

Theatrical Dance Performance Ensemble 2015-2016

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Description of Course Objectives and Goals

The students in Theatrical Dance Performance Ensemble perform in multiple dance genres, including ballet, modern, contemporary jazz, hip hop, and character, integrating an intermediate to advanced level of technical skill and clear intent. Students will learn to critically assess and derive meaning from works of dance, performance of dancers, and original works according to the elements of dance and aesthetic qualities. By the end of this course, students will be able to connect and apply what is learned in dance to learning in other art forms, subject areas, and careers. A variety of concert dance styles will be used in choreography. The goal of this class is to prepare the dancer for choreography and performance skills at the high school level and to prepare the dancer for further dance study, training, and performing at the college, university, conservatory, or pre-professional level. A second goal of this course is to introduce the high school dancer to the various dance expressions of the “dance-as-art” world, and to engender in the student an understanding and appreciation of dance in world cultures. This class combines dance performance experience, audition skills, composition, and historical as well as cultural appreciation of dance.

Daily Class and Rehearsal Requirements

Theatrical Dance Performance Ensemble builds upon the coursework and technique of Intermediate and Advanced Dance. Therefore, students enrolled in Performance Ensemble must be concurrently enrolled in either 6th period (Intermediate) or 7th period (Advanced) dance. Admittance in this class is by audition only.

Performance Ensemble will include rehearsal, choreography projects, and performance preparation for multiple productions and field trips throughout the school year. Part of your work will be to prepare for the 2015-2016 productions: *Nevada Union’s Got Talent* (October), *Fall for Dance* (November), *Dance Tour* (December), *A Student Choreography Showcase* (February), *Into the Woods* (April), and one of the following: *A Celebration of Student Works* (May) or *Dance on Film* (June). Participation in these performances and the rehearsals that prepare for them are mandatory and constitute part of your passing grade. In addition to the daily Performance Ensemble class, some additional after-school and weekend rehearsals will be mandatory to prepare for these performances. One weekend per month is required for *Student Choreography Showcase* (September-February), and at least one weekend per month is reserved for guest choreographers for voluntary participation. For weekend rehearsals, please arrive at least 15 minutes early before the scheduled start time to your rehearsal to warm up your body before the rehearsal begins.

Additional performance opportunities, including the Ohlone Festival (March), and the community productions of *Winter Dance* (December/January) and *STARZ* (March/April) will be voluntary for students who are available and interested in participating. There may also be a Fall Festival performance in collaboration with drama, choir, band, and visual arts at N.U. All extra rehearsal times and voluntary performance opportunities will be announced in advance so you will have time to adjust your schedule.

Costumes will be determined as we get closer to show time. Dancers will need a nude leotard and nude tights to wear as undergarments. All costumes should be kept clean and neat. NUHS Costumes must be stored on hangers enclosed in a garment bag. Please bring your costumes to ALL of the required tech and rehearsals. Costumes need to be cleaned and returned within one week of the last performance.

Grading

Class Participation and Citizenship: 45%

Since dance is a physical participation class, attendance and active participation are essential to improving your skills. Your body is your instrument. It must be tuned, trained, and refined. This training occurs only by practice, repetition, and guidance from your teacher. Therefore, attendance and participation weigh heavily in the grading process. Each day that you participate fully in class, you will earn up to ten participation points. Written make-ups or note taking are worth a maximum of seven points per class. Points will be deducted from your daily participation score if you are tardy, unprepared, or disruptive. To earn full participation credit, you are expected to demonstrate readiness to dance (the dancer’s discipline), self-motivation and perseverance in dance training, and a positive, team-player attitude. If you are absent, you may make up the absence by attending an after-school workshop, an extra rehearsal, or by writing a one page handwritten or typed report on a researched dance-related subject. Since this is a physical participation class, you can only make up five days per quarter with written work.

If you have a serious illness with a projected long-term recovery period (broken bone, chicken pox, pneumonia, etc.), see me for an accommodated participation plan.

Rehearsal and Performance Participation: 30%

As stated above, additional after-school and weekend rehearsals are mandatory. These include the staging, tech, and dress rehearsals for all performances. "Countdown" is the term we use for the critical weeks of classes and major rehearsals leading up to the production. It is very important to attend classes and rehearsals during the countdown period. Please schedule appointments (e.g. dentist, doctor, etc.) around your dance class period or rehearsals so that you do not miss out on important show preparations. Your body needs consistent training, and performance notes are reviewed daily in classes and rehearsals. Unexcused absence from the required countdown classes and/or rehearsals, including staging, tech, and dress rehearsals during countdown may result in your being staged out of the show completely. If you become ill, it may not be safe for you to perform in the show. Your health always needs to be the top priority, so parents need to determine whether or not it is safe for a student to attend, even just to sit out and observe. If you are not feeling well, but are not contagious, standing in or sitting and taking notes so that you know your steps and staging will count as attendance at a rehearsal. However, if you are unexpectedly ill or have a family emergency and cannot attend a rehearsal or performance, please contact Mrs. Wadman as soon as possible. If you do not attend rehearsals, even with a valid excuse, you are in danger of being dropped from the dance or you may not be included in whatever section of the dance is being worked on at the rehearsal(s). Unexcused absence from class or a major rehearsal during countdown will result in a ten percent reduction of your performance project grade for that production, and unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade for that individual performance project.

