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Professional Ballet Studies | Season 2024-25

AUDITIONS

*Professional Training
for Advanced Dancers Ages 14+
with internationally renowned teaching staff*

The School of Dance
200 Crichton Street
Ottawa, ON K1M 1W2

Phone: 613-238-7838
Fax: 613-238-7839

aide@theschoolofdance.ca
www.theschoolofdance.ca

Artistic Director
Merrilee Hodgins A.R.A.D.



The
School of Dance



Students in Grade 6 Cecchetti or higher (or equivalent), please contact us by email at aide@theschoolofdance.ca or call 613-238-7838 to set up an individual audition.

Completed registration form, \$25 audition fee and full-length photo in dancewear are required.

Photo: Gilles Vézina

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The Professional Ballet Programme is an eight-year study programme created for students 8 to 16 years of age. We have developed a curriculum of early ballet training that is balanced between technical growth and creative expression for the youngest of the students; the basic ballet language of The School is the Cecchetti Method. This syllabus is supplemented and enhanced by the professional knowledge of the staff so that our training is current and rigorous allowing the dancers to adapt to the demands of new choreographies or historical repertoire. We are known for our well-trained, well-placed, musical students. The comprehensive curriculum includes Ballet, Creative Movement, Music Courses, plus Pointe, Repertoire, Somatic Work, Pilates, Yoga, National Dances, Character Dance, Jazz and Contemporary as they become appropriate. Special workshops with guest teachers, covering subjects such as body image and nutrition supplement the classroom training.

The hours of study vary from level to level during the school year and summer programmes are part of the training plan. There are two theatrical performances each year; we perform in Theatres such as the Canadian Museum of History and the National Arts Centre. Smaller projects take place in the Theatres of Carleton University, and the National Gallery of Canada. Students may also be chosen to work at the NAC with visiting ballet companies or onstage in one of our Arts Education projects. The more senior students also have the opportunity to perform in The School's outreach programmes or in the DanceONTour® projects. Students receive progress reports and a final assessment class, observed by a panel, confirms continuation in the next level. The ballet students graduate to national/international institutions to continue their studies; we regularly place our ballet students in the schools of the National Ballet, Les Grands Ballet, Royal Winnipeg, Boston Ballet, Butler University, the School of American Ballet and Joffrey Ballet. Some of our students move directly into apprenticeship positions, and graduates may be found in the NBC, the RWB, Ballet BC, Alberta Ballet, Royal Swedish Ballet, Daniel Léveillé Danse, Compagnie Marie Chouinard, Ottawa Dance Directive as well as in leadership roles, such as the Director of Stand Up Dance.

The students are immersed in an atmosphere of professionalism, education, realistic goals and aspirations and they are given guidance and moral support from the teaching staff as they grow and mature. The objective of the many years of concentrated training is to develop a body and a mind capable of executing all aspects of dance vocabulary equally and effectively; intellectually, we focus on developing the interpersonal and self-discipline skills of each young student and we spend considerable time developing their understanding and use of music. We have developed stretch and strength work that helps the students understand proper alignment and safe use of their bodies; we support the students with access to physiotherapy, mental preparedness and holistic information on nutrition and wellness. Students are challenged to find their potential from within, developing life-long work habits that will serve them well in whatever career path they select. Along with the rigorous technical ballet studies, we shine a light on artistic elements of dance, art, music and the related theatre arts to ensure a broad understanding of the world the students are entering and we work to relate the dance heritage of the past to the contemporary world of today.

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