

Updated 02/27/22





February 2022  
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Thank you for your interest in the inaugural season of DANCE ARTS YOUTH COMPANY!

Dance Arts Youth Company (DAYCO) at Dance Arts Studio in Springfield, IL, was established in 2022 to provide enrichment, outreach and performance opportunities for Dance Arts Studio students aged seven and older. We believe every dancer is UNIQUE. By becoming a member of Dance Arts Youth Company, dancers can personalize their training and performance experiences by choosing which DAYCO offerings best suit their individualized interests and goals.

#### **COMPANY CLASSES**

As a member of DAYCO, dancers can receive additional training in classical ballet, contemporary ballet, modern, jazz, hip hop, musical theatre and tap — with options for classes covering special interests, such as choreography, costuming, make up, character development and dance history. DAYCO members will have access to a minimum of two Company class offerings each month throughout the season. For the months of March to June 2022, Company classes and repertoire rehearsals will be held on Fridays 4:00-6:00pm at Dance Arts Studio. Company class offerings will then resume in August 2022 and will be held on Mondays 4:00-5:30pm as part of Dance Arts Studio’s weekly class schedule. **All DAYCO members will pay a monthly membership/class fee of \$20/month, with a total cost of \$220 per dancer for the 2022/2023 season.** (Monthly fees will not be paid in July due to summer break.)

#### **STAGE PRODUCTIONS AND COMPANY REPERTOIRE**

Dance Arts Youth Company will present two to three productions each season, while also maintaining classical and contemporary repertoire throughout the year for ongoing performance opportunities. While all DAYCO members are guaranteed a role (or roles) in each production, auditions will be held prior to each performance to assist the Artistic Director with casting and to provide dancers with the option/opportunity of committing to the week-long camp(s) and/or scheduled rehearsals required of each performance.

Auditions for roles in “The Glass Slipper” (a contemporary reimagining of the story of Cinderella) will be Friday, May 20. While some featured roles may have additional rehearsals, the majority of our cast will learn their part(s) during DAYCO’s Summer Camp Session I: June 13-17. Camp will conclude with two afternoon performances of “The Glass Slipper” at the Hoogland Center for the Arts on Saturday, June 19.

Casting for our second production will occur on the first day of DAYCO’s “Back to Dance” camp, which is Monday, August 1. This will allow our dancers and families a full month of summer fun while Dance Arts Studio is closed in July. Our “Back to Dance” camp will culminate with a general in-studio showcase performance on Friday, August 5.

Our third DAYCO production of the season is still TBD but will likely occur in October 2022 or January 2023. Additional info, including the audition date and rehearsal dates, will be released as soon as a performance date has been secured.

DAYCO will maintain a collection of varied repertoire to be used for performance opportunities including, but not limited to, summer camps, nursing homes, senior centers, special events, local parades, etc. Repertoire selection will be based on the needs of each event and may include recital pieces from the current or most recent Dance Arts Studio seasons. These varied performance opportunities will be shared with DAYCO members as they are scheduled throughout the season. Participation is highly encouraged, but not required.

### **CAMPS**

Each season, DAYCO will host up to three week-long dance camps that will include daily classes, performance repertoire, rehearsals, and the dress rehearsal prior to each DAYCO performance. Weekday camps will be held daily 8:30am - 2:30pm at Dance Arts Studio. Currently, two summer dance camps are scheduled: Session I – June 13-17 and Session II – August 1-5. Camp cost is \$150 per dancer, per session. DAYCO members aged 13 and older may apply to be a “camp mentor” for the younger dancers and will attend camp at a reduced rate. Summer performance dates are tentatively Sunday, June 19 (The Glass Slipper) and Friday, August 5 (in-studio repertoire showcase). Dates are subject to change.

### **AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE NATIONAL TRAINING CURRICULUM STUDENT EXAMINATIONS**

Through DAYCO, dancers may also express interest in participating in Student Examinations with American Ballet Theatre’s National Training Curriculum (ABT NTC). Exam preparation classes will be coached by ABT Affiliate Teacher Gina DeCroix Russell (and/or ABT Certified Teacher Julie Ratz) and will be scheduled for the months of April-June based on interest and student readiness. Student Exam and Master Class fees for 2022 are \$175 per dancer. This fee covers up to eight exam preparation classes, the adjudicated ABT Student Examination class, and the ABT Master Class.

Because student exams are a reflection of the training a student receives at Dance Arts Studio, dancers wishing to participate in ABT NTC exams may attend master classes and workshops with other teachers and programs; however, they cannot participate in recurring ballet technique classes at another dance studio.

