Welcome Letter from the School of Dance Director

Dear Dance Families,

More than ever, this is a time to dance. If you were to ask me about when I became a “dancer,” I would start by sharing the experience of my first tap class at the age of 8. Since that day, some things have changed while others have not. My life’s memories are almost entirely framed around dance and where I was dancing at the time. From dancing in the kitchen while my parents cooked dinner, to dancing at the Metropolitan Opera knowing that at any moment my wife could go into labor with our first son. Memories made today will be no different.

As we witness a pandemic and seek equality in the infrastructure of our society, we are faced with challenges that are heavy and difficult, but none that are impossible or forever. For however long it takes to overcome the challenges of today, as creative people we will make it through by coming together and supporting one another. As a gift to our future selves, I think we should consider the choices we make and how we remember them. What will the story be of the last four months and the coming days ahead? The answer to this question might seem out of reach, but one we will have as we frame the memories made by our experiences.

Despite the uncertainties we face as we begin the Fall 2020 session, the mission of the School of Dance remains the same: to cultivate artistry, excellence, and healthy communities through dance training, performance, and outreach. Circumstances may affect our approach and for a while things may look a little different, but our mission is unchanged. To achieve these goals while ensuring the safety of our faculty and students, we will continue to host a hybrid of limited in-person and virtual classes that can be experienced from home or in the studio when possible. With strict health and safety protocols, and guidelines established by our public health agencies, we will continue to provide everyone opportunities to experience art, creativity, and dance.

Finally, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the people of this program. We truly appreciate your grace, support, and involvement. It is because of you that we exist. Thank you for enriching our lives and the lives of countless others. May we continue to do so in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Hanan Misko
School of Dance Director

Students are required to enroll each semester before attending class. Class listings are available online and in the catalog. Interested students may enroll in classes online, over the phone, or in person through the Front Desk. In-person class participation is subject to the guidelines set forth by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and Arts Center availability. During the pandemic, each course registration will be limited to 8-9 students. Students will always have the option of participating virtually from the comfort of their homes, via the Virtual Dance Portal. In the event that studio capacity is limited, select classes will alternate which students are permitted in-studio. View the School of Dance Handbook for important class-specific policies and more by visiting the School of Dance homepage.

Individuals and families who enroll in 3 or more weekly dance classes receive a Dance Bundle Discount of 25% off all dance tuition. Discount pricing can be applied when enrolling online or with the front desk. Additional benefits of our program include no registration, audition, or costuming fees for dance classes and the End of Year Showcase!

Please note: Families wishing to set up a payment plan and/or apply for financial aid will still need to do so by contacting the front desk staff by calling (785) 843-2787.
Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, August 22, 2020
Parent Meeting | 10:00—11:00 am | via Zoom

Join us as we begin the fall semester. Hanan Misko, School of Dance Director, and Program Coordinator, Amy Hope, will be presenting an orientation to the dance program and answering questions. We will communicate the Zoom meeting details to all families enrolled in fall classes, via email. For questions, contact School of Dance Coordinator at amyh@lawrenceartscenter.org.

Sunday, August 23, 2020
Dance Shoppe Pop-Up | Time TBD

Looking to buy new dance attire items in Lawrence? Don’t miss Dance Shoppe of Kansas City’s pop-up sale event. Meet with sale representatives from Dance Shoppe and get fit for your new dance attire, including new leotards, jazz pants, dance shoes, tights, and more! Health and Safety Guidelines will be enforced during the event: 6 feet social distancing and masks will be required and studio capacity is limited. If you have questions about this event, please contact the School of Dance Coordinator at amyh@lawrenceartscenter.org.

Carmine Ballere Scholarship

Established in 1997, the Carmine Ballere Scholarship is awarded to students who have demonstrated excellence and commitment in dance. Encouraging the study of ballet and a lifelong devotion to dance, the scholarship covers the cost of four ballet and pointe classes per week, as well as all production and participation fees during the Fall 2020/Spring 2021 semesters. Awarded are required to serve as teachers’ assistants for one Preschool/Kinder class per week, and must currently be enrolled in Ballet IV-VII to audition.

Deadline to register online is August 20.

Madeline at the Carnival | Dates/Times TBA

Based on the book Madeline and the Gypsies by Ludwig Bemelmans
Directed by Cynthia Crews, a Lawrence Ballet Theatre production

Continuing in the series of “Madeline” books, Lawrence Ballet Theatre will present a dance adaptation of the story where Pepito, the son of the Spanish Ambassador, invites the 12 little girls to a carnival. A sudden storm causes Madeline and Pepito to be left behind at the carnival! When the carnival moves on to the next city, how will Madeline and Pepito get back home? Or are they enjoying the carnival too much to return to the old house in Paris?

NUTCRACKER 2020

The Nutcracker, A Kansas Ballet: Video Installation

Inspired by the story within the snowflake artwork for Kansas Nutcracker, by Dave Lowenstein. The Arts Center re-visions its winter Nutcracker tradition by combining dancers, animations, and music into in a spectacular video display for the public on the face of the building.

Auditions

2nd Grade to Adults
Audition: Sept 27-28, Times: TBA

Calling all dancers 2nd-12th grade and adults who enjoy movement to audition for a special video installation of the Arts Center's The Nutcracker, A Kansas Ballet.

Pre-registration is required. Auditioning is FREE. Dancers should arrive wearing appropriate dance attire and be ready to move. In order to be considered for a role, applicants in 2nd-12th grade must be actively enrolled in a dance class at any dance school/ studio. Participation fee TBD, no fee for adults and Lawrence Ballet Theatre members.