

The Mission

To create an inclusive, well-rounded dance community that encourages creativity, empathy, discipline, communication, exquisite technique and artistic development.

The Curriculum

This curriculum is for serious dancers who have interest in extra opportunities that will prepare them for a career in dance, college dance program or for students willing to dedicate their time to serious dance training no matter their post high school plans. Weekly classes aimed at a deeper understanding of the dance world will be offered.

The Company Breakdown

Micro Minis: Ages 5-8

The Ensemble: Ages 8-12

This ensemble team is a stepping stone into The Performance Company. An introductory and transitional period where building confidence and professionalism is key!

The Performance Company: Ages 11-18

The Performance Company is made up of our most experienced dancers.

What to Expect

- Dancers are required to take all classes listed for their age group.
- All scheduled rehearsals and added master classes are MANDATORY.
- Team rehearsals will be held on Thursdays. Extra dances will be rehearsed on Sundays.
- **The last Thursday rehearsal before a competition is considered mandatory!**
- **The Saturday & Sunday before a competition are considered mandatory team rehearsal days!**
- All Ensemble & Performance Company members are required to participate in 2 dances minimum.
- All Micro Mini Company members are required to participate in 1 dance minimum.
- Dancers are allowed -3 in the black book before each competition weekend.
- Dancers are allowed a maximum of -12 (made up or not made up) each semester.
- Stray attends 4/3(Micro Minis) mandatory competitions each season. We will attend nationals every other year.
- **No absences are allowed the week of a competition or performance.**
- **No conflicts allowed on studio event days (winter intensive, spacing rehearsal, sequence rehearsal, etc)**
- All Company members are required to attend our summer intensive.
- Dropping out before the season's completion will result in a \$200 fee.

The Audition

Dancers interested in joining SDC's Company Program must attend our audition during the summer. The audition will consist of a ballet barre warm-up and a contemporary/Jazz combo that will be performed in groups. Dancers should arrive at least 15 minutes before their scheduled audition time to ensure enough time to receive a number and get comfortable in the space. Dancers are chosen by the discretion of the instructors based on age & ability. Following the audition, our Company will be announced via our website. If your dancer has made Company, you will also receive a cast list for the season via email.

Studio Etiquette

We aim to create a culture of community, joy and safety. We have a zero-tolerance policy on any type of violence, sexism, racism, homophobia or general prejudice against another student or a member of faculty.

The Space

- Personal belongings should be kept neatly in the cubbies.
- **No street shoes should be worn inside the studios.** We put our faces on those floors! Let's protect them and keep them clean.
- **No dance shoes should be worn outside of the studios.** This will help keep our studio floors clean and also protect the life of your dance shoes.
- Studios are not to be used without permission and attendance of a SDC director or faculty member.
- Studios should be left clean at the finish of each class. **No food allowed in the studios!**
- **No drinks other than water are allowed in the studio**
- Please exit the studio quickly after each class to ensure the next class isn't delayed.
- Bathrooms should be used for their original intent. No food allowed in the restrooms. Please do not crowd the bathrooms.

Responsibility

- It is the dancer's responsibility to manage their time. Schoolwork, outside activities and dance should not conflict.
- Dancer's should arrive at least 10 minutes before the class start time and should be in the studio at least 5 minutes before the start of class. If late, enter quietly and ask the instructor for permission to participate in class. Warming up is important for dancers' safety. Instructors reserve the right to ask them to observe class and take notes if late.
- While in class, dancers should be respectful to the instructors, all fellow dancers and themselves.
- Attention must always be on the instructor. Talking during class or leaving early will not be allowed.
- Love and apply corrections! This is how we grow.
- Drink water only during transitional moments or when given a water break by the instructor.
- Always clap and thank your instructor at the end of class.
- If injured, dancers are still expected to attend class to observe and take notes. It will be counted as an absence if not.
- If a dancer must leave class early, ask the teacher before the start of class and exit quietly and quickly when leaving.

- Positivity! We are a family at SDC and any negative behavior towards the class, instructor or fellow dancers will not be tolerated. Instructors have the right to ask a dancer to leave if negative behavior is observed.
- Phones should be silent and untouched during class time and rehearsal. They will not be allowed in the studios during instructional time.

