

Jubilee Dance Company

2025/2026 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 artists & performers and bless our community.

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 5 groups of 6 to 12 dancers each; Junior Company, Intermediate Company, Senior Company, Advanced Company & Principal 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 connecting more deeply with our Creator.

Achieving That Mission

- We are non-competitive, yet professional.
- Our focus is to reclaim the art of dance in the Pacific Northwest, Washington, Whatcom County, and Bellingham.
- We provide a healthy and safe outlet for young dancers to expand strengths, work on weaknesses, and build confidence in an encouraging and caring 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 worship times.
- We use choreography, music, and costumes that are age appropriate.
- We place an emphasis on using dance as a way to connect with your deepest parts of yourself, the beauty that is in others, and God as the creator of each person.
- 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 may also have understudies for different dance works. We often have one whole company piece each year.
- Veteran company members have increased opportunities to choreograph, perform, be team leaders, adjudicators, camp counselors, soloists, and other opportunities as they arise.

Requirements of a Company Member

1. **Must be enrolled in at least 3 dance classes @ DFJ during the dance year (last week of August-June), one of which must be your company ballet class and one of which must be a CATS, PBT, or Pre-Pointe class. We also strongly encourage dancers to enroll in either a Jazz, Contemporary, or Hip Hop class to diversify their training and grow in 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 during the summer. Please communicate clearly with us when you are going to 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 June 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 (\$650), Company Uniform Fee (\$175) and Retreat Fee (\$150) are 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.

Please note: Payment plans must be in place by July 1st!

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

4. **Attend weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays: 6:30-8:30pm**
Rehearsal will start with Dance Wellness, Warm Up, Devotions/ Worship

- **Required items** - labeled garment bag, journal to take notes (keep in your bag)
- **Dance Wellness** - We will cover topics around self-care, injury prevention, recovery, true rest, nourishing yourself, responsibility, etc.
- **Warm Up** - This time will consist of cardio exercise to warm up the muscles.
- **Devotions/ Worship** - Leaders or Interns will lead a short devotion/discussion time for each of their teams. Once a month we will have a guest lead worship.

Rehearsal

- Rehearsal times are subject to change.
- Not everyone will be called during this entire time each week.
- Additional rehearsals may be called or canceled at any time.
- We will communicate clearly with you the plan for each week.
 - All communication will be through the Band App

5. **Principal and sometimes Advanced company members will have extra auditions throughout the year** - Nativity Auditions will be held Thursday July 31st. Nativity Audition Casting will be posted via the Band App and at the studio after casting decisions are finalized. Auditions for June show roles (if applicable) may take place as well for the Principal company and possibly the Advanced company as well.
6. **Participate in Dance Company Performances around the community.**
We often have a community performance about once a month, but may be more or less due to scheduling and events. The Company plans on performing at the Ferry Terminal, Nativity Show, March Benefit Show, Whatcom Memorial Day Parade, Lynden Farmer's Day Parade, and DFJ June Show. Dancers will be notified of other performance opportunities as they are available.
7. **Attend Dance Co. Retreat** (required participation):
Dates and Cost- July 31st - August 2nd
****please see specific schedule below as it is very different this year****
Cost - \$150

The location of the retreat will be a combination of the Studio and at Kurt & Maluhia's property!
4684 Sand Rd. Bellingham, Wa 98226. More information to come. The retreat fee covers the cost of the meals, activities, classes and instruction that we will be offering during the retreat.

Thursday, July 31st - Nativity Auditions & All Jubilee Potluck	
9:00-10:30am	Principal Company Nativity Auditions (Group 1)
10:30-11:00am	Principal Company Partnering Auditions (Group 1 & 2)
11:00-12:30pm	Principal Company Nativity Auditions (Group 2)
6:00-8:30pm	All Jubilee Family Potluck & Meeting @ Fernhaven (4684 Sand Rd.) *One parent must attend the meeting. Families can arrive anytime after 5:30pm and bring all of your dancer's belongings for the retreat.
8:30pm	*Everyone heads home (Dancers included! See you in the morning @ DFJ)

Friday, August 1st - Retreat Day #1	
8:30am	Drop off dancers @ DFJ. We will have a full day of dancing, team building and fun before heading to Fernhaven to sleep for the night.

Saturday, August 2nd - Retreat Day #2	
9:00pm	Pickup Dancers (Location TBD....most likely DFJ)

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.** Check in at the office 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 evaluators. Evaluators critique stage presence, technique, teachability, focus, effort, attitude, willingness, and memorization of steps.
6. Individual or group interviews will take place after the dance portion of the audition.
7. Results will be posted by audition number on our website by 3pm Sunday, 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 (i.e. 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 each 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 2025/2026 School Year

June 20th (Friday) Time Slots: Registration REQUIRED (through Jackrabbit) - \$25 audition fee

10-11:15 - 7th/8th

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

1:00 - 2:15pm - 11th/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.

*Video audition 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. Information about volunteer needs and a sign up sheet will be available at the Family Potluck and Meeting, July 31st.

Performance 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 - Small 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

Amanda Schroer - *Principal*

Taylor Melton - *Advanced*

Alexandra Miller - *Senior*

Sarah Lewis - *Intermediate*

Piper Friesen - *Junior*