Note: Students will typically begin examinations at least one level BELOW their current class placement at Dance Arts Studio. For reference, the first group of advanced dancers to experience the ABT Student Examinations process in June 2021 tested at Level 3A. All students passed the 3A exams and those dancers who are current DAS students are now eligible to prepare for exams at Level 3B. Exam schedules will vary, but are typically held early summer. While it is a future goal for us to host an adjudicator from American Ballet Theatre for in-person examinations and master classes, due to COVID restrictions and concerns, we will be utilizing the option for virtual examinations via Zoom for 2022.

### **Additional Info About ABT Student Examinations**

#### ***From American Ballet Theatre: A Parent’s Guide to Student Examinations***

*In May 2006, the United States Congress officially acknowledged American Ballet Theatre as America’s National Ballet Company®. With this honor, ABT is committed to taking a leadership role in dance training in the United States and created the ABT National Training Curriculum.*

*Studies have shown that ballet training can have astonishing benefits for students, benefits that will stay with them throughout their lives, such as: improved proprioception, coordination, posture and cardiovascular health; as well as discipline and realization of the importance of fulfilling commitments and team-work. Other benefits include self-esteem, communication skills, cultural enrichment and better cognitive abilities, including reading and mathematics.*

*To raise the quality of training, ABT offers teachers the opportunity to become Certified Teachers of the ABT National Training Curriculum. The ABT National Training Curriculum provides teachers the information and tools needed to implement the best practices in pedagogy, child development, dance psychology and anatomy. To this end the ABT National Training Curriculum established student examinations that provide teachers clear models of what are suitable parameters and expectations.*

#### **WHAT ARE ABT NATIONAL TRAINING CURRICULUM STUDENT EXAMINATIONS?**

*The ABT National Training Curriculum Student Examinations are a graded examination system based on sound ballet principles, incorporating elements of the French, Italian & Russian schools of training.*

#### **WHAT OCCURS DURING ABT NATIONAL TRAINING CURRICULUM STUDENT EXAMINATIONS?**

*An adjudicator from the ABT National Training Curriculum Artistic Board of Examiners will observe the students perform a prepared examination class, which is conducted by the students' ABT Certified Teacher. The students must have the examination class memorized.*

#### **THE BENEFITS:**

- *Examinations serve to assess students' skill level and artistic presentation.*
- *Students are offered the opportunity to have their achievements in dance recognized through entering into ABT National Training Curriculum Examinations.*
- *Examinations are a tool to document progress and a way to build confidence in ability.*
- *Students receive a personalized rubric with constructive feedback.*
- *Students also receive a Certificate of Participation with their name, date of the examination, Class Level and Level of Distinction, if applicable.*

#### **HOW CAN STUDENTS PREPARE FOR EXAMINATIONS?**

*Since the examination class is a culmination of the training the students have received throughout the school year and a way for the students to demonstrate their dedication, students can best prepare for the examinations by:*

- *regularly attending their ballet classes*
- *adhering to the rigor and ritual required*
- *committing to learning and memorizing the work presented by their ABT NTC Certified Teacher*
- *demonstrating a joy in dancing and artistic presentation*

#### **YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX 2023**

As part of DAYCO, serious classical ballet dancers may also explore opportunities for participating in the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) North American Semi-Finals competition and master classes. Regional Semi-Finals are typically held in Chicago and Indianapolis during the months of January, February or March. Once the 2023 dates and registration information have been released, we will determine which semi-final best suits our dancers' schedules. YAGP is a prestigious ballet competition, which showcases some of the most talented dancers in the world. In order to be eligible for YAGP, a dancer must be registered for all ballet classes offered within their current (and future) placement level at Dance Arts Studio.

Fees associated with creating and setting YAGP choreography, rehearsals, costuming and other preparations are significant, but will be handled on an individual basis. Additional costs related to YAGP application fees, solo entry fees, travel and hotel expenses, etc. (fees that we have no control over) will range from \$800-\$1000 per dancer. Because of these expenses, we will begin our planning process in May to establish a payment option that works best for your family.