Dress Code

- All dancers must be dressed in appropriate dance attire with **hair in a high bun**. This helps set the tone and concentration of a productive class.
- Options are given, not for boy vs girl, but for what your dancer feels most themselves in.
- During cold months, approved warm-ups will be allowed at the discretion of the instructor.
- All boys 13+ must wear a dance belt
- No jewelry of any kind should be worn during class.
- Please label all personal items and shoes. SDC will not be responsible for any lost or missing items. Anything left behind will be placed in our lost & found. Lost and found will be cleaned out and donated at the close of each semester
- Please practice proper hygiene. No heavily scented perfume or body lotion.
- Instructors have the right to ask dancers to observe class if not in proper attire.

Class Attire:

Visit Stray's Discount Dance Store:

<https://www.discountdance.com/search/teacherid:136734?tp=136734&teacherSearch=stray%20dance%20company>

Ballet leos that come in each age group's required color have been added. Other lists include Bikers, Contemporary, Ballet Warm Ups, & Pants/Leggings; these are options for items you can wear, you do not have to buy only these listed items.

Shoes & Tights:

Family & Me

- Light Blue or solid color crew neck t-shirt
- Black dance shorts
- Barefoot
- Hair in bun, if applicable

Creative Combo

- Light Blue leotard or light blue crew neck t-shirt
- Tights: So Danca Ballet Pink 1358 or So Danca skin toned tights that match your skin tone if pink interrupts your line or black dance shorts
- Ballet shoes that match tights: So Danca SD16
- Tan tap shoes: Capezio 566C - Shuffle Tap Shoe in Caramel
- Hair in bun, if applicable

Ballet 5-8

Ballet 9+

- White leotard or white crew neck t-shirt
- Tights: So Danca Ballet Pink 1358 or So Danca skin toned tights that match your skin tone if pink interrupts your line or black dance shorts
- Ballet shoes that match tights: So Danca SD16
- Hair in a bun, if applicable

- Dark Green leotard or dark green crew neck t-shirt
- Tights: So Danca Ballet Pink 1358 or So Danca skin toned tights that match your skin tone if pink interrupts your line or black dance shorts
- Ballet shoes that match tights: So Danca SD16
- Hair in a bun, if applicable

Lyrical

- Any dance top or leotard
- Any leggings or bikers
- Hair in a bun, if applicable

Modern

- Black leotard or black crew neck t-shirt
 - Black tights or black dance pants
 - Hair in a bun, if applicable
- *Pants shouldn't be baggy*

Jazz/Technique

- Any dance top or leotard
- Any dance bottoms *Pants shouldn't be baggy*
- Hair in a bun, if applicable

Contemporary

- Dark or neutral tone comfortable clothing you can move freely in. **Layers are encouraged**
- Hair should be in a clean, slick style secured out of your face.

Tap/Musical Theatre

- Solid color leotard
- Black leggings or bikers
- Tap shoes: Bloch S0321L in Black
- Hair should be secured out of your face.

Company Ballet

- Designated maroon leotard or maroon crew neck t-shirt
- Tights: So Danca Ballet Pink 1358 or So Danca skin toned tights that match your skin tone if pink interrupts your line or black dance shorts
- Ballet shoes that match tights: So Danca SD16
- Hair in a bun, if applicable

Acro

- Leo or crew neck t-shirt
- Bikers or leggings
- Hair in a bun, if applicable

Hip-Hop

- Loose, baggy clothing
- Clean sneakers
- Hair should be secured out of your face.

Weekly Classes

The Ensemble Required Classes:

Age 5: Company Ballet (2), Company Jazz, Technique, Tap/Musical Theatre

Age 6: Company Ballet (2), Company Jazz, Technique, Tap/Musical Theatre, Lyrical

Ages 7-8: Company Ballet (2), Company Jazz, Technique, Tap/Musical Theatre, Lyrical, Modern

Ages 9-12: Company Ballet (3), Company Jazz, Technique, Contemporary, Modern, Conditioning+Anatomy, Tap/Musical Theatre (9-10)

The Ensemble Optional Classes:

Age 5: Lyrical, Hip-Hop, Acro, Modern

Age 6: Hip-Hop, Acro, Modern

Ages 7-8: Hip-Hop, Acro, Conditioning+Anatomy

Ages 9-10: Hip-Hop, Acro

Age 11: Hip-Hop, Acro, Tap/Musical Theatre

The Performance Company Required Classes:

Ages 11-18: Company Ballet (3), Company Jazz, Technique, Modern, Contemporary, Conditioning+Anatomy

Ages 16-18: All classes listed for 11-18 + Composition, Music/Video editing

The Performance Company Optional Classes:

Ages 11-18: Tap/Musical Theatre, Hip-Hop, Acro

Weekly Class Attendance Policy

- Absences = -1 or -1.5, All others = -.25 (missing attire, messy hair, tardy, etc).
- Makeups = +1 or +1.5, All others = +.25 (working extra hard, hair looks great, being kind &/or helpful, etc).
- A maximum of -3 in the Black Book before each convention/competition.
- -12 maximum each semester (made up or not).
- Excused absences: contagious illness with doctors note, school activities that affect grade, death in the family.
- Class may be made up by attending any lower level technique class or any extra classes offered throughout the year to ensure you don't go over the 3 allowed. Classes working on concert choreography can not be used as make-ups.
- Class Make-up forms can be found in the office. These forms must be filled out in entirety and signed by the instructor of the make-up class in order to be counted. Please turn in all make-up forms to the office.
- Failure to comply will result in being removed from dances for the remainder of the season.

Rehearsals

- Rehearsals for mandatory dances will be held on Thursdays
- Rehearsals for extra dances will be held on Sundays.
- The weekend before a competition may be used for extra rehearsals, dress rehearsal, etc and is mandatory!
- Rehearsal schedules will be released 1-2 weeks in advance via your Company google calendar. This calendar will be shared with you the same time you receive the cast list for the season.
- We will always have rehearsal on Thursday until at least 8:30pm!

- Rehearsals may be scheduled during studio holidays. Please always double check those calendars :)
- Conflicts should be entered into the conflict google calendar 3 weeks before the event. Any conflict added after will not be considered. We will do our best to schedule things so you can attend both rehearsal and your event. When that's not possible, if you miss rehearsal for your other scheduled event it will be counted as an absence. Conflicts told to us through text or email will also not be considered.
- Company rehearsal attire must be worn. We recommend you buy 2 rehearsal uniforms if possible.
- Dancers should bring healthy food options and water. No food will be eaten in the studio, only lobby areas. Dancers are responsible for cleaning up after themselves. Let's keep SDC clean!
- No cell phones are allowed during rehearsal days. Only during your lunch break.

Rehearsal Attendance Policy

- 3 **unexcused** absences are allowed during the duration of the competition season.
- Acceptable **excused** absences include: Illness deemed contagious w/doctor's note, school events that affect grades, funeral.
- Dancers who miss more than the allowed 3 rehearsals will be faced with disciplinary action (removed from competition dances for remainder of the season).
- **Rehearsals can not be made up to decrease # of absences**
- **Injury:** First, it happens! Our dancers' health is top priority. We will tend to injuries in a serious and caring manner. You are not punished for being injured, only removed from things to ensure your quick and full recovery!
 - With guidance from your doctor, Company directors will decide when/if dancers can participate in physical activity. Full recovery is required for younger dancers as they can not modify correctly. With the discretion of the directors, our older dancers, depending on the severity of their injury, will be allowed to participate in physical activity **IF compensation or lack of modification don't occur.**
 - **Competitions/Conventions:** You must be able to dance full out in all classes without pain for a full week in order to participate. Example: NYCDA is Friday, December 17th. Dancers must be dancing full out from the 10th-16th. Please know that we are doing this for the dancers' safety!

Communication

All questions or concerns should be addressed via email at straydancecompany@gmail.com or by leaving a message at the desk for the directors. Please be respectful of directors' and faculties' personal time outside of the studio. Your concerns are important to us, and we will address them as soon as possible. Please don't ask questions that require a thought out response in a public setting (at competition/convention) OR to just Katie/Dorothy. We make all decisions together.

Tuition

The dance season runs from August 2023 - May 2024. All Company Members must commit to the entire season. Dropping out early will result in a \$200 fee. All dancers are responsible for tuition from the time of registration to the end of the season. Company Dancers, with the exception of dancers age 5, must pay for unlimited classes. **Dancers who are 5&6 will follow the collective's class fees.** You must have a credit card on file at Stray Dance Company. Tuition will be

collected on the 1st of every month. A late fee of \$25 will be charged if paid after the 7th (if you quit after paying tuition, you will receive a credit for the following dance year).

