

# Jubilee Dance Company

2023/2024 School Year

## Jubilee

Jubilee means: *"A joyful time; a time or season of celebration!"* Jubilee Dance Company is an extension program of Dancing For Joy. It is time to dance for joy and to celebrate who we were created to be as we move together to worship our Maker.

## Our Mission Statement

The mission of **Dancing for Joy** is to provide quality dance instruction for every student while encouraging movements and motivations that glorify our Maker. Our goal is to create a positive learning environment for students of all ages and both genders, to develop a deeper appreciation for the performing arts, and to "praise His name with dancing..." Psalms 149:3

The **Jubilee Dance Company** is made up of 4 to 5 groups of 8 to 12 dancers each; the Junior company, Intermediate company, Senior company, Advanced company & Principle Company. Each group participates in increased training in technique, performance, choreography, and professionalism in order to grow as artists and dance for others in the broader community. Together we reclaim and encourage dance as a venue for enriching our lives, blessing others, and praising God.

## Achieving That Mission

- We are non-competitive, yet professional.
- Our focus is to reclaim the art of dance in the Pacific Northwest, WA, Whatcom county, and Bellingham for the glory of God.
- We provide a healthy and safe outlet for young dancers to expand strengths, work on weaknesses, and build confidence in a loving and encouraging environment.
- We encourage opportunities for technical excellence and personal growth that take us outside the studio walls and into the world we live in.
- We maintain a high standard of commitment to rehearsal and technique classes.
- We have team building times, devotions, and prayer times.
- We use choreography, music, and costumes that are appropriate.
- We place an emphasis on using dance as a way to serve God and others.
- We will divide company members up by age, style, ability levels, years in the company, and availability to foster growth through different dance experiences. Some members may be asked to participate with multiple groups throughout a school year or specific dances. We will also have understudies for different dance works. There will be at least one all company dance.
- Veteran company members have increased opportunities to choreograph, perform, be team leaders, adjudicators, camp counselors, have solos, etc...

## Requirements of a Company Member

1. **Must be enrolled in at least 3 dance classes @ DFJ (Sept-June), one of which must be the company ballet class, and one of which must be a CATS/PBT class. We also strongly encourage that dancers enroll in either a Jazz, Contemporary, or Hip Hop class to diversify their training to add energy and performance quality.** \*Must also be enrolled in one of our intensives, offered in July, summer workshops, design a class or attend an intensive outside of our studio. Note - we understand and honor that family vacations take priority please communicate clearly with us when you will be gone. Thank you.

2. **Dancers are expected to be fully active members of all their classes and perform with ALL their classes for the spring show.**

Additional performance fees will apply (\$95 per enrolled class, but may vary depending on performance days, shared costumes, etc.) Non-participation in classes may result in being re-evaluated as a Company Member.

3. **Full payment of Company annual fee of \$475 Company uniform fee of \$150, and Retreat fee of \$100 due upon acceptance. Total -\$725 Late after Sept. 15th**

- A late fee of \$50 will be issued automatically on your account at that time. All dance company member accounts for DFJ are required to keep a current credit card on file with us, and account balances be kept current – no exceptions. Overdue balances may result in not being able to perform or participate.

-If you need a payment plan for your Jubilee Fees please email the studio and set up a monthly payment plan with our Bookkeeper before fees are due.

- There will not be any other costume fees associated with the dance company for the Christmas or June performances. (Please note: June show fees will apply according to the student's individual/non-Jubilee class schedule.)

4. **Attend Dance Co. Retreat** (required participation):

**Dates and Cost- August 4th - 5th, 2023**

**Cost - \$100**

The location of the retreat will be at Kurt & Maluhia's new property! 4684 Sand Rd. Bellingham, Wa 98226. We will be sleeping at DFJ at night and will have some of our dance & choreography time at the studio as well. Dancers will be picked up the evening of the 5th this year at 9pm at the studio. More info. to come. The retreat fee covers the cost of the leaders' time, meals, activities, and classes that we will be offering during the retreat. We will be in need of some parent volunteers to assist with meals. If you are interested in helping, please let us know.

5. **Attend weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays: 6:30-8:30pm**

**Rehearsal will start with Dance Wellness, Warm Up, & Devotions/ Worship**

**Required this year-** EACH DANCER NEEDS TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN JOURNAL. Please keep this in your dance bag!

Dance Wellness - we want students to continue to learn how to take care of themselves, know their limits, properly take care of injuries, learn strategies and techniques for stress management, talk

about the importance of hydration and nutrition. We will also teach them how to massage their sore muscles using a small ball and/or foam roller.

Warm Up - This time will consist of a cardio exercise to warm up the muscles.

