



July 3, 2017

Dear Prospective SSB Young Dancers and Parents:

We are looking forward to another exciting year. Last year, SSBYD enjoyed a very strong season. Our annual Spring Celebration of Dance at the Lobero Theatre featured choreography by Cassandra Taylor Newberry, Autumn Eckman, Bill Soleau, and Fiona Chandrasekaran. Emerging choreographer Kate Winterbauer also showcased her new work at this performance. In addition, we had an Emerging Choreographers Concert. It was a wonderful show, with several new choreographers stepping forward and showing their talent. We hope to make this concert an annual event. Much of our efforts for the year went to preparing for the Regional Dance America National Festival in Phoenix. We were very honored to close the entire National Festival with Cassandra Taylor Newberry's *The Anomalous Collective*. The dancers took classes, attended workshops, watched performances each evening, and performed beautifully. It was a great week! We were very proud of everyone and had an amazing year together!

We've been involved with Regional Dance America/Pacific for 18 years now and we think it has been a valuable experience. The dancers in Levels 4-6 audition to be part of this performing company and attend the RDA/P Festival each year, where they take classes from well-known instructors and attend seminars and performances. This year the Festival will be in Spokane, Washington (April 10-14, 2018). Dancers from all over the Pacific Region will meet to attend classes and seminars from nationally acclaimed instructors and experts in the field, as well as perform and attend performances nightly. Dancers in the upper levels may also audition for summer programs and university programs at the Festival.

In SSBYD, there are four divisions of dancers—Company, Apprentice 1 and 2, and Junior--and those levels are based on experience, level of technique and movement quality, and work ethic. Company and Apprentice 2 dancers are generally in the higher levels of the school and are more accomplished in both classical and contemporary dance. Company and Apprentice 2 dancers have the opportunity to be cast in adjudicated works and may be invited to take the adjudication class. Company dancers will be in a minimum of one of the adjudicated pieces. Apprentice 2 dancers may be chosen to be in an adjudicated work, but that is the exception rather than the rule. The choreographers choose the dancers they want to have perform their works. If not chosen to be in an Adjudicated work, Company and Apprentice 2 dancers are invited and encouraged to understudy those works. By understudying the works, dancers learn style and develop strength so that they may improve as dancers. (Adjudicated works are the pieces that will be presented to the RDA/P assigned Adjudicator, who will chose the work that will be performed at festival, and will decide if our Emerging work(s) that are adjudicated will be performed at festival or not.)

Apprentice 1 dancers will not be cast in any adjudicated works and will not take the adjudication class. In addition, Junior dancers will not be cast in any adjudicated works and will not take the adjudication class, however, the Apprentice 1 and Junior level dancers will be in works that are performed at the Celebration of Dance show, and are eligible to be part of the studio Emerging Concert. Junior dancers may be invited to attend the Festival, depending on information received at the RDA/P fall meeting in Spokane.

All dancers in SSBYD will be cast in ballet parts both Rudolph and Nutcracker in the Fall, as well as jazz part in Rudolph (for those who are enrolled in Jazz, which is a requirement for all Level 4 and 5). All SSBYD dancers will have guest choreographers work with them for the Spring Celebration of Dance, and are expected to perform in the end of the year Gustafson Dance performance, *Madeline, Lost in Central Park*. (The only exceptions that may be made are for Seniors, and those exceptions will be made by the Directors with each dancer.) Only members of SSBYD will perform in the Spring Celebration of Dance at the Lobero on March 18, 2018. All members will have a headshot taken, along with group photos, will be represented on the SSBYD website, and receive a leotard/boy's top, SSBYD T-shirt, and those that attend festival will also receive an SSBYD T-shirt for festival exchange, and festival raffle tickets. New SSBYD dancers will need to purchase an SSBYD Company jacket. SSBYD Company and Apprentices may be invited to take certain Master Classes that are held at the studio.

To maintain the high standards set by Regional Dance America for pre-professional ballet companies (like SSBYD), each dancer is expected to strive for their personal best.

Below are listed the major obligations of each dancer and family when becoming a part of SSBYD.

1. Attendance is mandatory for all classes for your level. Classes that are missed for any reason, including homework, illness and family commitments, should be made up in other classes during the week.

2. Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals. Absences due to homework, illness, school trips, and family commitments are not excused by this policy. Rehearsals may not be made up. However, attendance will be counted if the dancer is able to attend rehearsal and stand in or be actively involved in rehearsal, i.e. marking, taking notes, videoing. Sleeping, lounging, surfing the web and talking in the back will not be counted as attendance. Dancers who are very sick, especially with a fever, stomach flu or if they hold a doctor's note should not attend rehearsals. Even though excused, it may necessitate being replaced in choreography if the absence continues for an extended period of time, or if unfortunately falls during a time of choreography being set or theatre rehearsals.

