company dancers will have a 4 day per week commitment to include technique and competition dance rehearsal classes. Dancers are expected to make-up training classes if they are missed. Pre professional company dancers will take the following for minimum weekly technique training:

1.5 hour ballet class (3), Jazz technique turn and leap class, Modern class, Tap technique class, Acro/Conditioning/Contortion class, Turn class and an elective class of choice: i.e. pointe, tumbling combo, barre etc. It is an unlimited class membership.

Pre professional company competes approximately 10-11 competition group dances to be rehearsed on a specific day in 30 min time slots. More optional opportunities may arise to add dances in early spring.

I.E. Turning Pages Lyrical Sr small group Mondays 6:30pm -7:00pm

The group dances will include the following in addition to multiple guest and in house choreographer large groups and small groups:

- Hip Hop Line
- Lyrical Line
- Large Group Jazz
- Large Group Contemporary
- 6 additional dances of different genres and large and small groups

Misc for Level up and pre pro

The company is given notice if classes are cancelled, extended or added via the company email. Dancers may only miss competitive dance rehearsals only for major reasons such as contagious illness, family emergencies and graded school events. Dancers must take private lessons if missing company classes (no matter the reason) after one absence per semester.

(4) Weekend Extra Rehearsals:

Longer rehearsals should be expected closer to competitions or appearances. In October, we will set 4 weekends aside to hold extra rehearsals at the studio to get our competitive dances ready. Please set these weekends aside as rehearsals are mandatory. You will have a specific schedule of which dances we are rehearsing and how long, etc. one week prior to each super weekend.

Dancers must be flexible with their schedules around competition. Three weeks prior to competition, attendance is absolutely mandatory. Our rehearsals take precedence over outside commitments. In rare cases, the director will excuse dancers from competition rehearsals. If dancers miss rehearsals three weeks prior to competition, including extra rehearsals, the dancer may be staged out of numbers that were missed. The dancer will be staged back into that number for the next competition. Parents will not be reimbursed for the competition entry fees as they are non-refundable.

If a dancer becomes injured and cannot participate in competitions you will be charged for competition fees for groups unless staging your dancer out is feasible. In most cases, with a doctors note from you, we will contact the competition companies to assist you in getting a refund for the dances are able to stage dancer out.

The dancer terminating their commitment for any reason is required to give his/her costumes within 5 days of termination to be borrowed by a replacement dancer for the groups they are in. The group costumes will be returned within 5 days after national competition to the terminated dancer. Should the terminated dancer fail to loan the group costumes to the replacement dancer, the terminated dancer's account will be charged \$175 per costume in addition to the above fees.

The week or two prior to competition we rent a local high school stage to block competition dances. These occur sometime Monday through Thursday based on availability and can occur on your off night. These are mandatory to participate as it really helps the team practice before hitting the competition stage.

THE COST OF COMPETITION COMPANY

NON-REFUNDABLE COMMITMENT FEE: \$175 if paid on for before August 6, 2024 \$200 if paid after August 7th.

WARM-UP CLOTHING

All competitors are required to purchase a warm-up outfit of: one company tank top/T-shirt, one company jacket. You need not purchase these items every year. Orders are taken and paid for by September 15, 2024.

COSTUMES

Female costumes range from \$50 - \$200. Male costumes are typically street clothes purchased through local stores. We have private designers that create most of our competition outfits. In some instances, costumes from previous years are re-used for a group piece. If you are renting a costume for a year the cost is \$50 (for the year) to the owner of the costume. Their company account will credited. You are responsible for dry cleaning the costume, and damages or misplacement, if it occurs.

FALL TUITION FOR COMPANY GROUPS SEPTEMBER 2024 THROUGH JUNE 2025
The company is a specialized focus training program. A significant discount is given to members who join and are accepted in to the program. Big City tuition prices (listed on bigcitydance.com). Please review and compare the tuition for company versus our club dancers who only participate in the spring recital. You will see a significant reduction for company members.

Company Tuition Price Matrix September through June

Company Members Technique Class Fee: \$265/month

Includes 7 hours technique: Two Ballet technique classes, One turn and leap jazz technique classes, One modern, Acro/ Conditioning Class, Tap technique class, pointe technique classes.

In addition, please add \$10 tuition per month for every group competition dance. Most competition group dances 30 minute rehearsal classes.

Pre Professional Program Technique Fee: \$295/Month

Includes 9.5 hours technique: Three Ballet technique classes, One turn and leap jazz technique class, One Modern, Acro/ Conditioning Class, Tap technique class, One combination class, turn class, pointe technique classes

In addition please add \$10 tuition per month for every group competition dance. Most competition group dances 30 minute rehearsal classes.

