

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 the prestigious 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 Badillo 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*.

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.

Nikesha Mynatt has been dancing since the age of four and is an ADA Alumna and former member of the ADA Competing Company. She continued her dance education at Winthrop University and earned a degree in Dance Education k-12. With her degree she has taught at public schools, studios, and daycare centers. At Southwood Academy of the Arts she was the high school instructor where she built a curriculum for the classes to follow and held her own recital performances. She was head instructor at the Youth Academy in Clarksville, TN where she helped to build a foundation for training and created performance opportunities for the students. Over the years she has had the opportunity to train and perform under a variety of instructors and companies in the US and Europe. Nikesha was a Found Movement Group company member located in Nashville, TN. She has recently moved back to Columbia, SC and is excited to share her studies and experiences with the Academy of Dance Arts. ADA is so happy to have her back

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.

Wendy Wimmer is the Fine Arts, Film and Theatre teacher at Ridgeview High School. Ms. Wimmer has over 25 years of professional performing experience, including Broadway Musicals, National and International Touring Companies, as well as national and regional commercials, instructional videos, and voiceovers for national companies and universities. She was a regular on the television series *Breaking Away*, appeared in soap operas *Ryan's Hope*, *Search for Tomorrow*, and *Guiding Light*, movies *Sharkey's Machine*, *Six Pack* and *Sleeping With the Enemy*. She has been teaching, directing and choreographing in the public school system and regional theatres for 18 years, and enjoys giving back to students what she has learned through hard work, discipline, dedication and professional perseverance. She is currently on a State Education writing team developing the State Standards for Media Arts in Public Education. She is also part of the team that received the **Kennedy Center Creative Ticket Award** for which she produced and edited the award winning video.

FEES

Registration Fee: \$45

(Due at time of registration)

Recital Costume(s) \$75 per costume

Pre Ballet, Pre Hip Hop, Pre Jazz, Pre Tap \$70 per costume

(Costume fees due no later than October 1, 2017. Costume payments received after October 1 will be subject to an additional \$20 ordering/shipping fee

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)

Choreography Fee (for solos, duets, etc.) minimum of \$200(set by choreographer)

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, 2017.

**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 calculated on a 36 week term. **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.

2017- 2018 HOLIDAYS

The Academy of Dance Arts will observe the following holidays:

Labor Day Monday, September 4

Thanksgiving Wednesday, November 22-Saturday, November 25 (Classes will resume Monday, November 27)

Winter Break Monday, December 18-Monday January 1(Classes will resume Tuesday January 2)

Spring Break Monday, April 2-Saturday April 7 (Classes will resume on Monday, April 9)

Parents may observe classes during the week of **December 4-9, 2017**. 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.

