

N E A D

NEW ENGLAND ACADEMY OF DANCE

Mission Statement for Company Members

The Company of New England Academy of Dance is a pre-professional dance company that provides a performance outlet and a professional experience, for the most advanced students of New England Academy of Dance. The Company fosters excellence in all forms of dance, especially classical ballet, and instill in its dancer's enthusiasm and desire to share their passion with the local community.

Members of the company will learn and perform works by professional choreographers, and collaborate with guest professional dancers, musicians, and other artists as well as participate in a wide range of high caliber dance productions/performance, benefits, community outreach programs, student teaching, internships, lecture demonstrations, workshops, and master classes. We believe through sharing of our performances, experiences, and continuous desire to develop new audiences that we can make a difference in others and shape our community.

NEAD Company Member Commitment

As a member of NEAD Company each Dancer and her parents must understand the commitment she is making and the expectations of the Artistic Directors. The following are the company member's responsibilities:

Dance Classes

Dancers are required to attend a minimum of four ballet technique classes at New England Academy of Dance, including company class. It is during class that dancers build strength and improve on their technique. Class attendance is mandatory, and dancers who miss classes are expected to make them up.

Rehearsals

Attendance to all rehearsals is extremely important. Dancers are expected to be punctual and know their parts. Company rehearsals are scheduled on Saturdays immediately following company class until 6:00pm and Sunday from 11:00am -5:00pm. Additional rehearsals are usually added to the schedule as we get closer to the **performance date**.

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Being absent 3 or more times may result in a dancer being replaced. Tech Week for all dancers is mandatory.

Choreography

All Dancers are expected to learn dance choreography in the following ways: through specific direction by a rehearsal director or assistant, and/or through the use of DVD video tapes. Dancers' attendance/presence is required in all choreography sessions. If a dancer must miss a choreography session, it is up to that dancer to learn the choreography independently, go over what was covered on that day, with the help of other dancers, or by using video or other resources. Dancers should be aware that in their absence, the choreographer has the right to make changes in casting or choreography, and/or may choose to choreograph them out of the piece, if absences are significant enough.

Absences

Dancers who are unable to attend a class or rehearsal must notify the Directors via email (neadinfo@aol.com) at least 24 hours in advance. In case of a last minute emergency, dancers should call the studio to receive verbal approval. Since one absent dancer can disrupt an entire rehearsal schedule and impact other company members and guest artists, it is critical that Directors are always made aware of any absences in advance. Dancers who fail to notify Directors of absences, or Dancers who miss more than 3 classes or rehearsals will be subject to disciplinary action.

Late arrivals

Dancers are expected to arrive 10-15 minutes prior to the scheduled rehearsal time, with shoes on ready to go. A dancer who is more than 15 minutes late, without a legitimate excuse will not be permitted to join rehearsals unless a director has given the ok. Dancers who are running late to a rehearsal and/or choreography session must call the studio to notify the staff and Directors. Any Dancer who arrives late and does not notify the studio will be marked down as absent.

Performances and Events

All Dancers cast in The Nutcracker, Spring Performance, Lecture Demonstrations, and yearly fundraisers are expected to attend and perform. If you audition, you are committing to participating in the show, regardless of casting. Performances are generally scheduled on weekends but may occasionally occur during school hours. **When**

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attending Company events, dancers must wear their NEDT Company jacket to and from the event, whenever not in costume.

Casting

Casting is the responsibility of the Artistic Directors, who must consider the specific needs of an entire production. Dancers are required to accept the roles for which they are 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, which may or may not fit what they had in mind for themselves. Any problems with casting may be discussed with the Artistic Directors no sooner than 3 days after the casting is posted. An appointment can be made through the NEAD office.

Membership Fees

Company is a one-year commitment lasting from September through June. Membership fees are paid to NEAD and are \$2086 per school year (divided into two semesters). This fee includes weekend rehearsals, performance fee and all costumes needed for the production. Company members must be registered students of NEAD. Company fees are due at the beginning of each semester. Dancer's name may not appear on the cast list if fees are outstanding.

Communication

Rehearsal and performance schedules and other important information will be distributed via email, and posted on the NEAD website and Call Boards, located in the studio. Dancers are expected to check emails and Call Board daily to stay aware of any schedule changes, required paperwork, etc...

Costumes

Dancers are responsible for all costumes, shoes, and accessories they are issued. Any Dancer who fails to bring the proper shoes, accessories, or costume to a performance or photo shoot, runs the risk of not being able to perform, or be photographed. Dancers must attend all costume fittings for their roles. Missing a costume fitting will be treated as an absence. In order to make our job of costume maintenance more efficient and effective, dancers will no longer take NEAD-owned costumes home before a performance. All costumes will be kept at the studio and will be transported for the dancer to the performance venue. This will also help NEAD have a more accurate inventory.

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Rehearsal Skirts

Rehearsal Skirts are now a required uniform item for Company dancers and are available to any NEAD student who wishes to order one. NEAD also has a small inventory of Rehearsal Skirts that may be rented to NEAD students for the year for a fee of \$25.00. The skirt must be checked out from the NEAD costume room and then returned to NEAD on or before the last class of the academic year. You can fill out a rental skirt form in the office.

Photo Shoots

Four photo shoots are scheduled each year: Nutcracker Publicity; Spring Performance Publicity; Individual Headshots; and a Company Photo. Dancers must arrive on time and with make-up and hair already done. These photoshoots are intended for publicity/social media only. Personal photoshoots are the responsibility of the individual dancer. Please contact Sarah Starling directly if you wish for a private photoshoot.

Juries

Juries are an individual evaluation of each Dancer's technique, attitude, and progress. Dancers will receive a verbal evaluation from the Directors and are offered an opportunity to ask questions, discuss their future, individual goals, issues, and/or concerns. Juries are held throughout the Spring semester.

Injuries

Any injured dancer is required to provide a doctor's note regarding the specifications of her injury. In addition, and to prevent further injury, dancers will be restricted from performing or rehearsing until the injury is completely healed, a "doctor's release" has been obtained, and the Directors feel secure enough to proceed with dance activity. Injured dancers should be aware that casing changes may occur, and dancers may not perform if the dancer is unable to catch up in time. Dancers are expected to attend all rehearsals if physically capable, to continue to observe new choreography and any other changes.

Parents' Commitment

The involvement of our parents is vital to the success of the Company. A family volunteer commitment is expected for both the Nutcracker and Spring Performances. There are many opportunities to share your time and talent. Participating or leading any of the

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volunteer committees through the year. Organizing and staffing fundraising and special events. Helping with performances including set-up, strike-down, backstage, **costumes**, make-up etc. For more information, please contact Emily Konrad our Volunteer Coordinator.

Dancers and parents are asked to be supportive of the Dance Company as well as NEAD. If you have a concern regarding your child, please email the directors to set up a meeting.

Disciplinary Policy

Dancers who violate the terms of the Commitment Letter and/or Code of Conduct may be subject to one or more of the following disciplinary actions, at the sole discretion of the Artistic Directors:

1. Parent/Student/Director Meeting
2. Letter home to parents outlining inappropriate behavior.
3. Mandatory additional rehearsal time
4. A written or verbal apology to the appropriate parties if needed.
5. Assignment of work duties for specific periods of time
6. Suspension from the program including the Nutcracker, Spring Performances or Lecture Dem
7. Expulsion from the program and Company

Student's Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date: _____