Monthly Fees Per Dancer

TUITION IS DUE ON THE FIRST OF THE MONTH

THE COLLECTIVE

1 student - 1st class: \$55
Each additional class: \$35

2 or more students - 1st class: \$45
Each additional class: \$30

Registration Fee New: \$50

Returning: \$40 (\$5 off for siblings)

Includes Stray Dance Company T-shirt

THE COMPANY

Unlimited classes - 1 student: \$260

Unlimited classes - 2 or more student: \$245

Payment Options

MONTHLY PAYMENTS

Due on the 1st of each month

Full monthly tuition is due regardless of # of weeks in a month

SEMESTER PAYMENTS

2 tuition payments
 $\frac{1}{2}$ at registration, $\frac{1}{2}$ January 1st

5% tuition discount

FULL YEAR PAYMENT

1 tuition payment due at registration

10% tuition discount

Outstanding Balance Policy

Accounts with an outstanding balance for 30 days or more will incur a 10% balance fee for each additional 30 days the balance remains on the account. Dancers will not be allowed to register if an inactive balance is present on their account.

Company Fees

Coach Fee: \$150 - This is a one time fee that helps pay traveling costs for teachers. This fee will not be refunded if you quit.

Performance + Media Fee: \$210

Private Lessons: (sign up via google spreadsheet)

1 hour - \$60

30 minutes - \$30

Semi Privates (2-4 dancers, dancers share rate):

1 Hour - \$75

30 Minutes - \$55

Private Lesson Bundles(must be paid prior to lessons):

5 privates for 5% discount

10 Privates for 10% discount

Choreography Fees (must be paid in full the 1st day of choreography):

Solos - \$600

Duets - \$350 per dancer

Trios - \$300 per dancer

Large Groups: \$250

Small Groups: \$275

Rehearsal Fees:

Duo/Trio: \$60/hr - divided amongst dancers

Small Groups: \$50/hr - divided amongst dancers

Large Groups: \$60/hr - divided amongst dancers

Any Mandatory Classes Before Rehearsal: \$10/hr

- Rehearsal fees will start after choreography is complete.
- Must be paid through Venmo or in cash. Please label your envelope.
- Fees are rounded up to the nearest dollar.
- Will be billed at the end of each month for that month's total.

Company Uniforms: \$420

Backpack: \$80 (30L) (includes embroidery)

Convention Entry: see below

Competition Entry: see below

Costumes: See below

Props: Any props needed will be divided amongst the amount of dancers in the piece.

Annual Spring Dance Concert

SDC's Annual Spring Dance Concert takes place in May 2023 at the Frederick J Sigur Civic Center. Select Company pieces will perform in the annual concert alongside The Collective's class dances. Company Ballet & Jazz classes will not have class dances. This way, technique training doesn't stop half way through to focus on concert dances. Classes will consist of learning combos to work on picking up choreography & details, memory and performance skills.

Other Performance Opportunities

Annual Winter Company Showcase: Company members will perform all Company pieces in our Annual Winter Company Showcase in December. The showcase will take place in our in-studio black box theater. Audience seating will be added and all family & friends will be invited.

Student Work Showcase: College prep courses for dancers 16-18 will culminate in an in-studio showcase held in our black box theater. Both student choreography and dance films will be shown. Audience seating will be added and friends & family will be invited! Tickets are donation based with a minimum donation of \$1 & suggested donation of \$5.

Convention/Competition

Each season Company members compete at competitions and take classes from teachers/choreographers from around the country at conventions. Dancers will attend 4/3(micro minis) required regional competitions and nationals every other summer.

Why?

SDC competes to give our dancers the opportunity to perform and receive invaluable feedback from experienced dancers, meet other dancers and take classes from industry professionals! Dance is an art form. It is subjective, and we do not measure our value based on the awards we receive.

2022/2023 Convention/Competition Schedule

Revive New Orleans: January 5th - 7th

Art Of Movement Mobile: March 1st - 3rd

NYCDA Dallas: April 12th - 14th (*Optional for Micro Minis*)

Dancemakers New Orleans: May 10th - 12th

Competition/Convention Fees

All competition fees must be paid prior to attendance and can include:

- Convention fee
- Group dance entry fees
- Solo entry fee
- Duo/trio entry fee

Detailed fees & due dates will be given at the parent meeting. You can visit any convention's website to get an idea of costs.

