

ACADEMY OF DANCE ARTS

Debra Bricker (Director) enjoyed a brilliant dance career with national ballet companies in the United States and Canada. Ms. Bricker's poise, style and versatility were recognized early as she began her career in Rochester, NY. Ms. Bricker trained at the North Carolina School of the Arts, National Ballet of Canada and American Ballet Theater where she was on full scholarship. Later, Ms. Bricker appeared with ABT and National Ballet of Canada including televised **LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER** performances of such ballets as *Swan Lake*, *Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Firebird*. She has also delighted audiences in solo and guest artist performances with the Atlanta Ballet, Boston Ballet, Wilmington Ballet, New Orleans Ballet, Alexandra Ballet, SC Ballet Theater/Ballet Michigan and the Ruth Mitchell Dance Company.

Ms. Bricker has inspired other artists as well. In fact, as Ruth Mitchell tells it, "it was her phenomenal jumps" that inspired Emmy-award winning choreographer, Dom Orjedos, to create a version of the magical *Firebird* solely for Debra in the title role. Debra was a principal dancer with Columbia City Ballet in addition to serving as Company Ballet Mistress and assistant to the director. She has taught at USC, the SC Summer Dance Institute, Tri-District Arts Consortium and Columbia College. Ms. Bricker has starred in local productions of a *Chorus Line* and *West Side Story*. She choreographed Town Theater's production of *West Side Story* for their 90th season. She has also been a winning contestant on the popular TV game show, **Jeopardy!**. When she is not teaching dance, you may find her next door at her husband, Joe's store, **Brewer Decorating**, horseback riding or windsurfing!

Lauren Alston Ms. Alston is a native of Columbia, South Carolina. Her dance career began under the direction of Donna Lewis (Founder and Director of Dee Crump School of Dance) and later flourished under the direction of Dale Lam (Director of Columbia City Jazz Dance School). Her professional career began at age 16, when she was invited by the Chinese Cultural Council to tour various cities in China for 32 days and perform over 40 shows. Soon after, Ms. Alston performed in several music videos and commercials, including Huggies and Carolina Imports. As she continued her quest to fulfill her artistic zeal, she became a national and regional judge and instructor for several competitions and Director of SC's Perfect Athlete Competition. Ms. Alston looks forward to sharing her passion and insight with more eager artists.

Marles Reichard is an ADA alumna, and former member of the ADA Competing Company. She earned her degree in Early Childhood Education from USC, and is a kindergarten teacher in Richland Two. We are thrilled to have our former long time student return as a faculty member. Her love for children, and long dance experience make her a valued addition to the ADA staff.

Melanie Hendricks trained with Donna Lewis, Adolfin Suarez, and the late Ann Brodie. She furthered her studies at the North Carolina School of the Arts and USC. Ms. Hendricks was a soloist with Columbia City Ballet and the USC Dance Company. She has choreographed and taught for Southern Strutt, as well as choreographing for the Performing and Competing Company where her choreography has been recognized and won awards. She was the choreographer, director and producer of ADA's marvelous *Mary Poppins*, and *Shrek*.

Becky Lee has been dancing since the age of two. Her foray into the performing arts began early and she soon attained the balance, poise, and variety desired for her dance career. She has performed in the Tanzsommer Festival in Austria, as well as the European Union Cultural Festival in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Other International credits include performances in Germany and at the Wisma Atria in Singapore. As a jazz dancer, Rebecca won numerous awards as a soloist and received multiple scholarships for various dance competitions held around the country. She has studied under a variety of instructors, including locals Debra Bricker and William Starrett of the Columbia City Ballet. She has also trained with numerous nationally renowned artists, such as Teddy Forance, Jason Parsons, Ray Leeper, Dan Karaty, Mia Michaels, Desiree Robbins and Doug Caldwell. She hopes to instill in her students the passion, enthusiasm, joy, and love she has for the amazing art that is dance.

