



# BALLET CHICAGO®

*...where artistic excellence and content of character forge the next generation*

**Daniel Duell**  
Artistic Director  
Founder

**Patricia Blair**  
Associate Artistic Director  
School Director



# Student Handbook

Fall Semester 2020 • September 9, 2020 - January 3, 2020

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## Covid-19 Statement

With the health and safety of our students, families, staff, accompanists, and faculty as our highest priority, Ballet Chicago has put together a new fall plan that will strictly follow all state and city Covid guidelines. Dance is currently listed as one of the highest risk activities.

We will return to our full normal fall curriculum, in virtual mode. We are fully committed to embracing this new way of interacting, focusing on the empowerment of every individual in our fold. This is our opportunity to come together in collaboration, determination, and inspiration to co-create our new normal.

Our fall semester will bear the hallmarks of every Ballet Chicago year round program. We will educate you, challenge you, and leave you feeling enriched and inspired. While this will take place on Zoom for the time being, we sincerely hope to be back in the studio and together as soon as possible.

### **Covid Compact:**

In order to maintain a safe, educational, and vibrant learning environment for all members of our Ballet Chicago community, all students will be required to abide by the Covid Compact contained herein.

As a Ballet Chicago student,

- I understand that Ballet Chicago has adopted the requirements listed below to promote the collective well-being of our community, and specifically the students, staff, and faculty of Ballet Chicago during this time period.
- I further understand that my ability to enter and remain at Ballet Chicago as a student is conditioned on my adherence to these policies.
- I will follow these policies not just for my own health, but also to protect and safeguard the health of those around me, including Ballet Chicago faculty and staff and other individuals who work in the 17 N State Street building.
- I acknowledge and agree that these rules and guidelines may change as public health guidance across the country evolves and as new testing and tracing methods emerge, and I agree to abide by any new rules and guidelines published by Ballet Chicago.

Requirements - All enrolling students must:

- Provide at least one local emergency contact (if living in the Chicagoland area) as a condition of registering for fall classes, and agree to update each contact as needed throughout the year.
- Quarantine in place for 14 days after your arrival in the Chicagoland area if you have traveled out of the country or to any city or state on the Chicago quarantine list.
- Be tested for COVID-19 before returning to the Ballet Chicago studios for the fall, should such testing be required when onsite classes resume.
- Isolate in the event of a positive test result for COVID-19 or possible exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual, as directed by health authorities, and cooperate with contact tracing and quarantine efforts.
- Take responsibility for your own health and the health of others in our community by adhering to guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Chicago Department of Public Health.

## Covid-19 Statement Continued...

- Complete the mandatory daily health check before leaving for Ballet Chicago and consent to a temperature check upon arrival at Ballet Chicago and at other times while on the premises as determined to be necessary by Ballet Chicago faculty or staff.
- Practice appropriate physical distancing and good health hygiene, including to:
  - Remain at least 6 feet from others,
  - Wear a face covering as required by City of Chicago and State of Illinois mandates,
  - Wash your hands upon arrival at Ballet Chicago and frequently throughout the day and clean your immediate area in the studio as directed, and
  - Stay home if you are sick with any symptoms, even if mild, and request COVID-19 evaluation and/or testing from a licensed physician or medical center.
- Socialize only in small groups that you are certain are following all of the above mandates.
- Avoid all non-essential trips out of the region and agree to refrain from inviting guests to your residence or being a guest at another's residence.

### Contact Information

While Ballet Chicago remains virtual and our faculty and staff are working from home, our studio/office number is not active. If you need to contact us, please refer to information below.

- Hannah Rosenfeld, Registrar - 312-826-3987
- Brittany Hurst, School Administrator - 312-826-4038
- Sue Oros, Operations - 312-826-4035
- Margaret Najarian, Marketing Director - 312-826-4102

### At-home Studio Resources

If you need to create a space in your home that is conducive to taking ballet class virtually, we have compiled helpful resources for creating an in-home dance studio.

Find resources [HERE](#)

## Mission

Ballet Chicago

*...where artistic excellence and content of character forge the next generation.*

Ballet Chicago's mission is to educate and inspire young artists through the study of classical ballet, and in so doing, to lay a foundation of life skills that empowers each one to realize their full potential.

