

Waterford Dance Ensemble Parent/Student Informational Meeting

Would you like to join WDE?

- **What is WDE?** WDE is our award-winning performance/competition company within Waterford Dance Academy. This is a close-knit group of wonderful, talented WDA dancers who love to dance, perform, compete and get together for other outside activities!
- Currently, we have 9 teams within WDE in the genres of ballet, jazz, tap and lyrical.
- WDE is by audition and invitation ONLY.

Rehearsals

- Each company will have one company class per week. All ballet, all tap and the jazz only team will have 30 minute time slots and the jazz/lyrical teams will be allocated 60 minutes for their class.
- Company is on the same schedule as WDA. We do not rehearse over Thanksgiving break, winter break or spring break. Classes begin and end the same days as the rest of the studio core classes.
- During company class, dancers will learn their competition routine. Each company learns one piece except all 3 jazz/lyrical teams. Each jazz/lyrical team will learn both a jazz and a lyrical piece for competition.
- Company weekly rehearsal schedule will be released with the WDA fall schedule.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be age 7 by September 1, 2017
- Must have a minimum of 2 years dance experience
- Core classes are required for all members of company. All ballet company members are required to take at least one core ballet class per week. All tap company members are required to take at least one core tap class per week. Jazz only company members are required to take at least one ballet class and one jazz class per week. All jazz/lyrical company members are required to take at least one core ballet class and at least either one core jazz class OR one core lyrical class per week.
- Must maintain attendance in core classes as well as adhere to the company attendance requirements.
- **Mandatory events** include dress rehearsal (February 23), 2 dance competitions (March 16-18 and April 27-29) and the WDA Spring Concert (June 10). **No exceptions** will be made for missing a mandatory performance. Immediate dismissal will occur if a mandatory performance is missed. (Lock in, holiday party, etc are optional events)
- **Highly recommended** is our in studio convention August 25 from 6pm-8pm

Attendance

- Must maintain 90% attendance in all required core classes.
- Attendance will be taken for each company at the beginning of each company class. Lateness to company class is unacceptable. If a dancer arrives late or unprepared, they will be asked to sit out of the class and one of their 4 misses will be used. (If a dancer has a class immediately prior to company class, they need to let their company instructor know)
- Each dancer is permitted 4 "misses" per company over the 34-week season. This means if a dancer is on a ballet and tap company, they will be allowed 4 misses for ballet and 4 misses for tap.
- If 3 misses are reached, the director will touch base with student to be sure they are aware of their 3 misses. If 4 misses occur, dancer will be put on probation. Upon a 5th miss they will be immediately removed from the company. No exceptions.
- If a dancer is sick or injured and watches/takes notes on rehearsal, a miss will NOT be used and that dancer will be marked as present.
- Misses need to be planned accordingly. Be sure to leave 1-2 misses to use in case of illness. If a dancer has a fever and is contagious, we ask that they not attend class, take a miss and stay home to heal.

Financial Commitment

- Each 30 minute company class is \$60 and each 60 minute company class is \$75. **PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A 10% DISCOUNT FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL DANCER WHO OPTS TO BE A PART OF MULTIPLE COMPANIES.**
- All WDE dues are to be paid monthly on an automatic basis. A current credit card on file is required. Payments will begin September 1, 2017 and end May 1, 2018.
- **NEW COMPANY MEMBERS ONLY** will be charged a \$70 accessory fee for their WDE jewelry pack of hairpiece, earrings and choker. These accessories will be used year to year and only need to be ordered once. The only way any charges will occur for a current member would be if a replacement is needed due to loss, breakage or a discontinuation of the items.
- Company costume fees are \$90 per costume. Costume fees are due with the first payment in September. We need to order costumes early to be sure we have them in time. If we do not have payments for costumes, we cannot order them and risks the entire team getting their costumes on time. If a dancer is on more than 2 companies, costume payments can be split between September and October.
- Competitions charge a fee per dancer, per dance. So for example, if a dancer is in a jazz/lyrical company, they will be charged 2 entry fees, one for their jazz piece and one for their lyrical. Any competition we attend will be between \$45-\$60 per dancer, per dance. We do not have exact prices yet as competitions tend to raise their rates and do not release them until late summer.

Audition Information

- This year there will be 2 dates to choose from to audition for WDE. **June 17th 9:30am-2pm** and **June 25th 2pm-6:15pm.** **Dancers may only audition ONCE.** Auditions by video, to make up or private are NOT allowed.
- **Students MUST audition within their age range** for tap and jazz REGARDLESS of skill level. Age is determined by the age the dancer will be by September 1, 2017. Ballet auditions are based current level.