Kathryn Seppamaki has been active onstage in Columbia for more than two decades, and has recently been seen onstage at Town Theatre in *Nice Work if You Can Get It* (Duchess), and

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (Muriel). She has more than twenty years' experience as a choir director, and made her debut as a musical director at Town Theatre in August 2016. She has been the musical director for *Elf Jr.*, *Peter Pan Jr.*, and *A Christmas Carol* at Town Theatre. She has been teaching voice privately for more than twenty years, and currently has students performing on Broadway, at Disney, and professionally around the world. We're happy to have her!

Alyssa Stephens began her dance career in Columbia under the direction of Debbie Spivey at Footnotes. She later danced at The Center for Dance Education and with Carolina Ballet under Mimi Worrell. She attended Palmetto Center for the Arts Dance Program at Richland Northeast High School, directed by Nicole Czekalski, participating in both PCA dance and theater productions. She has taught at Footnotes, and the Center for Dance Education. She attends USC where she is a Chemistry major, with a minor in Dance. We are happy to have Alyssa join the ADA staff.

Marc Wilcox brings years of gymnastic coaching experience to ADA. He interned at Cincinnati Gymnastics, coached Olympic team members in '96 and 2000, was the owner and head coach at Mary Lee Tracy Gymnastics. He coached levels 5-10 for 15 years in Tennessee. He is currently the competitive team director and head coach at Southern Stars Academy in Camden. Mr. Wilcox has been safety certified since USA Gymnastics implemented that program in the early '90's.

Emma Webb is an ADA alumna, and former member of the ADA Competing Company. She was ADA's first Mary Poppins. She has assisted on many ADA productions, choreographing parts of Maleficent, as well as coaching and assisting with the competing company. She earned a degree in Early Childhood Education from USC Upstate, and is currently the Kids Ministry Director at NE Presbyterian Church. When she's not working or teaching, she can often be found playing fetch with her dog, Lilly.

FEES

Registration Fee: \$45 Tuition (Due at time of registration) registration)	Monthly (first and last month due at
Recital Costume(s) \$80 per costume	30 minute class \$52
Pre Ballet, Pre Hip Hop, Pre Jazz, Pre Tap \$75 per costume	45 minute class \$60
(Costume fees due no later than October 1, 2018. Costume payments received after October 1 will be subject to an additional \$20 ordering/shipping fee	60 minute class \$70
Private Lessons (30 minute session) \$40-\$50 depending upon instructor(instructors MUST be given a minimum of 24 hours notice to cancel a private, otherwise the student will be charged for the lesson)	120 minute class \$90
Choreography Fee (for solos, duets, etc.) minimum of \$200(set by choreographer)	Unlimited classes \$290
Recital Fee \$40 per student – this entitles parents to 6 tickets for recital, additional tickets must be purchased. This fee is due no later than February 1, 2018.	

*A 10% discount will be given if yearly tuition is paid in full by September 1, 2018.

**There is a \$10 discount per month on a student's second, third or fourth class in order to encourage more frequent study.

***Families with 3 or more students receive an additional 10% discount.

First and last month's tuition due at registration.

Tuition is due the 1st of the month. A \$25 late fee will be charged on account balances after the 10th of the month. Notices will not be sent unless the account is past due. There is a \$35 fee for returned checks. **Students with delinquent accounts will not be allowed to attend classes or rehearsals until their accounts are current.** A student is enrolled and responsible for tuition until a letter of withdrawal is received at the studio. **Tuition is the same whether it is a 3, 4, or 5 week month. There are no refunds for missed lessons.** A student may make up a missed class in a class of comparable level.

PLACEMENT

Placement of students is decided by the Director in consultation with studio faculty. Parents and students may schedule an appointment with the Director to discuss placement and other concerns. Students are not placed in classes according to the number of years they have studied, but rather according to what they have accomplished in the years they have studied. Consideration is also given to dedication and natural ability.