There is a 10% discount off tuition for families with multiple dancers

The BIG CITY EXPERIENCE SUMMER INTENSIVE

AUGUST 7th-15th, 2024

\$375.00

The company is required to participate in the summer intensive. Company students are required to take minimum 25 classes. Every level has approximately 35 classes to choose from. All dancers will be assigned to levels in their core classes. Dancers may choose their own elective classes. You have some flexibility if you are traveling and unable to make some of the intensive. We can make sure your summer intensive schedule compliments your summer travels. The dancers will be observed in class for placement of competition dances. Family discount 10% for multiple dancers. Dancers who register and pay by June 10th receive \$50 off. Both offers cannot be combined.

COMPETITION ESCROW/SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Eight monthly payments (separate from STUDIO tuition) will be collected to pay for items such as competition costumes, competition fees, dance conventions, props, etc.

Instead of asking for lump sums of money in the winter to pay for your entry fees, competition fees, etc.; we have a formula for competitors to make 8 monthly payments held in an escrow account. This way you can budget

“competition” associated costs into your monthly budget. The director draws from these funds when fees are due for competition, costumes, shoes, etc.

This formula is a GUESTIMATE not the final and actual cost of everything that will be spent with regards to competing. It varies from year to year if we are slightly over or under this amount.

Your eight monthly payments are due on the 15th of every month beginning in August. A late fee of \$10 will be assessed to your account after the 20th of that month. An additional late fee will be added of \$15 if you are beyond 20 days late. Your final company payment is due on March 15, 2025. If you have a credit due, any credit will be transferred to your studio account; zeroing your company savings account for the year. If you have a balance due, it must be provided no later than April 1, 2025.

FORMULA FOR 8 ESCROW/SAVINGS LEVEL UP COMPANY ACCOUNT

The following is the formula that is used to calculate your costs for competing. It is based on everything associated with attending a dance competition.

FIRST COMPETITION DANCE: LEVEL UP

Average costs of costume \$170

Rhinestones/Trims: \$25

Regional Entry Fee (3): $\$67 * 3$

National Entry fee: \$80

Shoes/tights (2 pairs): \$95

Earrings (2 pairs): \$26

Misc. Props/Parade Tee/Nationals party: \$95

Dance Convention: \$350

Rehearsals/Stage rental: \$100

National prop transport/coaches fee \$75

Budget for 1st dance: \$1217 / 8 months: \$152

FIRST COMPETITION DANCE: PRE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

Average costs of costume \$170

Rhinestones/Trims: \$25

Regional Entry Fee (3): \$67 * 3

Media fees: \$115

National Entry fee: \$80

Shoes/tights (2 pairs): \$95

Earrings(2 pairs): \$26

Misc. Props/Parade Tee/Nationals party: \$95

**Dance Convention (2): \$700

Rehearsals/Stage rental: \$100

National prop transport/coaches fee \$75

Budget for 1st dance: \$1682 / 8 months: \$210

EVERY COMPETITION DANCE THEREAFTER Level up and Pre Professional

When adding additional company numbers after the first one, only the costs are considered:

Average costume: \$170

Rhinestones/Trims: \$25

National entry fee: \$80

3 Regional Competition fees: \$67*3

Total \$476/8 months add \$60 per dance to escrow

The following is a typical scenario for a LEVEL UP company member:
My dancer is in 3 company dances. What is my monthly escrow/savings company payment?

First Dance: \$162

Second Dance: \$60

Third Dance: \$60

Monthly payment: \$ 282.00 per month beginning August 15 - March 15th

At anytime you may request an account ledger or log into your online accounts to view/monitor what we have charged to your accounts. By viewing the costs to compete you are able to get an idea of how much each dance will cost.

Please consider time and finances when deciding the max number of dancers your dancer should do.

THE DANCE SEASON IS SEPTEMBER 2024 THROUGH JULY 2025(national trip). IF YOUR DANCER IS UNABLE TO FINISH THE SEASON, YOU ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE, 8 ESCROW PAYMENTS, \$800 RE-STAGING FEE AND ALL COMPETITION RELATED COSTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO NATIONAL ENTRY FEES. IF ANY DANCER IS INJURED AND UNABLE TO COMPETE, YOUR COMPETITION FEES ARE NON REFUNDABLE, AS INDICATED BY THE COMPETITION COMPANIES. DOCTORS NOTE MUST BE PROVIDED FOR ALL INJURED DANCERS FOR DOCUMENTATION PURPOSES.

