



Company INFO Packet REVISED 2016-17

SB Dance Arts and their non-profit partner, the Arts Mentorship Program, run four Student Dance Companies. In addition Dance Arts offers a Competition Team, Pre Company, and a new Mini Crew for dancer ages 6-9 years old. Our Companies provide a pre-professional experience for serious dancers, ages 9-20 years old. Company is the cornerstone of our program and a place where young dancers grow up on stage with roots in quality training, and provides a world-class experience for young dancers in Santa Barbara. Many students remain in the program through graduation, and this helps them develop a sense of community, worthiness, and a place to belong. Many of our Company Alumni are working in the industry, or are leaders inside of their chosen field, and owe a great debt to the discipline dance brought them. Plus colleges and future employers always love to see a child who is committed and grows inside of their passions. Most important... THEY LOVE IT!

Company provides the opportunity to perform, travel/train with the top dance professionals in the country, and make lasting friendships. We would love for your dancer to be a part of this 18 year tradition that has led dancers on a path of positivity and success.

Students participate in an audition in September in hopes of receiving a coveted spot in Axis, Impulse, Vibe, Impact, or the Emerge Pre Company. At this time, dancers have the opportunity to try out for the Competition Team and additional performance opportunities (please see the Competition Team handout for details). Company dancers train in ballet and jazz technique and have extensive performance opportunities. They are also mentored in choreography, production, lighting, and have opportunities to attend Master Classes, travel to conventions, while having many opportunities to attain valuable leadership skills.

Through AMP's partnership with Santa Barbara Dance Arts, company dancers receive their formal dance training through a broad and rigorous curriculum offered by Dance Arts faculty. Company members are also trained in mentorship and philanthropy. Dancers can serve as dance company captains, big sisters to younger dancers, and teaching assistants. Company dancers also learn about the business of running and sustaining dance programs at a local level. In addition, the partnership with the Arts Mentorship Program provides financial assistance to help make this program accessible for all, regardless of financial need.

Performances, Events, and Opportunities

The Companies annual concert: Configuration, where students perform their repertory and have the unprecedented opportunity to adjudicate their work and share the stage with the professional faculty choreographers. This sold out smash includes five shows over two weekends that are the heart of the Company experience and their favorite weekends of the year!

Each year the Axis Dance Company directs and produces the Student Showcase The entire Company participates, and last year, these young philanthropists raised over \$6,000 for scholarships and educational opportunities. AMP's Student Dance Companies also have the chance to travel and perform at local events including: Harlem Globetrotters Halftime, SBCC Football Game Halftime, MUS Carnival, SB County Fair and Expo, and other events. They can also choose to attend the RADIX Convention in Anaheim with "So You Think You Can Dance" and industry professionals.

Company Dancers have unique opportunities like special auditions, and it grooms them for Teen Star & Teen Dance Star. Partnerships with UCSB Arts & Lectures and Dance Arts allow for in house training with elite companies and professionals including: **Alvin Ailey, Pilobolous, Joffrey Ballet** and more. Dance Arts elite master class series has included - **WillDaBeast, Leslie Scott** (Self Esteem seminars), **Tessandra Chavez, Tricia Miranda, Brian Friedman**, and we are proud to be one of three studios in the nation holding a Chu Moves workshop this summer with dance legend **Peter Chu!**

We select Company Captains based on desire and demonstrated leadership skills. Captains receive special opportunities and gifts from ivviva and a special dinner with a Master Teacher at the end of the year!

Honors and Accolades

Our very own Frankie Harman was awarded **Teen Dance Star** in 2016. We had two additional finalists, Kailani Cordero and Victoria Biancone in the top 10! The competition was judged by SYTYCD alumni and working LA professionals. The winner received a \$1,000 prize and is an ambassador for dance in the community. In addition each finalist has a scholarship in their name so low-income youth can dance at her home studio. AMP is the proud partner offering these scholarships across the county!

In 2015, the Axis Dance Company was invited to perform the tribute, 'Not One More' at the Isla Vista Shooting Memorial. In 2010 and 2013, Axis Dance Company received the great honor of being the **Faculty Favorite at the PULSE** on Tour and an invitation to **perform in NYC**. In July 2013, the Company travelled to the Big Apple to perform the piece in front of the dance world's most prestigious choreographers and directors. In 2015, Axis Dance Company won **Best of Radix** and performed the closing showcase to over 1,000 individuals and industry leaders.