It is a place where the beauty of one's character is as important as the beauty of one's tendu, a place where diversity is intentional – where inner city, foster children, middle-class and those of great fortune stand side-by-side, although we will never tell you which is which.

It is a place where young people learn to celebrate their triumphs and weather their disappointments with equal grace, where high-achievement is the norm, and where delivering moments of truth becomes a way of life.

With a curriculum based in the Balanchine Technique, and through a special arrangement with the George Balanchine Trust, Ballet Chicago provides an accelerated performance program where members receive years of on-stage experience, building confidence under pressure, camaraderie, community and an array of skill sets that translate to any arena. New works join masterpiece repertoire reserved solely for professionals and only the most accomplished students worldwide, producing outstanding performance resumes.

Ballet Chicago is a home, it is a family; it is a launching pad for exemplary youth.

## Profile

### The School of Ballet Chicago

Ballet Chicago is an internationally recognized professional track school of ballet that creates exceptional dancers and people. Ballet Chicago believes every aspiring artist deserves the opportunity to explore his or her full potential, and is committed to making classical ballet training accessible to all talented students who have the desire to dance. Co-founders Daniel Duell and Patricia Blair are devoted to carrying on Balanchine's legacy by providing one of the highest caliber Balanchine-based curriculums in the nation. By teaching impeccable technique as well as fundamental life skills, Ballet Chicago students go on to find success in dance and life.

### The Ballet Chicago Studio Company

Ballet Chicago provides an accelerated performance program where members receive years of on-stage experience, building confidence, camaraderie, community and an array of skill sets that translate to any arena. Through a special arrangement with the George Balanchine Trust, BCSC performs an extensive Balanchine repertoire. New works join these masterworks reserved solely for professionals and only the most accomplished students worldwide, producing outstanding performance resumes. All the ballets performed, including Duell and Blair's exquisite production of the Nutcracker, are intentionally selected to prepare the dancers for the technical and artistic demands of a professional career, and to provide a curriculum vitae that includes a recognized repertoire known for its standard of excellence the world over. Since its inception, BCSC has given over 400 performances throughout Chicago, the Midwest and Canada, with annual seasons at the historic Athenaeum Theatre in Lakeview and the Harris Theater for Music and Dance.

### The Balanchine Repertory Project

The Balanchine Repertory Project offers our students the opportunity to perform the repertoire of George Balanchine, the 20th century's most influential classical choreographer. Mr. Balanchine founded the School of American Ballet and the New York City Ballet, and is regarded as one of the most significant artistic influences in the world of ballet. A prolific artist, Mr. Balanchine choreographed more than 400 ballets during his lifetime.

### Community Outreach and Educational Services Program

Ballet Chicago has a long history of bringing the beauty of classical ballet to people of all ages, ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds. Outreach programs include:

- Gift of Dance - provides free tickets to our annual Nutcracker at the historic Athenaeum Theatre and our annual Balanchine + Beyond Series at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance.
- DanceVision - In collaboration with the International Music Foundation, we offer special performances for CPS children every fall at the Chicago Cultural Center.
- Nutcracker School Matinees - offers steeply discounted tickets to school children from the entire Chicago metropolitan area. In-school study guides are provided to enhance each child's in-theater experience.
- Dance Along Nutcracker - In collaboration with the City of Chicago and the Department of Cultural Affairs, we offer classes and join the admission free performances for children and families each December.

From the inner-city neighborhoods of Chicago to the outlying suburbs, approximately 10,000 people experience our programs and performance offerings each year.

Collaborative Partners and Gift of Dance Recipients:

Alluvion  
The Art Institute of Chicago  
Big Brothers Big Sisters Metro Chicago  
Breakthrough Urban Ministries  
BUILD, Inc  
Chicago Academy for the Arts  
Chicago Children's Choir  
Chicago High School for the Arts  
Chicago Hope Academy  
Christopher House  
College Mentoring Experience

Chicago Police Department  
Chicago Public Schools  
Chicago Youth Centers (CYC) Deneen  
CYC Educational Support Initiative  
CYC Fellowship House  
CYC Sidney Epstein  
Deborah's Place  
Deeply Rooted Dance Theater  
Ensemble Espanol  
Future World Learning Center  
The Girl Scouts of America