Devotions/ Worship - Leaders will lead a short devotion/prayer time for each of their teams. Once a month we will have a guest lead worship. (We will meet in smaller groups)

### **Rehearsal**

- Rehearsal times are subject to change.
- Some weeks not everyone will be called during this entire time.
- We will communicate clearly with you the plan for each week.
- Additional rehearsals may be called or canceled at any time.

6. **Principle and sometimes Advanced company members will have extra auditions throughout the year** - Nativity Auditions will be held at our August company retreat. Nativity Audition Casting will be posted via facebook, e-mail, and at the studio AFTER the retreat. Auditions for June show roles (if applicable) will take place as well for the Principle company and possibly the Advanced company as well.

7. **Participate in Dance Company Performances around the community.**

Please expect on average of once a month, but may be more or less due to scheduling and events. The Company plans on performing at the Ferry Terminal, Christmas Show, March Benefit Showcase, Whatcom Memorial Day Parade, and June Show. Other performances may be possible.

### **Eligibility Policy**

Dancers must be age 12 by Sept. 1 of the tryout session. A written appeal may be submitted if the student's birthday is after Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, but before Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, **and** the student has shown readiness in dance and attitude to be considered for an early tryout.

DFJ reserves the right to add members, or switch dancers to other company groups at any time and for any reason. DFJ Directors reserve the right to reconsider a dancer's eligibility for Jubilee Dance Company at any time, but especially for the following reasons:

- **If they do not attend the DFJ Company Retreat at the beginning of the season.**
- **A dancer's attitude does not reflect respect towards others or has a spirit of apathy.**
- **A dancer has multiple unexcused absences or their account is 90+ days past due.**
- **A dancer violates the required 'code of conduct' form which they have signed.**

## Audition Day

1. Must be 12 years old as of Sept. 1 of the audition year.

**Proper Audition Attire: Ladies - Pink tights, Black Leo, Ballet shoes, & Hair in a bun  
Men - Black tights, black tank, ballet shoes**

2. **Auditions will be in Studio 4 and 3, but accessed from behind the building only.** Check in with an instructor and receive an audition number. We recommend arriving 15-25 minutes early to warm up in an open studio.
3. Students must **complete audition forms PRIOR to audition.** Hand in forms at check-in.
4. Teachers will teach audition groups several combinations, ranging in style, and then dancers will perform in small groups of varying sizes.
5. There will be a panel of judges. Judges critique stage presence, technique, teachability, focus, effort, attitude, willingness, and memorization of steps.
6. Dancers will be brought back for individual or group interviews after the dance portion of the audition.
7. Results will be posted by audition number on our website by 3pm Saturday June 24th. Invitations to join a specific company group will be sent out via email. Please respond within 48 hours if you will be accepting the invitation. For those who do not make the company we will send out an email of what the dancer needs to work on for the following year in order to be considered in the future.

\*There are many variables that go into dancer placement ie. age, number of dancers that try-out, past trainability, attitude, technique, emotional capacity, confidence, fluidity, group cohesiveness, group dynamics, group size, strength, work ethic, leadership, dedication, experience, class levels they are currently in, past attendance and participation. Also, similarly to our class program, dancers may enter a group or class at the bottom of a group or level ability wise, and then the following year be one of the top dancers in that same group or class; both are essential for training and building confidence. We ask that you please respect our placement decisions for your dancer's development in the upcoming school year. We strive to push every dancer to be the best dancer and person that they can be. Please do not come into the audition expecting placement in a specific group, or with specific people.

## Auditions for the 2023/2024 School Year

**June 21st Time Slots: - Pre-sign up REQUIRED - \$20 audition fee**

9-10:15 - 7th/8th

10:30-11:45 - 9th - 12th

12:00-1:15 - 7th/8th

1:30-2:45 - 9th-12th

- Please fill out your audition form and turn it into the office at your audition.
- If you are unable to make the audition, a video audition will be accepted if received before the audition date. Please email Sarah Lewis ([sarahlewisdance@gmail.com](mailto:sarahlewisdance@gmail.com)) for video audition criteria.

## **Parent Involvement**

Parents are asked to sign up for an area to volunteer. Once teams are created Maluhia will send out a list of areas that you can sign up for.

## **Other Considerations**

Jubilee members are asked during all community performances to not wear glasses. Please work with your optometrist to get contacts. Please see Maluhia with any questions.

Jubilee Girls are asked to wear false eyelashes at MBT performances.

Piercings - Nose ring studs are fine, as well as studs for cartilage piercings. All other piercings need to come out for performances.

Questions? - Please send us an email: [info@dancing4joy.org](mailto:info@dancing4joy.org).

## **Company Staff**

Executive Director- Kurt Vander Griend

Artistic/Jubilee Director - Maluhia Vander Griend

## **Jubilee Leaders (Jubileaders) -**

Principle - Amanda Schroer & Taylor Melton

Advanced - Alexandra Miller

Senior - Sarah Lewis

Junior/Intermediate - Rachel Yates