6/17/2017 audition schedule is as follows:

Age Group	Genre	Check-In Time	Audition Time
7-10	Tap	9:15am	9:30-10am
7-10	Jazz	9:45am	10-10:30am
Ballet Intermediate 1&2 (current and incoming Fall 2017)	Ballet	10:15am	10:30-11am
11-13	Jazz	10:45am	11-11:30am
11-13	Tap	11:15am	11:30-12pm (12-12:30pm judges break)
Ballet Intermediate 3/Advanced (current and incoming Fall 2017)	Ballet	12:15pm	12:30-1pm
14+	Jazz	12:45pm	1-1:30pm
14+	Tap	1:15pm	1:30-2pm

(6/25 Audition schedule on next page)

6/25/2017 audition schedule is as follows:

Age Group	Genre	Check-In Time	Audition Time
7-10	Tap	1:45pm	2-2:30pm
7-10	Jazz	2:15pm	2:30-3pm
Ballet Intermediate 1&2 (current and incoming Fall 2017)	Ballet	2:45pm	3-3:30pm
11-13	Jazz	3:15pm	3:30-4pm
11-13	Tap	3:45pm	4-4:30pm <i>(4:30-4:45pm judges break)</i>
Ballet Intermediate 3/Advanced (current and incoming Fall 2017)	Ballet	4:30pm	4:45-5:15pm
14+	Jazz	5pm	5:15-5:45pm
14+	Tap	5:30pm	5:45-6:15pm

- There is no fee to audition
- Prior to audition please visit the WDA website and under “Forms and Flier” please find the Audition Intake form. Each dancer must have one of these forms filled out and turned in prior to their audition. Forms can be emailed or dropped off in a hard copy before the June show at the desk, to Ms. Alyson or Ms. Emily.
- Audition times slots are by age for tap and jazz: 7-10, 11-13 and 14+. Ballet auditions are open to dancers Intermediate 1 and up. **Dancer must be currently in Intermediate 1 or above to be eligible to audition for ballet company.**
- Each dancer wishing to audition for WDE is required to sign up ahead of time through either the customer portal or at the desk. Sign up is currently open. Double/triple check the date/time to be sure you are signing up for the date you want.
- **Every dancer auditioning is auditioning to be a company member, not for a specific team.** Any dancer auditioning is auditioning to be a part of WDE. Once scores have been tallied, dancers will be split into teams by ability level based on audition score regardless of age. There will be 2 ballet teams, 3 tap teams, 1 jazz only team and 3 jazz/lyrical teams. New team names are currently being decided.
- Attire and hair must be appropriate or dancer WILL NOT be allowed to audition. Dress code is the same as for core classes. Hair and bangs must be off the face and secured.
- Once an audition has begun, the door will remain closed. Arriving late will not be allowed. If a dancer misses their appointed time, they may not make it up in another audition.
- After audition, dancer needs to stop back at the check in table to receive information regarding how to receive invitations, how to accept/decline and contract deadliness. The packet with the contract will be available online on WDA’s website under forms and flyers.
- **WDE TEAM classes will be available for WDE ballet, jazz only and jazz/lyrical teams.** These classes will begin July 10 and are divided by age rather than teams. We highly recommend that our members take this class to begin preparing for the coming year. (Sign up for these classes opens after teams have been determined)

FAQ's

1. I (my child) does not take jazz, just ballet. Can they still audition for the jazz team?

Absolutely! Ballet is the basis of all dance and they will not be asked to do anything with which they have not done in ballet class.

2. I (my child) does not take ballet, just jazz or lyrical. Can they still audition for the jazz team?

Absolutely! Because jazz and ballet have the same base, if you take one, you should be able to do the other with minimal trouble.

3. I (my child) wants to do lyrical, but there is no time for lyrical auditions. How does that work?

Because jazz and lyrical are very similar and the team is a combined jazz/lyrical team, we are only holding one audition. If you do the jazz audition, your score in that audition will go towards the jazz/lyrical teams.

4. If my child makes a WDE team, but has an outside conflict with the time of the class, what can be done?

Unfortunately, we are not able to move any of our scheduled times, but try our best to schedule what is convenient for most. HOWEVER, we STRONGLY RECOMMEND that each dancer auditions in **every genre for which they are eligible**. There is no cost for auditioning, they will already be there and if invited, they will have more times from which to choose. Even if they are not able to do their first choice, they hold a much higher chance of being able to participate in WDE if they audition for everything.

5. What if my child wants to do the jazz audition, but does not have jazz shoes?

We do not want you to purchase shoes special for the audition. If they only have ballet shoes, these will be accepted.

6. What happens the day of auditions?

Upon arrival, each dancer will check in at the front table and will be given a number to pin on their clothing. Numbers will be pinned on the center of the stomach and returned after the conclusion of the audition. Dancers will be called into the studio at the audition start time. Once the door closes, the audition is closed. If you are late, you will not be allowed into the room and cannot make up in another group. After their audition is complete, dancers will return their number to the check in table and receive a note explaining when/how results will be sent and what to do once those results are received.

7. At auditions, does each dancer check in for each genre?

No, once a dancer does their first check in, they are considered checked in for the rest of the auditions and do not need to check in again.