Holy Family Ministry  
Inner City Impact Cicero  
I-Radha  
Little Learners Academy  
Logan Square Chamber of Commerce  
Kenwood Academy  
Kroc Center Chicago  
Lawrence Hall  
Maywood Fine Arts Center  
Mercy Home for Boys and Girls  
Merit School of Music

New Life Centers of Chicagoland  
New Moms  
Project Education Plus  
Project Syncere  
Recovery on Water  
Tickets for Kids  
Urban Prairie School  
Salvation Army  
Youth Crossroads, Inc  
Jane Adams Resource Corporations  
Vettix.org

**Fall 2020**

17 N State St, Suite 1900, Chicago, IL 60602 • [www.balletchicago.org](http://www.balletchicago.org)



## Artistic Direction



### **Daniel Duell**

#### **Founder and Artistic Director, Ballet Chicago**

#### **Repetiteur, The George Balanchine Trust**

Ballet Chicago Artistic Director Daniel Duell is a force in the development of American Classicism, and is passionate about the advancement of ballet technique in its purest and most energetic form.

As a dancer with the New York City Ballet from 1972-1987, he was taught and coached daily by George Balanchine. Quickly rising through the ranks, Duell was promoted to Soloist in 1977, and then Principal

repertoire, dancing leading roles in the ballets of George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Peter Martins, and Jacques d'Amboise, among others, including multiple works that were created for him. A Ford Foundation Scholarship recipient from the age of 13, he trained with the Dayton Civic Ballet, then at The School of American Ballet, and at the age of 19 was invited to join NYCB. In addition to his fifteen years at NYCB, he was a featured guest artist for numerous companies nationwide and performed for several PBS Dance in America public television programs. Duell has been choreographing since 1980 and has created works for Ballet Chicago, Ballet Hispanico of New York, Dayton Ballet, Harkness Dance Theatre, The Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and The School of American Ballet. He also collaborated with WTTW Channel 11 in Chicago to design two programs; the first, an Emmy Award winning special (Outstanding Cultural Programming) on Ballet Chicago, and the second entitled "Love in Four Acts" a program showcasing four Chicago choreographers selected by Duell. He was also awarded the prestigious Ruth Page Award from the Chicago Dance Community for Artistic Direction of The Ballet Chicago Studio Company.

Duell is a frequent lecturer on ballet, music, and the arts, serves on several not-for-profit boards and advisory boards, and has been an adjudicator for the National Endowment for the Arts and The Illinois Arts Council. He is also a répétiteur for The George Balanchine Trust and stages ballets across the United States.

Duell conducts master classes in both the United States and Europe, including repeated teaching engagements at The School of American Ballet, Indiana University at Bloomington, The University of Iowa, and the Bulgarian National Dance Academy in Sophia, Bulgaria. He has taught and coached the Royal Danish Ballet Company in preparation for both their New York seasons and their Copenhagen performances of Balanchine/Stravinsky masterworks. In March 2019, he returned to his alma mater, New York City Ballet, to teach company class.



### **Patricia Blair**

#### **Associate Artistic Director and School Director, Ballet Chicago**

#### **Repetiteur, The George Balanchine Trust**

Patricia Blair was born in New York City, began studying ballet at the age of 7, and launched her professional performing career at the age of 17. She trained in various schools including North Carolina School of the Arts and Harkness House for Ballet Arts, but attributes her summer at the School of American Ballet with igniting her love for and commitment to the Balanchine Technique®. While a student at North Carolina School of the Arts, she was chosen to dance the role of "Myrtha" in *Giselle* alongside principal dancers Svea Ekloff (Grande Théâtre de Genève) and

American Ballet Theatre's Burton Taylor – a true honor. After leaving NCSA, she returned to NYC, studied with Wilhelm Burman, David Howard and Nanette Charisse, and subsequently joined the Eglevsky Ballet under the direction of NYCB former principal, Edward Villella. Six years later, while still dancing full time with the company, she became one of the organizations Ballet Masters.

Ms. Blair performed as a guest artist developing new works with numerous NY choreographers, danced in musical theatre productions across the US and on Broadway, and briefly entered the LA motion picture world with Pavanne for a Dying Princess, a solo dance film created especially for her.

