**Competition 2017-2018**

Hello all and welcome to the 2017-2018 competition team! The following will cover everything you need to know in order to commit to the team. If you are unable to meet ANY of the following REQUIREMENTS, perhaps competition team isn’t for you this year, BUT if you are ready to hit the ground running and bring home some bling, let’s get this started!!!

**Pairings**

The following are the pairings based on our tryouts for team. Each of these groups will be taught at least one dance that will be performed at competitions and recitals.

**Group A** – Hauper, Cloe, Mia O., Peyton, Navey – Little Bird (Costume cost $64.90- not available in separates)

**Group B** – Becca, Raelyn, Grace K, Taylor, Maya R, Addi R. – Quit You (Costume cost $69.62)

**Required competitions**

The following competitions are ***required***. All ***group*** dances will perform at the below listed competitions. If you have a non-required dance – it is highly recommended that they are performed at the competitions as well but they are not required to be. In addition to this list, there are plenty more competitions that you can take your non-required dances to if you choose.

**Dance Masters** – January 26-28, 2018 – Valley High School – West Des Moines

**Celebrity** – February 23-25, 2018 – CY Stephens – Ames

**Bravo** – March 9-11, 2018- Orpheum Theater - Omaha

**Hall of Fame** – April 19-22, 2018- Des Moines, Iowa – Hy-Vee Hall

Dances required at these four competitions are Group A and Group B. Optional dances will include any solos, duo/trios, and additional small groups.

**Choreography Fees**

There will be no choreography fees for required group dances and instead there will be a monthly “tuition” for the class that will be used for ONLY competition choreography. Please see the schedule for the times/days of these classes.

If a dancer would choose to pick up a solo for competition, there are a couple of options. Choreographed and taught by Dani, fee is $300. Choreographed and taught by Stef, fee is $350. This fee includes the choreography fee and 4 hours of teaching instruction/cleaning. Anything above and beyond that will be additional. Please let Stef know what instructor you would like to use and what genre you would prefer to compete in.

If dancers would choose to pick up a duet for competition, fees are as follows: Dani $400, Stef $450. This fee is split between the two dancers and includes the choreography fee and 4 hours of teaching instruction/cleaning.

If dancers would choose to pick up a trio for competition, fees are as follows: Dani $500, Stef $550. This fee is split between the three dancers and includes the choreography fee and 4 hours of teaching instruction/cleaning.

\*\*\*Please note that all additional dances will have to be approved by Stef first to ensure ideal pairings and placement in the competition world\*\*\*

**Convention Requirements**

It is required that students attend at minimum, TWO conventions. Dance Masters convention/competition is held in Des Moines and will be highly recommended for all of the competition team. By signing up for this convention, you will receive a significant discount on your DMA Competition entry fees. I would recommend collaboration and group planning when picking conventions because they will have companions with them if they go in a group AND the more dancers that attend, the more of a discount you will receive. There are insane amounts of options for conventions but these are the ones I would highly recommend.

**Dance Masters of America:** October 8th - Sheraton Hotel WDM – Highly Recommended

Deadline Septemner 27th. $80 per dancer. 6 classes in 1 day.

**Hollywood Vibe**: November 17-19, 2017, West Des Moines, Sheraton hotel

Deadline 30 days prior to convention. $250 per dancer. 13 Classes in 2 days.

**DANZA:** November, 12, 2017 – Westside School, Omaha

Deadline 30 days prior to convention. $170 per dancer. Includes an observer band.

**KAR:** November 19, 2017- Mid America Center, Council Bluffs

Deadline 30 days prior to convention. $99 per dancer. 5 classes in 1 day.

**Nuvo**: October 13-15,2017, Omaha, Century Link Center

Deadline 30 days prior to convention. $250 per dancer. 13 classes in 2 days.

**JUMP**: January 5-7th KC, MO, January 19-21,2018, Chicago, Hyatt Regency O’Hare

Deadline 30 days prior to convention. $250 per dancer. 11 classes in 2 days.

