

RDC DANCER and PARENT FAQ's

What benefits does RDC offer my dancer?

RDC offers dancers aged 8-18 who have at least two years of ballet training an opportunity to become more fully educated in the art form of dance. RDC provides:

- 1) Opportunities to work with master teachers, guest artists and choreographers.
- 2) An unmatched training program.
- 3) One-of-a-kind performance opportunities.
- 4) An atmosphere that nurtures a healthy balance of creativity and self-discipline.

When are auditions?

Auditions for the 2008-2009 Rochester Dance Company are Saturday, April 19, at Janet Lang Dance Studio.

1:00-1:30pm: Current RDC Senior members

1:30-2:00pm: Current RDC Junior members and Performance Ballet 4 students

2:15-3:00pm: Current RDC Apprentice members and Performance Ballet 2 & 3

3:15-4:00pm Current Performance Ballet 1 students

4:15-5:00pm: Current Fundamentals A students

Who should audition for RDC?

A serious dance student who:

- 1) Enjoys the challenge of learning new choreography.
- 2) Accepts the constructive criticism that is essential to every dancer's development.
- 3) Strives to excel and is supportive of his or her fellow dancers.
- 4) Is passionate about the art form of dance.
- 5) Loves the excitement of performing to live audiences in professional-quality productions.

To be happy as a RDC member, a dancer needs to possess all five of the above qualities.

What is the commitment?

RDC members are expected to place RDC first in their extracurricular activities, following family and school obligations. Attendance at all classes and rehearsals is mandatory and will not be excused except for family or school functions. All RDC members and a parent will sign a contract agreeing to this commitment for the time period from August 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009.

All RDC members are expected to attend two ballet classes a week in addition to RDC company class. We highly recommend that dancers participate in a Jazz class also. RDC Pre-Professional, Senior and Junior Company members have weekly company class on Saturday, with a 2-4 hour rehearsal following class. RDC Apprentice members have class twice a month on Friday, with a 1-2 hour rehearsal following class. Depending on casting, Apprentice members may rehearse on additional Fridays and some Saturdays, too. To give dancer's families some 'Saturday Time' we may try and rehearse a little during the week if there is studio space.

In addition to company classes and rehearsals, all RDC members must be present during the following rehearsal/performance periods. **If you cannot attend during these weeks, please do not audition.**

RDC Mandatory Rehearsal and Performance Dates

DATE	TIME	WHAT
August 4-13, 2008	9:00 am-5:30 pm	Ballet Boot Camp: Guest teacher & choreographer: Jeremy Plummer (Director of TeenAge WasteLand). Studio performance Wed/8/13 @ 7:00pm
November 16-23 2008	4:30-9:00 pm	<i>Nutcracker</i> Rehearsal Week at JLDS

December 8- 11, 2008	4:00-9:30 pm	<i>Nutcracker</i> Dress Week at Mayo Civic Center
December 11-14, 2009	TBA	<i>Nutcracker</i> Performances
February 15-22, 2009	4:30-9:00 pm	<i>TeenAge WasteLand</i> Rehearsal Week at JLDS
March 8-12, 2009	4:00-9:30 pm	<i>TeenAge WasteLand</i> Tech/Dress Week
March 13-15, 2009	TBA	<i>TeenAge WasteLand</i> Performances
May 2009	TBA	JLDS Recitals,

Dancers may also be asked to participate in promotional mini-performances that usually occur the month before a public performance. We do our best to coordinate these with school schedules.

All RDC members should seriously consider taking the amazing Jazz Pizzaz Workshop that RDC is sponsoring. This workshop is optional, but highly recommended because of the emphasis on jazz dancing needed for TeenAge WasteLand, our spring 2009 production. RDC members receive the special price of \$190 (PP, Sr, Jr/JLDS Jazz level 3-6) and \$140 (Apprentice/JLDS Jazz1-2). Full price is \$250 and \$190 respectively.

DATE	TIME	WHAT	WHO
June 9-15, 2008	9:00a-5:00p most days (See separate brochure)	<i>Jazz Workshop</i> (Pop jazz, Music video jazz, Musical Theatre Jazz, Lyrical, Hip-Hop TeenAge WasteLand repertoire, Ballet with Alexis O'farril and Shannon Bruce	All RDC members, Rochester dance studio students, southeastern MN dance studio students and dance line dancers.

What are the fees associated with RDC?

The fee chart below explains:

1. the monthly fees that are charged (due the 10th of every month August through May),
2. the break-down of hours each company member is in class or rehearsal,
3. your cost/hour of instruction or rehearsal, and
4. the annual fundraising contribution

RDC Fee and Cost Breakdown Chart for 2008-09

Company	Monthly Fee Aug-May	Monthly Class Hours	Monthly Rehearsal Hours**	Cost/Class-Rehearsal Hour	Ballet Boot Camp Fee	Total Class & Rehearsal Hours	Cost/Hour	Annual Fundraising Contribution** (AFC)
Apprentice	\$65	3.0+	9.0	\$5.42	\$250	45	\$5.55	\$65
Junior	\$90	4.5+	12	\$5.62	\$265	50	\$5.30	\$90
Senior	\$90	4.5+	12	\$5.62	\$275	55	\$5.00	\$90
Pre-Pro	\$90	4.5+	12	\$5.62	\$275	55	\$5.00	\$90

* This is an average figure based on the projected total rehearsal hours for the period Sept 1, 2008 - May 31, 2009.

** Each RDC family is asked to contribute the equivalent of one month's fee to RDCA's fundraising budget to help offset fundraising costs. Families with more than one dancer in RDC make a contribution that is based on an average monthly fee, e.g. if a family has one Apprentice and one Junior company member their AFC would be \$110, not \$155. This check should be made out to Springboard for the Arts, RDC's fiscal agent. **It is a tax-deductible contribution.**

What else is expected from parents?

Parents are also required to promote all RDC's productions by purchasing or selling a minimum of 10 tickets for each RDC production. These tickets may be given or re-sold to family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers – anyone who would enjoy an RDC performance. Of course, parents/dancers are encouraged to sell as many tickets as possible

to all RDC performances. Past ticket sales data has proven that the parents and company members are RDC's top generator of ticket sales!

Parents of all RDC Members are part of Rochester Dance Company Associates (RDCA), RDC's volunteer organization. In an effort to streamline our fundraising activities and not to overtax our wonderful volunteers, all parents will be asked in August to sign-up for a minimum of ONE fundraising volunteer event. Our 2008-09 Fundraising Event Calendar is:

October	November	December	January	February	March	May
Kids Holiday Dance Camp - Halloween	Butter Braids Pastry (optional RDC participation)	Kids Holiday Dance Camp; Land of the Sweets; Sugar Plum Fairy Tea	RDC Café (JLDS Winter Showcase/ Donations Only)	Kids Holiday Dance Camp - Valentine's	TAWL Fundraiser TBD	RDC Café - Byron (Donations only)

Parents may also be asked to purchase low-cost costume elements, such as tights and make-up, for their dancers; and to make small contributions to fundraising activities, such as the RDC Café (which sells snacks to JLDS dancers and families during observation weeks at the studio). RDC members are required to own a black, camisole leotard and a black wrap skirt for class and rehearsal. Parents are currently researching the cost and design of an RDC warm-up uniform. Additional questions? Please contact Ellen Huston at 254-7580