## **UNIFORMS**

All Dance Arts Youth Company members must wear a uniform to all DAYCO classes and rehearsals. The uniform can be purchased directly through Dance Arts Studio's website. In an effort to streamline our uniform, the current Level 3 ballet uniform will transition to become the uniform for all DAYCO dancers, regardless of age. The Mallard Teal color most closely represents our DAYCO logo and is stunning on every dancer. Dance Arts Studio will phase out the use of Mallard Teal as a uniform color for Level 3 after the completion of our current class season.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Dance Arts Youth Company is proud to offer need-based tuition and fee waivers for families experiencing financial hardship. No dancer will ever be turned away from Dance Arts Studio or DAYCO based on their inability to pay. Additionally, if you are a family wishing to anonymously help another DAYCO family with fees related to tuition, uniforms, camp costs, etc., please reach out to Gina DeCroix Russell directly.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Dance Arts Youth Company membership is open to registered Dance Arts Studio students only. DAYCO members must meet the minimum age requirement of seven years old prior to September 1, 2022.

Members of DAYCO are representatives of both the Company and the Studio and are expected to be taking the full breadth of recommended class offerings for their current level placement within the Youth & Pre-Professional Ballet Division and/or the Open Division at Dance Arts Studio. If a dancer does not yet meet these criteria, but is interested in becoming a DAYCO member, please schedule an in-person meeting with Gina DeCroix Russell to discuss your dancer's unique situation.

Note: Involvement in DAYCO does not impact a dancer's eligibility to audition for Copper Coin Ballet Company membership and/or extra cast roles in CCBC's production of The Nutcracker. Because I am also part of the CCBC artistic team, I plan to avoid scheduling DAYCO events during any CCBC events.

I am SO excited to watch this new program flourish! I grew up at Dance Arts Studio and was surrounded by the best teachers and mentors who are now part of my family – and my staff! Those mentors – Grace, Julie and Gary – instilled in me a love of dance, a fierce sense of determination, and lifelong commitment to learning.

It is an honor to teach; and I am really looking forward to seeing the dancers shine with Dance Arts Youth Company.

With gratitude,

Gina DeCroix Russell, Artistic Director

**Dance Arts Youth Company**

*Train. Learn. Grow. Perform. Achieve.*

Dance Arts Youth Company

at Dance Arts Studio

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# DANCEARTSYOUTH

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, GINA DECROIX RUSSELL

## Company

THE FIRST SIX MONTHS – CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

MARCH 2022						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL 2022						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY 2022						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE 2022						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY 2022						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST 2022						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**DATES\* TO REMEMBER:**

MAR 4 – AUDITIONS FOR DAYCO'S INAUGURAL SEASON (4-6PM)

MAR 11 & 18 – COMPANY CLASSES / REHEARSALS (4-6PM)

MAR 21-27 – DAS CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK

APR TO JUN – ABT NTC STUDENT EXAM PREP (TIMES TBD)

APR 15-18 – DAS CLOSED FOR EASTER

APR 22 & 29 – COMPANY CLASSES / REHEARSALS (4-6PM)

MAY 6 & 13 – COMPANY CLASSES / REHEARSALS (4-6PM)

MAY 20 – CAMP I AUDITION / APPLICATION DEADLINE (4-6PM)

MAY 28-30 – DAS CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

JUN 3 & 10 – COMPANY CLASSES / REHEARSALS (4-6PM)

JUN 13-17 – DAYCO SUMMER CAMP, SESSION I (8:30AM-2:30PM)

JUN 19 – DAYCO PRESENTS 'THE GLASS SLIPPER' (TIMES TBA)

JUN 23 – PERFORMANCE AT ROCHESTER LIBRARY (1:00PM)

JUN 26 – DAS RECITAL (DAYCO REP INCLUDED)

JUN 28 – ABT NTC STUDENT EXAMS (TENTATIVE)

JUL 1-31 – DAS CLOSED – SUMMER BREAK

AUG 1-5 – DAYCO SUMMER CAMP, SESSION II (8:30AM-2:30PM)

AUG 5 – DAYCO IN-STUDIO SHOWCASE AT DAS (TIME TBA)

AUG 11 – IL STATE FAIR TWILIGHT PARADE (TENTATIVE)

AUG 15 – 22/23 SEASON CLASSES BEGIN AT DAS

AUG 22 & 29 – COMPANY CLASSES / REHEARSALS (4-5:30PM)

(\*ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.)

- = AUDITION DATES
- = COMPANY CLASSES / REP REHEARSALS
- = ABT NTC STUDENT EXAM CLASSES / EXAMS
- = DAYCO SUMMER CAMPS
- = PERFORMANCE DATES  
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON THEATRE AVAILABILITY)
- = OUTREACH PERFORMANCES
- = DANCE ARTS STUDIO CLOSED
- = DAS RECITAL @ HCFTA
- = CLASSES RESUME AT DAS FOR 22/23

UPDATED 02/27/22