

Jubilee Dance Company

2024/2025 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 grow as performers, bless our community, and 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 are non-competitive and encourage collaboration. Our goal is to create a positive learning environment for students to develop a deeper appreciation for the performing arts.

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.
- 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 (Last week of August-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 (two are available in July and one in August), take private lessons over the summer, 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 \$650 Company uniform fee of \$175, and Retreat fee of \$150 due upon acceptance. Total -\$975 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 must be kept current – no exceptions. Overdue balances may result in not being able to perform or participate.

PLEASE NOTE: If you need a payment plan for your Jubilee Fees please email the studio and set up a monthly payment plan with our Bookkeeper. Payment plans must be in place 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 1st - 3rd, 2024
Cost - \$150
The location of the retreat will be a combination of the Studio and Kurt & Maluhia's property! 4684 Sand Rd. Bellingham, Wa 98226. 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 will cover topics around self-care, injury prevention and recovery, true rest, nourishing yourself, responsibility, etc.

Warm Up - This time will consist of 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.
- Not everyone will be called during this entire time each week. See schedule for details.
- 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 in August. Nativity Audition Casting will be posted via facebook, e-mail, and at the studio after casting decisions are finalized. 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. 1st, but before Oct. 1st, **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:

- **Not attending the DFJ Company Retreat at the beginning of the season.**
- **Attitude does not reflect respect towards others or has a spirit of apathy.**
- **Multiple unexcused absences or their account is 90+ days past due.**
- **Violation of the Code of Conduct (signed by each member)**

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 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 22nd. 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 detailing 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 2024/2025 School Year

June 19th Time Slots: - Pre-sign up REQUIRED - \$25 audition fee

9-10:30 - 7th/8th

10:45-12:00 - 9th - 12th

12:00-1:00 Staff Lunch Break

1:15-2:45 - 7th/8th

3:00-4:15 - 9th - 12th

- Please fill out your audition form and turn it into the office prior to or at your audition.
- If you are unable to make the audition, a video audition will be accepted *Must be received before the audition date.

Please email Sarah Lewis (sarahlewisdance@gmail.com) for video audition criteria.

Parent Involvement

Parents are asked to sign up for an area to volunteer. Once teams are created Amanda 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 studs & cartilage piercing studs are fine for performances.

All other piercings need to be removed when performing.

Questions? - Please send us an email: info@dancing4joy.org.

Company Staff

Executive Director- Kurt Vander Griend

Artistic/Jubilee Director - Maluhia Vander Griend

Jubilee Leaders (Jubileaders) -

Principle - Amanda Schroer

Advanced - Taylor Melton

Senior - Alexandra Miller

Intermediate - Sarah Lewis

Junior - Rachel Yates