In order for the company to work as a team and keep its standards high, we need to have all members in attendance at every rehearsal or other people's time and energy are wasted. We want to enhance the performance of the group by utilizing rehearsal time in a productive and positive way. This can only happen when EVERYONE is present. Directors, teachers and dancers will be enthusiastic, focused and committed if all in the Company are participating at the highest level.

3. Attendance at all Dress Rehearsals is mandatory. **Dancers may not be absent at any time during the two weeks prior to the date of scheduled performances, Adjudication or Festival.** Plan to be at the theatre multiple days of the week for the major shows.

- *Rudolph* at the Lobero December 2nd @ 2pm and 6pm (Need to be in complete attendance November 17 and 18, then Thanksgiving week off with some class offerings for those who are here, then need to be in complete attendance November 27- December 2nd.)
- *Nutcracker* at the Granada December 16th at 2pm and 7:30 pm and December 17th at 2pm (need to be in complete attendance December 4-17th.)
- Adjudication –January 26, 2018 (Those in adjudication need to be in complete attendance January 12-26, may not have MLK, Jr off)
- *Spring Celebration of Dance* at the Lobero on Saturday, March 17 (need to be in complete attendance March 2-17)
- Festival April 10-14 (Tues/Wed-Sat) in Spokane (those performing at festival need to be in complete attendance April 2 until we leave)

- End of the Year All-School Performance of *Madeline, Lost in Central Park* at the Lobero June 2 at 2 pm and 6 pm and June 3 at 2 pm (need to be in complete attendance May 18- June 2)

**Requests for exceptions to the performances and attendance to festival must be made in writing upon submission of the contract and will be considered at the Directors' discretion.

4. If a dancer has 5 absences without make-ups being arranged, the consequences may include, being dropped from all choreography with no refunds given or not being allowed to attend Festival as a performing member.

6. The 2017-2018 budget for the State Street Ballet Young Dancers includes the following:

- Annual dues for RDA/P
- Choreographers' fees
- Rehearsal costs
- Production costs including costumes, theatre fees, programs, posters
- Some administrative and office supply costs
- Celebration of Dance Performance
- Emerging Choreographers Performance
- Partial chaperone costs
- Adjudicator hosting costs
- Website hosting annual fee
- Directors' fall meeting and festival costs
- Company jacket or Company leotard/dance top
- Company Photography and Videography
- Festival Raffle Prize
- Festival Raffle Tickets for dancers
- Company T-shirt
- T-shirt for exchange

7. The required dues per individual are \$650 due upon acceptance. SSBYD can only accept checks or cash. Once these fees are paid, they are nonrefundable, regardless of the circumstances. In addition, travel expenses to Festival, which are estimated on the last page, will be paid by each dancer individually. A late fee of \$15 will be assessed for all late payments. Each dancer will be responsible for all of their own festival expenses including transportation, hotel, festival kit, etc. (This is anticipated at approximately \$1400, but we will know more after Allison attends the fall meeting.) The dancers must be involved in the bun bar at studio photo shoots, Rudolph, Nutcracker, and Madeline rehearsals and shows to raise funds for group expenses. Dancers can also earn funds for SSBYD by being a Class Assistant (must keep a log and turn it in each semester.). Parents will be required to assist at the SSBYD adjudication and shows and we welcome assistance at the bun bar and in other areas. Gustafson Dance will provide financial assistance in the form of a work/trade arrangement for parents who are interested. There will also be a scholarship application available for those in the Apprentice 2 and Company Levels with demonstrated financial need and merit. Please contact Allison for more information.

We are looking forward to this season and all that we can do together. We have loved working with the Level 4-6 dancers we currently have and would be happy to have each of you participate in SSBYD this year.

Sincerely,
Allison Gustafson and Nicole Comella
Co-Directors, SSB Young Dancers

SSBYD Dancer Contract/Code of Conduct 2017-2018

Please return this form with a check for the \$650 dues made out to SSBYD by September 1, 2017

I, _____ (Student's name), agree to be a _____ (level of Company) member of the State Street Ballet Young Dancers for the 2017-2018 season (September 10-June 3). I understand that there are four divisions of dancers—Company, Apprentice 1 and 2, and Junior--and those levels are based on experience, level of technique and work ethic. Company and Apprentice 2 dancers have the opportunity to be cast in adjudicated works and may be invited to take the adjudication class. Apprentice 1 and Junior dancers will not be cast in any adjudicated works and will not take the adjudication class. I further understand that the choreographers choose the dancers they want to have perform their works. Even though I may not be in the adjudicated pieces, I recognize the value of being a part of this group, in that I will dance in choreography in the SSBYD show in the Spring, may understudy works I have not been chosen for and will attend the Festival as a member of the SSB Young Dancers. (Juniors may or may not be invited to attend festival, will be known after the fall meeting.) As a dancer, I agree to the Code of Conduct as outlined below:

1. I will attend the required classes for my level per week (outlined in the Class Requirements document that will be emailed soon, and posted on the website) and all rehearsals. I will notify the office before 3:30pm on weekdays, and by 8:30 am on Saturdays if I become ill or if I am unexpectedly unable to attend that day. For any known absent dates, I will turn in a note or email in writing at least two weeks in advance, but preferably in September. I will also be responsible to take makeup classes, therefore maintaining the proper level of training, keeping my body strong and healthy, and contributing to the company as a unit.
2. I will represent Gustafson Dance, SSBYD and State Street Ballet Company to the best of my ability by behaving in a professional and respectful manner at all classes, rehearsals, performances and group activities.
3. I will show respect to all teachers, directors, choreographers, fellow dancers, parents, and theatre staff.
4. I will come to classes, rehearsals and performances in uniform, on time and prepared to work.
5. I will not consume alcoholic beverages or engage in drug use while a member of SSBYD. I understand that if I violate this rule, consequences may include probation or expulsion from SSBYD.
5. I will not miss class or rehearsals two weeks prior to a performance date.
6. I will not miss any dress rehearsals or performances.
7. I will make sure that I have my List of Required Items.
8. I will pay attention in all classes and rehearsals, avoiding unnecessary conversations.
9. I will respect my fellow dancers, choreographers, teachers, chaperones and directors, by avoiding gossip, unhealthy competition and unnecessary discussion over the internet. I understand that all dancers in SSBYD are committed members of the Company and should be treated with the utmost respect regardless of abilities and casting.
10. I agree to participate fully in all bun bars and performances. I further agree to support other fundraising efforts for SSBYD.
11. I agree to sell 10 tickets to the Celebration of Dance performance on March 17. I am allowed to opt out of the group ticket sales if I add \$100 additional to the \$650 dues (\$750 total dues).
12. I agree to attend the Regional Dance America-Pacific Festival in Spokane, WA April 10-14, 2018 (*Juniors excluded unless invited to attend*).
13. I will show respect to all the parents of SSBYD dancers who are working hard to make my participation with SSBYD possible.

14. I will show responsibility by communicating directly with directors, teachers and choreographers when I need to.

15. I will avoid inappropriate conversation and will only use respectful language in the studio, including the restroom/changing area, lunch patio, or in class and especially in front of young children.

I understand my placement in the Company, what I am required to do and how I am expected to behave as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

_____ (Student Signature)

_____ (Date)

I, _____ (Parent's name), agree to support my child's participation in the State Street Ballet Young Dancers. I agree to make the financial commitment of \$650 in dues, plus all Festival fees for my dancer (*Juniors excluded unless invited to attend*). I will assist with preparations for adjudication and the Celebration of Dance performance on March 17 by selling 10 tickets and participating in this way- _____ or by paying an additional \$100 fee to opt out of the 10 ticket sales obligation and/or \$50 opt out fee for volunteering for SSBYD. (The parent volunteer commitment for SSBYD is separate from the parent volunteer commitment for Gustafson Dance.). Further, I will support the SSBYD mission to the best of my ability.

_____ (Parent Signature)

_____ (Date)

Anticipated Individual Festival Travel Costs: \$1400

Flight from Santa Barbara: \$350

Hotel for 4 nights: \$250

Spending and Meal Money: \$200

Festival Kit Price: \$450

Shared Chaperone Cost: \$150

List of Required Items

- Women:** Company Leotard (Style decided in Sept and purchased by SSBYD)
Company Jacket
Colored Leotard for appropriate class level, Black Leotard
Black Chiffon wrap-around Skirt
Pink Leather Ballet Shoes, Pointe Shoes, Toe protectors, Toe Tape
Non Slip Socks or Booties for over Pointe shoes at the theatre
Ballet Pink Tights, Black Tights
Black Jazz Pants, Black Jazz shorts
Black Character/Rehearsal Skirt (GD will have some for sale)
Black and Tan Jazz Shoes
Suggested-Tan or Black Character Shoes (for women)
Nude Undergarments, and any Undergarments needed for specific costumes or for support (as needed).
Light colored trunks (white or light pink)
Dark colored trunks (optional or purchase if needed)
Sparkle Earrings
Theraband and Yoga Mat
Nail Polish Remover
Sewing Kit

Jet Glue/Super Glue for Pointe Shoes
Hair Supplies including Hair Nets and Gel
Stage Make-up, including Deep Red Lipstick and lip liner
Purple, Brown and White Eye Shadow
Black Pencil and Liquid Eye Liner
White Pencil
Pencil Sharpener
Eyelashes and Glue
Face Make-up and Powder
Reddish Blush

Men: Company Dance top (Style will be decided in September and purchased by SSBYD)
White and Black T-Shirt/Dance Top
Black Tights, White Tights
Black Jazz Pants, Black Jazz Shorts
Black and White Ballet Shoes
Black and Tan Jazz Shoes
Black and White thin socks
Non slip socks or Booties for over dance shoes at theatre
Light Stage Make-up
Sewing Kit
Dance Belt
Theraband and Yoga Mat