**Additional requirements**

Each dancer is required to compete, with their groups, at the required competitions mentioned above. ***If one is unable to perform at one of the required competitions, they will be removed from the competition team for the rest of the year.*** This is a commitment that was made to a team. If one of the team members is absent, it compromises the well-being of the group. All required dates are posed in this handbook plenty in advance so PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE any conflicting events during these dates.

***Dancers will also be required to be at their scheduled competition class the week of competition***. I understand that our attendance policy allows for 5 absences from January to May HOWEVER, when a student is not in class the week of a competition, the preparation needed to perform at the highest level is compromised.

***Each dancer is required to have a personalized warm up***. Warm ups will be ordered prior to October 1st and the cost will be passed on to the dancer. Jackets are avail2able for purchase as well for family members. If any previous team member needs a new warm up, please contact Stef and let her know before October 1st.

Each GROUP dancer is required to have a makeup kit. This year, the makeup kit will include the following: Eye shadow, eyeliner, blush, lipstick AND fake eyelashes. All of these will be REQUIRED to be worn (including lipstick) and it is required that these are purchased so all dancers match. In years past, we have had too much variation. To alleviate that problem, all will be required to purchase a new makeup kit this year. If you have your color pallet of eye shadow from last year and/or the blush from last year and do not need a new one, please let me know and that will not be ordered for you. The cost of this makeup kit will be passed on to the dancer.

Hair will be done in accordance with choreography. Little Bird –Group A- will have their hair in our signature fo-hawk and Quit You – Group B- will have their hair in a high bun with a hair piece secured in their hair. Please know that hair needs to be done appropriately and securely. No flyaways and uniformity is required.

Any shoes that will be required for the dance will be the dancer’s financial responsibility to purchase.

Any costume(s) that will be required for the dance(s) will be the dancer’s financial responsibility.

I will need a copy of each competition team member’s birth certificate. For those of you who have been in competition before, please resubmit a copy.

**Practice Times**

This year, new to our schedule, is an allotted weekly time slot to use for running solos, duos, trios, and any additional group pieces that do not compose the above slated groups. This time slot is Friday from 4pm-6pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the studio. There are 4 weeks available for sign up at a time and it is REQUIRED that you are signed up for your time slot(s) at minimum 1 week prior to the actual time. Sign up for any given Friday will be taken down a week prior to the actual date to ensure there are no scheduling conflicts and that time is being used wisely. Outside of EXTREME extenuating circumstances, this will be THE ONLY TIME available for competition work. Time slots are divided into 15 minute increments so if you want to have a ½ hour lesson, please make sure to sign up for 2 slots and so on and so forth. This time WILL COUNT toward your 4 hours allotted with your choreography fee. If you go beyond your 4 hours, it will charged at ADA’s private lesson rate of $20/hour.

**Additional options**

**Nationals**

Each competition we have will include a National event in the summer of 2018. If we are interested and qualify, the nationals dates will be passed on to you as soon as they are all released. Bravo’s nationals are in Ames, July 9-15, 2018, and that may be a good place to start but if we would like to travel to a National event, we will need to decide this and plan accordingly. I would really like to attend nationals this year so that our dancers get a feel for what such an event has to offer. The Bravo website has the following available for prices for Nationals – there is no additional cost for the master classes. They are included in your entry fees.

Solos: $105.00

Duo/Trios: $120.00

Small Groups: $50.00/dancer

Large Groups: $50.00/dancer

Lines: $50.00/dancer

Extended Time (Small Groups, Large Groups, & Lines only): $5.00/dancer

Title Competition: $120.00

Most Photogenic: $50.00 (entered at competition only)

Dynamic Costume: $50.00 (entered at competition only)

**Summer 2018 REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to the summer classes next year following tryouts, it will be ***REQUIRED*** that each of the dancers that were part of our 2017-2018 team are able to perform at the following celebrations. Relay for Life (3rd Friday in June) and Chuckwagon Days (last weekend in June). Other potential performances: 4th of July in Exira, Adair County Fair in Greenfield, Good Egg Days in Stuart, Whaletown Days in Anita, Guthrie County Fair in Guthrie.