Our Student Choreographers have the chance to win a cash prize of **\$250** courtesy of **American Riviera Bank** and a commendation from an elected official.

Our Competition Team has been noted for exceptional artistry through a low-pressure positive experience. The team has consistently placed in Gold, High Gold, Platinum, Overall Categories, including special awards for performance, choreography and sportsmanship. Our students are consistently recognized with scholarships and awards.

Requirements To Audition *We encourage ALL interested dancers to audition even if it is just for the EXPERIENCE! It takes pressure off of future audition years.*

- *While dancers can specify companies at sign up, we suggest you audition for any and all companies!*
- *Dancers who are 9 years old and do not turn 10 until 2017 can opt to audition for our new MINI CREW in the Spring. This would preclude them from participating in Company. See Mini Crew handout for details.*
 - *SIGN UP SHEET due by August 12 (on web June 1)*
 - 9 years old +
 - Movement/Technique – strong performance skills, double pirouette, double chaine, grande jete, pique, and hip hop fundamentals
 - THOROUGH review of calendar and understanding of time & commitment
 - Completed two full weeks of Destination Dance- Summer Camp or other approved summer programs
 - COMPLETED AUDITION PACKET - Due day 1 of audition (on web August)

Axis Dance Company (5-11 members)

- **Company Class** – Tuesdays 7:00 – 8:30 (with select Saturdays/Sundays in lieu of Tuesdays)
- **Jazz 2x week, Ballet 3x per week - NEW**
- Monthly SUNDAY afternoon rehearsal- only if needed plus select weekends to work with guest choreographers.
- 4 Repertory Pieces PLUS ability to participate in the Production Number (with ALL the company members together)
- Required to attend Radix Dance Convention in Anaheim (Dec TBD)
- *Possibility for additional performances (Isla Vista memorial)*
- Performances on Company Calendar
- Directs and Produces the Student Showcase

Options and Opportunities for AXIS Juniors and Seniors in High School

- Extra Performance Opportunities- For Configuration and Senior Show
 - Pro Solo: Axis Juniors and Seniors are eligible to audition for a special solo. We select 1 or 2 soloists to perform in the Configuration Evening performances and Senior Recital. Cost is an additional \$200. Auditions will be a part of the regular Company Audition.
- Start the year with an EXTRA 40 points more than other Company members to help with the extra pressures you are facing with school and college prep
- Can OPT OUT of either Dance 3 or Dance 4- must decide at the beginning of the year
- HONORS PROJECT (community service and leadership opportunity): submit a project for approval by faculty that involves dance. Project will be highlighted at a local event or at the studio.
- Shadow a UCSB Dance Major and experience a 'day in the life' of a dance major (note: this is OPTIONAL)

Impulse, Vibe & Impact Dance Companies (6-13 members)

- Company Class – Fridays 5:15-6:45 with some extended rehearsals/select Thursday evening and Saturday rehearsals.
- VIBE and IMPACT - Jazz 2x week, Ballet 2x per week
- IMPULSE - Jazz 2x week, Ballet 3x per week- **NEW**
- Required to assist Axis in the Student Showcase
- Performances, rehearsals and events on Company Calendar
- 3 Repertory Pieces PLUS ability to participate in the Production Number (with ALL the company members together)
- Can attend Radix Dance Convention in Anaheim (Dec- TBD)
- **Extra Performance Opportunities (casting at audition in September)**
 - Special Trio or Quartet to be performed at Configuration Matinees
 - Cost is \$200 per dancer.

COMPANY COST: \$560 (divided into two payments – further payment plans available) – **NEW**

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN FEES (see below for cost details and what is NOT included)

- Performances: December Showcase, SBCC Halftime, SB Open Streets, Configuration, MUS Carnival, SB Fair and Expo, Student Choreography Showcase, Year-End Recital

- Participate in FOUR parties at no additional charge (Landshark, Company Sleepover, Stage Ready Makeup Party and End of Year Awards Celebration) -
- Company apparel – Baseball T-Shirt and Leggings
- Costumes
- Choreography and rehearsal time for group numbers (details below)
- FREE Space for student choreographers
- Access to discounts, special events, work with guest artists, and discounts for Master Classes, trips to LA, and performance opportunities! (additional fees may apply)

WHAT IS NOT IN YOUR FEES

- Technique classes, tickets to shows, required apparel (dance basics: booty shorts, black leggings, tan and black jazz shoes, turners, nude leotard and undergarments, black leotard, ballet shoes, knee pads), Independent PE Fees, private lessons (if necessary), fees for conventions and master classes, audition, placement classes, company yearbook/photos.
- We reserve the right to assess nominal charges if opportunities arise (ie. guest artists, performances). If you need financial assistance you can always come see us.
- The optional Radix Convention trip is about \$500. Returning company and pre company members receive a partial subsidy if they participated in fundraising for the Student Showcase.