Student Choreography Projects, Oral Presentations, and Group Work: 15%

Students will have group choreography projects including dance films, dance history, cultural dance studies, and "making connections" to dance and other subjects. Students who wish to choreograph for *Student Showcase* will be required to complete a choreography proposal and interview. Each choreography project will include oral presentations. All dancers are required to work collaboratively in small groups for these projects.

Performance Ensemble Portfolio: 10%

Students will work on a year-long portfolio project that includes written reflections, performance critiques, research related to dance history and cultural studies, and career skills. This portfolio is designed to prepare the student for college and careers in dance-related fields.

Class Rules

1. Be dressed in appropriate dance attire in order to participate. Students are expected to strictly respect and follow the class dress code policy, even in rehearsals after-school and on weekends. Appropriate dance warm ups may be worn at the start of rehearsal, but need to be removed after warm up. N.U. Dance tank tops/t-shirts may be worn over leotards during rehearsals only, but not during technique classes.
2. Be on time and prepared for class. You must be in the locker room before the tardy bell rings. In dance, it is neither professional nor safe to be late. Dancers must develop the habit of being ready to dance when class begins:
 - Class starts 5 minutes after the tardy bell and ends 5 minutes before the passing bell. You will be counted tardy if you are not in your place on the dance floor as I start class.
 - If you arrive before class starts, then please go directly to your place on the dance floor to begin warming up, and practice material to be performed in class. You can always improve by rehearsal.
 - If you are late to class, then you must present a pass to excuse your tardy, and you need to begin with a proper warm-up before joining the class in subsequent exercises.
3. Have a medical excuse if you are unable to fully participate in class and/or rehearsal:
 - If you are ill or unable to physically participate in dance class, you need to bring a note from home or the doctor/school nurse on the day of your non-participation in order to be excused from physical participation. Parent notes are allowed for only three consecutive days. A physician's note specifying limitations and modifications must be presented if illness/injury lasts more than three days.
 - When you have an excused note to sit out a class, you still must actively participate by taking notes on the entire lesson given that day. These notes are to be handed in to me immediately after class; they make up that day's absence from physical participation for up to seven participation points, and these notes are a guide for you to use so that on the next day you will be prepared to participate fully and without a loss of knowledge.

- If you have any type of injury that may affect your full participation in dance, it is important to report the injury to Mrs. Wadman as soon as possible. Please fill out the injury report form available in the dance room.
4. Follow class etiquette rules. These are general habits to develop in the world of dance and dance classes:
- Please be attentive during class and listen carefully. If you have a question, please raise your hand. Limit conversation to course or rehearsal material and save personal conversations for after class.
 - Please keep street shoes off the studio dance floor. Shoes can carry in glass, pebbles, and dirt from outside. For the health and safety of all dancers, please leave your street shoes in the cubbies by the door.
 - Dispose of gum/food before starting class.
 - Many corrections in dance are given by touching or physically placing the student's body into alignment, but if you are not comfortable with your teacher or choreographer giving you a physical correction, be sure to inform and remind them in a polite way. Remember that when your teacher gives you a correction, it is an honor. It means your teacher is investing time and effort to help you become a better dancer. Whether a class correction or an individual correction, listen to them all and absorb them as if they were directed especially at you.
 - Observe other students in class. This can help you develop an eye for line, design, correction and inspiration. Encourage your peers when they are struggling and acknowledge accomplishment and artistry. Dancers receive a lot of criticism, work very hard, and push way beyond the average human capacity. We all can benefit from sincere kind words and applause.

Electronic Devices

All electronic devices must be put away and should not be visible during class or rehearsal time. Students will be notified when an upcoming lesson or choreography project will require research or use of an electronic device. In certain instances, students will be encouraged to bring their device to class to record their own performance, to assist in research, to play music for their choreography project, or to view choreography videos.