PLACEMENT IN COMPETITION DANCES

You will be emailed a request for placement sheet at the first parent meeting scheduled for August 6, 2024. Parents are asked to consider expense of each number and confirm the number of dances your child can participate in including guest choreography. Level Up company max group dances is 6 and pre professional company max 11 group dances with more opportunities in late winter to add more. Being in guest choreography is OPTIONAL as additional costs are associated with their dances (i.e. travel cost to get them to Michigan and their service fees). Placement goals are to give a well rounded competition group schedule for the students to grow and learn many genres. Tap and pointe competition dances are optional.

COMPETITIONS THE COMPANY ATTENDS

All competition groups attend three local competitions. These events are held on the weekend and take place around the metro Detroit areas. These competitions occur February 2024 – May 2025. You will have actual dates for the four competitions we are attending by September 15, 2024. All soloists are encouraged to enter these competitions. Solos/Duo/trios may also enter other competitions on their own.

DANCE CONVENTIONS

We require all company members to attend and compete some groups at one dance conventions/competitions. These entry fees are not included in your escrow. They are approximately \$75 per group. Pre professional program will attend and compete in two conventions. They are weekend dance class events that mainly occur January-March 2025. The cost of the convention is approximately \$350. Dates and conventions TBD.

NATIONAL COMPETITION

The company attends one out of state national competition. All company members are required to attend nationals. There is rehearsal for nationals between the recital through nationals. Please keep that in mind when making summer family vacation plans. Our national plans will be decided by September 2024. I will propose 2-3 national options and we will take a vote (teachers and parents) on the best place to attend a nationals. We commonly attend “drivable” nationals.

COMMUNITY APPEARANCES

In previous seasons, we have appeared at Piston Basketball home games, movie premiers for Jeff Daniels, and South Lyon, Novi Lake community events. All appearances are considered mandatory unless a special exception is made by the director.

PROPER ATTITUDE FOR COMPANY MEMBERS

Big City Performing Company has a terrific reputation for well disciplined, friendly dancers that work hard. We believe the specific ingredients to our success are:

Work hard in rehearsals

Set specific goals for the year and dedicate ourselves to them
Treat each other with respect and care
Respect the discipline of the art of dance
Be respectful to our fellow competitors
Appreciate any awards we are given
Listen to your teachers as they are attempting to lead you
Try your best at every performance
Have a perfect attempt at perfect attendance
Attend your ballet and technique classes; make them up if you miss them
Have fun, we are a family!

PARENT COMMITMENT

Parents play a strong role in the success of the group every year. The most important aspect a parent contributes is the positive support to the dancers and teachers. As a parent you are responsible for:

Working one recital show
Work one committee
Participate in potluck food for competitions & extra rehearsals when applicable
Making sure your dancer arrives on time to all competitions and events
Providing funds for competing on a timely basis
Sell one business ad or one full page personal ad in recital program
Serve on one competition prop committee
All parents are expected to set the example for the children regarding kind and great professionalism, sportsmanship and positive support with their family, other Big City families, the Big City staff and our competitors.

SOLO/DUO/TRIOS AVAILABLE TO ALL COMPANY MEMBERS

\$30 per 1/2 hour private paid to the private teacher for solo continuous weekly solo/privates

\$30 for technique only privates. These are the occasional or one time private lesson one on time with teacher

\$20 duo or \$15 trio each member paid to the teacher

\$ 5 per 30min private rental fee paid to the studio

\$ 12 Administrative fee per solo/duo/trio added per competition form per solo.

Note: Duo/trios (split among members) for renting space and all administrative costs associated with entry fees.

Solos and duo/trios: are approved by the director. These separate commitments require a special attention to working hard in technique classes and practicing on your own. Solos, duo/trios must be arranged through the director no matter what teacher you are working with. Our guest choreographers are available for choreography at separate fees. Please discuss private lessons with Lisa Fruchey.

The director reserves the right to change or amend the rules at anytime throughout the year to enhance the program.

2024/2025 Company Calendar Tentative

June 9th First Company Audition Opportunity (attend either audition)

August 5th Second Company Audition Opportunity (attend either audition)

August 6th Company Parent zoom meeting 6:30pm, commitment fee due

August 7th-Aug 15th Summer Intensive begins

August 14th Receive fall company placement

August 15th First company payment due

August 19th the office will register your tech classes

TBD Dance Convention sometime Jan-March

TBD 3 regional dance competitions sometime March-May

March 15th Last of 8 company payments due

April 1st Balance company accounts due, if any

June/July 2025 National competition: Parent/Teachers to vote on preference.