8. If I (my child) is invited to multiple teams, does this mean they are committed to those teams?

No, once you receive your invitations, you have until July 1 to confirm or decline the invitations.

9. There is something about a form that needs to be filled out and turned in. What is it, where is it and what do we do with it?

Each dancer is expected to submit an intake form prior to auditions. The form can be found on our WDA website. Form should be printed, completed and returned before the audition day.

Audition Details

Jazz

Appearance:

Correct tight color, hair back in a bun with no bangs, leotard and correct shoes (5 points)

Skills:

1. Splits: 1-5 points for 1 split, 6-8 for 2 splits, 9-10 for all 3
2. Side battement: 1-3 points for 1 battement, 4-6 points for 2 battements, 7-8 for 1 leg hold, 9-10 for both leg holds
3. Leap: 1-3 points for saute de chat, 4-6 for side leap, 7-8 for calypso, 9-10 for switch leap
4. Pirouette: 1-4 points for single, 5-6 points for double, 7-8 points for triple, 9-10 points for quad

5. Skill of choice: need to know the name of your skill, correct preparation, correct placement of arms and legs, correct landing (10 points total)

Progression:

1. Technique: all technical elements correct with proper leg, arm and carriage placement (10 points)
2. Performance: energy, facials, fully extending through limbs and hitting accents (10 points)
3. Musicality: correct counting and tempo (10 points)
4. Overall: how each of the above elements blend and each element represented equally (15 points)

Tap

Appearance:

Correct tight color, hair back in a bun with no bangs, leotard and correct shoes (5 points)

Skills:

1. Flaps: 1-5 points for 4 medium speed, 6-8 points for 4 running, 9-10 point for 8 running in a square
2. Buffalo: 1 point for single, 2-3 points for single with turn, 4-5 points for a double, 6-7 points for a double with a turn, 8-9 points for triple, 10 points for triple with a turn
3. Maxi ford: 1-4 points for single, 5-6 points for single with a turn, 7-8 points for straight up pick up/pull back, 9-10 points for turning with pickup/pull back
4. Time Step: 1-4 points for single, 5-7 points for double, 8-10 points for triple
5. Skill of Choice: need to know the name of your skill, correct preparation, correct placement of arms and legs and correct landing (10 points total)

Progression:

1. Technique: all technical elements correct with proper leg, arm and carriage placement (10 points)
2. Performance: energy, facials, fully extending through limbs and hitting accents (10 points)
3. Musicality: correct counting and tempo (10 points)
4. Overall: how each of the above elements blend and each element represented equally (15 points)

Ballet

Appearance:

Correct tight color, hair back in a bun with no bangs, leotard and correct shoes (5 points)

Skills:

1. Pique turns: 1-5 points for 4 straight pique turns, 6-7 points for 4 pique turns in a square, 8-9 points for 4 straight pique turns with 1 double pique turn, 10 points for 4 pique turns with alternating single and double turns
2. Tombe pas de bouree glissade leap: 1-5 points for grand jete, 6-10 points for saute de chat
3. Pirouette: 1-4 points for single, 5-6 points for double, 7-8 points for triple, 9-10 points for quad

Petite Allegro:

1. Technique: all technical elements correct with proper leg, arm and carriage placement (5 points)
2. Performance: energy, facials, fully extending through limbs and hitting accents (5 points)
3. Musicality: correct counting and tempo (5 points)
4. Overall: how each of the above elements blend and each element represented equally (10 points)

(continued)

Grand Allegro:

1. Technique: all technical elements correct with proper leg, arm and carriage placement (10 points)
2. Performance: energy, facials, fully extending through limbs and hitting accents (10 points)
3. Musicality: correct counting and tempo (10 points)
4. Overall: how each of the above elements blend and each element represented equally (10 points)

Additional notes

- Dancers will be separated into groups of 3-4 and will show skills individually. For the progression, petite allegro and grand allegro, dancers will audition in groups.
- Jazz pirouettes should be parallel, ballet pirouettes should be turned out
- If splits are flat, be sure to put arms up and hold for 2-3 seconds
- Anything that has a choice can be done on the left or the right, dancer's choice
- For the skill of choice, you will be asked to tell us what you are doing prior to performing your skill. It is recommended you do not show us a skill that you have already shown us.
- There will be NO QUESTION this year. Dancers only speak when telling the judges what they are doing.
- From the moment you enter the room, you are being observed. Any distracting behavior, speaking out of turn, etc will result in a reduction of points. There will be an opportunity to ask questions on the combinations by raising of the hand.
- Ms. Alyson and Ms. Emily will be running auditions both days
- Judges are from outside of the studio and do not know any of the students to ensure unbiased scoring
- After your audition is complete, stop by the check in table again to receive a note regarding instructions on when/how you will receive results and what to do from there

We hope you will consider being a part of this amazing opportunity for your child!!
We look forward to seeing you at auditions this Summer!