Expectations

I expect you to treat each other, me, and all your guest teachers and choreographers with respect. I expect you each to work to your individual capacity and to improve. Your success in Performance Ensemble is very important. Please communicate any challenges with the assignments that you might have, and I will be happy to help you. Your commitment to yourself as a growing dancer who needs to work hard to perform well, and as a team member who needs to work consistently with your fellow dancers in order for the whole dance to look good, is a primary requirement of this course. Dance is a tremendous amount of work and tremendous fun. If you work hard and keep yourself open to new ways of moving as well as thinking, by the end of the year you'll have a skill to be proud of, no matter where you started the year. The dancers and dance program at Nevada Union High School have a reputation for excellence in Nevada County, and they are commanding respect in dance programs throughout California and beyond. I know we will continue our tradition of excellence in dance through you. I look forward to working with all of you and making this year's shows successful. Most of all, I look forward to helping you develop your passion for dance and the performing arts! GO MINERS!!

Fall Semester Rehearsal and Performance Schedule

Saturday, August 29th: Yard Sale Fundraiser & Audition Videos Assignment 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Set Up Group Helps 7:15 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. / Clean Up Group Helps 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.)

September 12 & 13 – Voluntary Advanced Rehearsal with Holly Warner (times and casting to be determined)

September 19 & 20 *Showcase* Rehearsals: Pieces by Schedule

Nevada Union's Got Talent Countdown:

- Wednesday, October 7th 2:30-6:30 p.m. Tech Rehearsal/Runthrough
- Thursday, October 8th 2:30-5:30 p.m. Dress Rehearsal
- Friday, October 9th Cast Call 5:30 p.m. and Performance at 7:00 p.m.

October 24 & 25 *Showcase* Rehearsals: Pieces by Schedule

November 7 & 8 *Showcase* Rehearsals: Pieces by Schedule

Fall for Dance Countdown:

- Monday and Tuesday, November 9 & 10 – Staging Rehearsals during class (November 11th – Veteran's Day, No School)
- Thursday and Friday, November 12 & 13 – Tech Rehearsals 2:30-5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 14 – Tech Rehearsals/Runthrough 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 16 – Photo Shoot and Dress Rehearsal 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday & Wednesday, November 17 & 18 Dress Rehearsal/Preview Performance 2:30-5:00 p.m.
- Thursday & Friday, November 19 & 20 – Evening Performances: Cast Call at 5:00 p.m., Performance runs 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 21 – Matinee Performance: Cast Call at 12:00 p.m., Performance runs 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday, November 30 & December 1 – Dress Rehearsals in Dance Room for Dance Tour

Wednesday & Thursday, December 2 & 3 – Dance Tour Field Trips to Local Middle Schools (All Day Field Trip)

December 12 & 13 - *Showcase* Rehearsals: Pieces by Schedule

Spring Semester Rehearsal and Performance Schedule

January 16 & 17 *Showcase* Rehearsals: Pieces by Schedule

Student Choreography Showcase Countdown:

- Tuesday-Friday, January 26-29 Staging & Tech Rehearsals: 2:30-6:30 p.m. (Pieces by Schedule)
- Monday, February 1 – Photo Shoot and Dress Rehearsal 1:30-5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday and Wednesday, February 2 & 3 – Dress Rehearsal/Preview Performance 2:30-5:00 p.m.
- Thursday and Friday, February 4 & 5 – Evening Performances – Cast Call at 5:00 p.m., Performance 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 6 – Matinee Performance – Cast Call 12:00 p.m., Performance 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Friday-Monday, February 12-15 – Voluntary Rehearsals with Jesse Beck (Times and Casting to be determined)

Friday and Saturday, March 18 & 19 – Voluntary Performance Field Trip to the Ohlone Festival in Fremont, CA

Wednesday, March 30 – Dance Auditions for the 2016-2017 School Year 2:30-6:00 p.m.

Into the Woods Countdown:

- Saturday, April 16 Staging/Tech Rehearsals 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (pieces by schedule)
- Monday, April 18 – Wednesday, April 21: Tech Rehearsals 2:30-6:30 p.m. (pieces by schedule)
- Thursday, April 22 & Friday, April 23: Dress Rehearsals 2:30-6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 26: Dress Rehearsal 2:30-6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 27: Assembly Performance (Schools Visit)
- Thursday and Friday, April 28 & 29: Evening Performances – Cast Call 5:00 p.m., Performances 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 30 – Matinee Performance 2:00-4:00 (12pm cast call) & Evening Performance 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 24 – Dress Rehearsal for *Celebration of Student Works* 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday, May 25 & 26 *Celebration of Student Works* Performances 7:00-8:15 p.m. (Cast Call 6pm)

Thursday, June 2 – Runthrough of *Dance on Film* Oral Presentations 2:30-4:00

Friday, June 3 – *Dance on Film* 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Monday, June 6th – Dance Awards Banquet 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the N.U. Cafeteria

Dancers will be notified of additional performance opportunities and voluntary rehearsals with additional guest choreographers. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our rehearsal/performance schedule, please contact me as soon as possible, especially regarding any potential schedule conflicts.