2018- 2019 HOLIDAYS

The Academy of Dance Arts will observe the following holidays:

Labor Day Monday, September 3

Thanksgiving Wednesday, November 21-Saturday, November 24 (Classes will resume Monday, November 26)

Winter Break Monday, December 24-Saturday January 5(Classes will resume Monday January 7)

Spring Break Monday, April 15-Saturday April 20 (Classes will resume on Monday, April 22)

Parents may observe classes during the week of **December 3-8, 2018** Observation at other times is not allowed as it can be distracting to the students.

ATTENDANCE

In order to attain greater proficiency in the art of dance, frequency as well as intensity of study is necessary. As students become more advanced, it is imperative that they attend class more than once weekly if they are to progress. We strongly recommend that students above Level I attend at least twice weekly. The importance of regular attendance cannot be overemphasized. Absences and tardiness impede the individual student's progress as well as affecting the class as a whole. The school cannot jeopardize its responsibility to the rest of the class for one student. **Students with excessive absences after January 1 may be unable to participate in the recital. Students with poor attendance will only be allowed to participate in the recital at the instructor's and director's discretion.** We have had to implement this policy to protect our students who DO attend classes. There will be no refund of costume fees!

ATTIRE

Students without proper shoes, dancewear or improperly groomed hair, especially for Ballet classes will be required to observe rather than participate in classes!!

******PLEASE PUT STUDENT'S NAME ON ALL DANCEWEAR & SHOES******

NO WATCHES OR OTHER JEWELRY(except for small ear studs)**MAY BE WORN!!!** Heavy, dangly jewelry is distracting, and can be dangerous. **LEAVE IT HOME!**

BALLET - Ladies: Solid color leotard, pink tights and pink slippers must be worn. **HAIR MUST BE GROOMED OFF THE FACE AND NECK. NO LONG PONYTAILS!!!**

BALLET - Gentlemen: Unitard or close fitting T-shirt, shorts or tights, white or black ballet slippers must be worn.

HIP HOP - Loose fitting, comfortable clothing, hip hop sneakers

JAZZ - Ladies: Leotard and tights, or unitard, and tan pull-on jazz shoes must be worn. Hair must be groomed off the face and neck.

JAZZ - Gentlemen: Unitard or close fitting T-shirt, shorts or sweatpants and tan pull-on jazz shoes must be worn.

LYRICAL – Leotard and tights, or unitard. Jazz shoes, or bare feet at discretion of instructor.

TAP - Ladies: Leotard and tights, or unitard, black patent tap shoes **with elastic shoe fasteners** for Pre Tap. Low heeled black shoes for other levels. Hair must be groomed off the face and neck.

TAP - Gentlemen: Unitard or close fitting T-shirt, shorts, jazz pants or sweatpants and black tap shoes must be worn.

TUMBLING - All: Close fitting T-shirts with shorts or footless tights, leotard or footless unitard. Hair must be groomed off the face and neck.

CONDUCT

Students may come directly from school and dress at the studio. All students must wait quietly in the reception area until time for class. All students must wait inside for rides. No one is allowed outside the building unless going to or from the car. **Students must be picked up promptly after class. The studio is CLOSED when the last scheduled class ends. There is a five minute grace period following that. After the five minute grace period, parents will be charged \$1 per minute. After 30 minutes, law enforcement and child protective services will be notified. We have been forced to adopt this policy due to repeated late pick ups in excess of 45 minutes.**

Do not leave valuables unattended in the lobby or dressing room.

Cell phones may not be used at any time in the classroom, and must be turned off prior to class starting. **Any use of cell phones in the classroom, or a cell phone ringing in the classroom will result in the phone being confiscated, and being returned only to a parent.**

PERFORMING AND COMPETING COMPANY

The Academy of Dance Arts is proud to have an award winning Performing and Competing Company. The Company has won numerous group and individual choreography and performance awards. Auditions are required of dancers ages 5-18 who want to make a serious commitment to performance and competition. Company members are required to take additional classes, attend scheduled and called rehearsals, and participate in local and out of town conventions, competitions, and performances throughout the year. Parental involvement is also an important aspect of Company membership, and involves participation in fundraising and providing transportation to and from events.