

Dance Conservatory of Denver

1958 Elm Street
Denver, Colorado 80220
720-837-1578

Youth Company and Junior Youth Company Contract

***For Dancers Ages 9 and Older**

This contract is entered into on this _____ day of _____, by the Dance Conservatory of Denver and _____.

Dancer's Printed Name

Since you are being asked to commit a great deal of time and effort to being a member of the Dance Conservatory of Denver's Youth Ballet Company, and because you already have academic and family commitments, it is important that you understand what will be required of you as a dancer with the DcD Youth Ballet Company. The following contract is designed to help you understand your responsibilities as a Company or Junior Company Member, and the responsibilities of the DcD Youth Ballet Company to you.

Being a dancer with any Company requires that you put forth unusual mental and physical effort, combined with extraordinary dedication and time management skills. Dancers must be alert and physically responsive when most people are taking a break. Your reward is the exhilaration of dancing and performing onstage in a professional setting and being part of an elite group of young dancers working together as part of a team. Being a member of a Ballet Company requires a lot of energy, and Company dancers must learn how to pace themselves; knowing when it is time to rest, and when it is time to push a little harder. Knowing what your responsibilities are as a Company dancer should help you to organize your time more efficiently in your weekly routine.

It is important to understand that your commitment to the DcD Youth Ballet Company is matched by the DcD staff. We are dedicated to providing you with the opportunity to develop technically and artistically as a dancer and to gain performance experience in an atmosphere of professional quality. Volunteers and DcD parents donate their time and money to make performances possible for dancers who are making the most serious commitment of being in a ballet company. In short, the dancers are the performing members of an organization in which everyone has a job to do, and responsibilities to meet, in order to enhance the lives of children in our community.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Each dancer is required to attend weekly ballet technique classes at the Dance Conservatory of Denver throughout the year. (September through June including the Summer Intensive Program) Class Schedules and Tuition costs are posted on the DcD website: www.danceconservatoryofdenver.com. Junior Company members (Ages 9-12) are required to attend at least two ballet classes per week, and Company Members (Ages 13 and older) are required to attend at least three ballet technique classes per week.

REHEARSAL REQUIREMENTS

Choreography for the Children's Nutcracker and Summer Performance will be taught during mandatory Saturday rehearsals from 1:00-5:00 p.m. for Junior Company and Company members. Company and Junior Company Members can only miss two rehearsals per performance season. For example, a dancer can only miss two Saturday rehearsals from September through December to perform in the Children's Nutcracker. Junior Company and Company members are expected to maintain an impeccable attendance record in both weekly technique classes and Company rehearsals.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Participation fees for **Company and Jr. Company Dancers** are \$600 per dancer, and includes rehearsal time, a cast T-shirt, Personalized Item and 20 tickets to sell. Company and Jr. Company fees are due in 3 installments of \$200 each: The first is due at the auditions on August 27th, the second is due November 1st and the third is due December 1st. No refunds on unsold tickets!

Participation Fee for **non-company dancers** is \$150 and includes rehearsal time and a cast T-shirt.

There will be two major productions per academic year. The Children's Nutcracker in December, and a Summer Performance in mid to late June. The production fee helps to cover theater and costume rental costs, and professional DcD staff time. All Junior Company and Company members are required to sell 20 tickets per production. The tickets will be distributed automatically.

CASTING

Casting is the responsibility of the Artistic Director, who must consider the specific needs of an entire production. All Dancers are required to accept the roles for which they have been cast, and are encouraged to think in terms of dancing as part of a complete production, rather than dancing an isolated piece of the production that may or may not fit what the dancer had in mind for themselves. Casting as an understudy should be considered an opportunity to possibly dance that role, not as an unnecessary or unimportant task. Understudies are essential for every production, and are frequently called upon to perform if a lead dancer gets sick or

injured. The Artistic Director reserves the right to take roles away from Company Dancers who have missed more than two rehearsals per production. If a Company Dancer is injured or ill but not contagious, the dancer should come to rehearsal and take notes. If a Company dancer knows in advance that she is going to miss a scheduled rehearsal, the dancer should send an email to the DcD staff as to which rehearsal will be missed. The Company Dancer may not be allowed to perform choreography that was missed during that particular rehearsal.

ATTIRE, COSTUMES, MAKE-UP & ETTIQUETTE

Dancers are required to wear classical ballet attire to all classes and rehearsals. For ladies; Black leotard, pink tights, and pink canvas split-sole ballet slippers. Cover-ups (t-shirts, etc.) are NOT allowed during class or rehearsal. Jewelry should remain at home, and hair should be arranged in a ballet bun. Dancers must provide their own rehearsal and performance tights and shoes that are required as part of a costume. Performers do not get to keep costumes after the performances, and must be handled with care by dancers and parents. Drinking, eating, chewing gum, or sitting is strictly prohibited in costume. No dancer can leave the backstage or green room area while in costume or stage make-up. Dancers must always leave the rehearsal area, studios, dressing rooms, and theater neat and clean. Dancers should only bring water to drink at the studios and theater.

Company and Jr. Company members are expected to exhibit exceptional behavior both in and outside of the studio, the performance theaters and their dressing rooms and at their academic institutions.

Signature is required on the final page of the Policies and Procedures of both the parent and student. Must have signatures prior to participating!