TOTAL Cost for a Company Dancer and Payment Options

- TOTAL cost (without scholarship or trade) for Sept-May for a Company Dancer is \$2850 - \$3550 for required classes, costumes, registration fees, and company dues.
- Payment Plans available, but must remain current to keep dancer in company.
- Trade and scholarship available for classes – see ampsb.org for guidelines, deadlines, and applications, plus, learn more about Sponsor A Dancer
- 1-2 Special Scholarships available for Company dues. In order to be considered, fill out the paper work for a fall/spring scholarship, and indicate on your sign up form!

Emerge (Pre Company)

Dancers get a small taste of the Company commitment, and this is the perfect opportunity for dancers interested in the Company experience. You must participate in the Company Audition in order to be selected for Pre Company. The calendar and fee structure is different for Pre Company.

- Company Class – Select Fridays 5:15-6:45 **NEW**
- See separate EmERGE calendar for exact dates/performances - **NEW**
- Jazz 2x week, Ballet 2x per week
- Perform at December Showcase (December 3 or 10- TBD)
- Perform at SB Fair and Expo and MUS Carnival (TBD)
- Can attend Spring Dance Convention/Competition – **NEW**
 - We will allow EmERGE to compete if it is unanimous and show-ready!
- Required to assist Axis in the Student Showcase
- Perform at YOUTH Show in Year End Recital
- Perform at Configuration Matinees, March 5 and 11 @ 2pm at Center Stage Theater
- Dancers can specify they want to be considered for Pre Company only, Company only, or either one.
- NOTE- there are no points for Pre Company, but there will be Blackout rehearsals!
- COST- \$300
 - Includes: Company Class and Administration, and a Stage Ready Party with Company!

- Does NOT include: admission to shows/recitals, costumes, required classes, convention or competition fees/hotels/transport.

Competition Team- Company Only/Optional

This is a great opportunity for Company dancers seeking additional performance opportunities-optional!

See the Comp Team supplement for details, but here are the highlights.

- We are changing our structure to highlight dancers' strengths.
- *Each dancer can audition for 1-3 Group pieces.*
- Comp Team will rehearse every Saturday in the Fall and will have select blackout rehearsals in the Spring to prepare for Configuration, Comp Showcase, and the Spring Competition. - **NEW**
- Comp Team will participate in THREE Competition/Conventions: NYCDA (Nov), Radix (Dec), Spring event (TBD in April)
- You **MUST** be in COMPANY to participate in Comp Team and will audition for your spot inside of the Company Audition.
- Comp Dancers must take 3x per week of ballet- this includes mandatory Saturday am ballet in the Fall session.
- COST
 - **Each Group Piece is \$225**
 - Solo: \$450 (In House Choreographer)
 - Duet/ Trio: \$200 each (In House Choreographer)
 - Does Not Include: Costumes (est. \$50-75 per costume)
- Additional Costs
 - TEAM Dance Arts Jacket \$55-\$85-optional
 - Costs: Entire trip to Radix is around \$500 (without subsidy) plus comp fees (see below)
 - The two additional event will have the following costs:
 - Convention costs - \$200-\$240 per event
 - Comp Entry Fees - \$30-\$45 per group number. Solos, Duets Trios \$50-\$120
 - Lodging - \$175-\$250 per night, try to buddy up and save \$. Director can facilitate if needed.

Giving Back (Company and Pre Company)

We mentor our Company and Pre Company Dancers to 'give back' to the community by volunteering for various events throughout the year. Jr High and High School students can also get community service for their time performing in the community, volunteering at shows, and at the student showcase!

Commitment for Company Families- IMPORTANT!