Costumes

Company costumes are made by a seamstress and range from \$100 - \$400 based on the piece. We do our best to keep these from being too expensive, but please remember that costuming is a big part of performance and bringing choreography to life. Costumes should be hand washed and kept clean and unwrinkled. Dancers must have all pieces of the costume to perform on stage.

Optional Conventions/Competitions

Weekends That Optional Events Are Allowed (see calendar for a list of possible conventions):

TBD

Extra Dances

Select Company members will be cast in pieces other than the required. These dances will be cast by Company directors based off of the Company audition. Rehearsals for all extra dances will be held on Sundays.

Solos, Duets, Trios

Solos, duets and trios are also cast based on the Company audition and are decided by the Company directors only. Dancers are responsible for maintaining their choreography once finished. At least 1 private lesson must be scheduled before each competition.

Guest Choreographers

Guest choreographers, along with the Company directors, decide on which dancers will be cast in these pieces. Choreography fees for these dances are dependent on each individual choreographer and do not match SDC's choreography fees.

Trophies/Awards

All dancers must stay after awards to take photos! Please wear your warm-up.

Any trophies received for group dances & duets/trios are property of Stray Dance Company and must be returned to one of the directors following pictures. Soloists may keep their trophies. Any cash prizes received for group dances will go to SDC and be used to benefit the entire Company.

Competition/Convention Etiquette for Dancers

Overall:

- All dancers are required to attend all classes and rehearsals two weeks before a competition. Absence during these two weeks may result in being pulled from pieces.
- Convention/Competition schedules usually come out one week before the event.

Competition:

- Dancers are expected to arrive day 1 in their full Company warm up.
- During awards ceremonies and when not in costume, dancers should wear their SDC Company warm up.
- Please arrive 2 hours before scheduled stage time fully dressed and ready for your first dance, including hair & makeup to ensure time to warm up with a Company director. On Saturday, hair and makeup should be completed at lunch.
- Competitions can run up to an hour ahead of schedule, so please arrive on time (2 hours before scheduled time).
- Keep the dressing rooms clean and leave them clean at the end of each day. Stray Dance Company dancers, instructors and families should be respectful of the space.
- Parents/Guardians are not allowed in the dressing room once dancers start warming up.
- Dancers should show good sportsmanship at all times. No negative comments about other studios, dancers, competition teachers etc. Let's lift up our art form, not tear it down!
- Dancers are not allowed to be on their cell phones or devices backstage during competition.
- One dancer will receive the award for each dance. Our oldest dancers will assign which dancers get which awards.
- Accept all awards with a smile, and thank the individual who gives it to you. We are grateful for their feedback and the opportunity to perform!
- Please stay after each awards ceremony for team pictures. Dancers should be in Company warm up.

Convention

- Company dancers are required to attend all convention classes offered and be present for the full weekend. No exceptions unless previously discussed with Company directors.
- Try not to stand by other SDC dancers in convention classes. This helps with focus and the ability to stand out from others around you.
- Dancers should not linger on their cell phone in between classes.
- No parents are allowed in the convention rooms during class, with the exception of our youngest dancers.

Competition Etiquette for Parents/Guardians/Observers

- As representatives of Stray Dance Company, parents and guests are expected to follow the same expectations listed above for our dancers.
- Please refrain from any negative comments about winnings, other studios, dancers, owners, etc.
- No videotaping or photography is allowed during competition or convention classes! Videotaping at a competition is prohibited by the competition as well.
- Parents, with the exception of parents of our younger dancers, are not allowed to buy an observer band and watch convention classes. This helps the dancers stay focused in class.
- Please make sure your phones are on silent, especially if in the audience!
- Audience members should wait to exit & enter the space between dances. Please do not get up and leave while any dancers are performing on stage. Also, please remain quiet in the audience!
- The Big One: be your dancers' biggest supporters! Let the Company directors be their coaches. This weekend, for them, is very tiring and they need your positive energy and love to get them through it!

STRAY DANCE COMPANY

I read and agree to all of the above rules & regulations for The Company. I understand that breaching this contract can result in dismissal from The Company by Dorothy &/or Katie Nunez.

Dancer's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____