More than ever these students are pulled in every direction with commitments. While we love that our students are well-rounded and participate in many activities, it is very important that Company is the **PRIMARY activity** outside of school and can take precedence over other activities. Extracurricular programs such as dance teams, school plays, or playing a competitive sport have caused undue stress and burnout in students and we **strongly advise** that both parent and dancers examine calendars carefully before committing to Company.

This also goes for volunteer work, mock trial, musicals, and other endeavors. We have found that these activities are possible to do with Company and help round out your College Applications... **HOWEVER - They are only successful with Company IF you navigate the calendars before the audition process begins to avoid extra rehearsals, fees, and pressure on the other Company members and Faculty. We**

use mykidsalendar.com. This will make navigating dates, emails, and rehearsals much easier and more efficient!

There are many great programs in town and if you opt to add an activity at any point, we approve as long as you understand Company comes first! Please feel free to contact us if you have questions about compatibility with Company and other programs.

The Audition Process (Company and Pre Company) -

Dancers must audition each year. We recommend dancers audition for ALL companies and allow the judges to dictate their placement, older dancers may choose to audition for a specific Company. There is an option to choose on the Company Questionnaire.

Friday, September 9

Time		Events
3:30	4:00	Check in, submit packets, welcome
4:00	4:30	Warm Up
4:30	6:00	Learn Turn/Jump Combo
5:00	6:00	Perform Turn/Jump Combo
6:00	7:00	Learn Dance
7:00	7:45	Perform Dance

Auditions will be judged on a point system based on: technique, performance skills, behavior/attitude, ability to pick up new material and interviews/packets will be rated on a point system as well. Final results are determined by point totals over the entire audition experience. Behavior will affect placement! *Note: Company members from previous years will have a set of bonus points based on their performance and behavior from the prior year. (This is usually a plus factor, but can be a minus factor.)*

Saturday, September 10

Time		Events
9:00	9:45	Ballet Barre
9:45	10:15	Ballet Progressions
10:15	10:30	Break
10:30	11:15	Review/Finish Dances
11:15	11:45	Perform Dances
11:45	12:15	Lunch
12:15	1:00	Learn Hip Hop
1:00	1:30	Perform Hip Hop/Freestyle
1:30	2:30	Break/Open Studio
2:30	4:15	Perform All Dances

Orientation – Mandatory for Parent and Dancer COMPANY

Sunday September 18 @ 6:00pm

- NOTE: \$200 towards Company Dues and \$100 Convention deposit due.
- We will review the contract for the year.
- Also we use a point system to track attendance, and behavior and maintain accountability to their team. Dancers must remain in good point standing to remain in Company.

TEAM DANCE ARTS (Comp)

- Sunday September 18 @ 11:30-12:30 – Mandatory Parent/Dancer Orientation – Payment 1 due

PRE COMPANY (Emerge)

- Friday September 23 @ 6:45-7:45pm –Mandatory Parent/Dancer Orientation – Payment due

BEFORE YOU AUDITION, PLEASE REVIEW:

- **Your summer schedule to fit in training requirements**
- **COMPANY or CALENDAR for a detail of the 16-17 Season**
- **COMP TEAM SUPPLEMENT and COMP CALENDAR 16-17 Season**
- **Families interested in SCHOLARSHIPS should visit ampsb.org to review guidelines and important deadlines including our Sponsor A Dancer Program.**
- **If you are interested in a COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP, please apply for fall/spring cycle.**

Audition Checklist (Sept 9 3:30p-7:45p & Sept 10 9a-4:15p)

- _____ TRAINING – we are requiring all prospective company (including current Company members) members to train at Destination Dance for at least two weeks (full day session). If you would like information on other pre-approved programs or financial assistance/trades, please contact the office. We also strongly recommend the Pre Placement Session!
- _____ Turn in Audition Sign form by August 12 (on website June 1)
- _____ Pay Audition Fee \$40 (before July 12) \$45 (after August 12)
- _____ Sign up online for Pre-Placement Session to get prepared for auditions. (Sign up before May 31 and SAVE!)
- _____ Attend mandatory dancer/parent meeting on August 31 (6:45-7:40)
- _____ Turn in Audition Questionnaire on Audition Day 1 (September 9) – DO NOT TURN IN EARLY
- _____ Audition Day 1 – September 9 – 3:30pm – 7:45pm
- _____ Audition Day 2 – September 10 – 9am- 4:15pm
- _____ Audition Day 2 – September 10 – 9am- 4:15pm
- _____ Scholarship information/ guidelines/application review