## Artistic Direction Continued...

Ms. Blair is highly committed to the artistic education and personal well-being of young dancers. She began working with children when she was only 15 years old, and to this day, her love and respect of classical ballet and passing that on to young artists is one of her greatest passions. In the late 70's and early 80's, she volunteered to teach at-risk youth in East Harlem, both in churches and community centers. She also taught classes at Steps NY and the Harkness House for Ballet Arts.

Blair came to Chicago in September 1987, at the invitation of Daniel Duell, to stage ballets for Chicago City Ballet's fall season. After working together for only three weeks, Duell invited her to relocate to Chicago and join his artistic team. Later that year, the two formed Ballet Chicago. Blair has served in many capacities throughout - teacher, répétiteur, ballet master and administrator, and now shares all aspects of artistic and administrative management with Duell.

In addition to her work with Ballet Chicago, she has been a guest teacher for Carolina Ballet, St. Louis Ballet, Ballet Idaho, the Pacific Northwest Ballet School in Seattle, the National Dance Institute and New Mexico School of the Arts in Santa Fe, and Indiana University in Bloomington. She has also had the honor of teaching at The School of American Ballet in New York City.

Ms. Blair has a lifelong love for the ballets of George Balanchine, and values both the privilege of having performed so many of them, as well as the joy of passing them on to today's dancers. As a répétiteur for the George Balanchine Trust, she is responsible for staging and maintaining a large body of work for Ballet Chicago. She has also staged Mr. Balanchine's ballets for St. Louis Ballet, Indiana University Bloomington, and Huntsville Ballet.



**Ted Seymour**

### **Resident Choreographer, Ballet Chicago**

Ballet Chicago alumnus Ted Seymour brings a wealth of unique experience to the teaching of young dancers. After beginning his training at Dallas Metropolitan Ballet, Mr. Seymour studied on full scholarship for two years at the School of Ballet Chicago, performing major roles in Balanchine masterpieces with the Ballet Chicago Studio Company (BCSC). Mr. Seymour went on to study at the School of American Ballet, also on full scholarship. Following his graduation performance with the demanding partnering role of "Waltz Boy" in Balanchine's *Serenade*, Mr. Seymour joined Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet for two years, working with major contemporary choreographers such as Nicolo Fonte, Edwaard Liang, and Benoit-Swan Pouffer. In

2007 Mr. Seymour was invited to join The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, where he has performed featured roles in many Balanchine works including *Episodes*, *La Valse*, and the Act II pas de deux from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Mr. Seymour remains an active performing member of the company.

A gifted teacher from an early age, Mr. Seymour joined the Ballet Chicago faculty in 2009. Hallmarks of Mr. Seymour's teaching include a deep understanding of classical vocabulary, a passion for integrity of execution, an innate musical comprehension, a staunch commitment to both expansive movement and meticulous detail, and formidable partnering skills. A brilliant dancer still in his performing years, Mr. Seymour demonstrates male technique with clarity and flair.

A rising choreographer, Mr. Seymour began making dances in 2001 at Ballet Chicago, and while a student at SAB, was invited by Peter Martins to participate in the New York Choreographic Institute. Mr. Seymour has steadily created new works for the Ballet Chicago Studio Company's main stage performances and educational programs, revealing a decidedly individual voice and an innovative, elegant movement vocabulary that infuses contemporary movement into today's classical base.

Mr. Seymour recently completed the critically acclaimed *Creatures of Prometheus* for the 2012 International Beethoven Festival, *Celestial Rites* for Ballet Chicago's 25th Anniversary Season at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in 2013, *Danzon No. 2*, to the music of Arturo Marquez, commissioned by, and performed live with, Chicago's Lakeview Orchestra in April 2014, and *Intermezzi*, a May 2014 world premiere performed with live piano, also at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance. Mr. Seymour was named Resident Choreographer for Ballet Chicago in Fall 2012.

## **Fall 2020**



## Admission Information

Students may enroll in all Preparatory Division levels and the first Student Division level without an audition.

For Fall 2020, Student Division levels (2, 3, 4, and 5), an audition application including head shot and first arabesque photos is required prior to enrollment. An audition video showing barre work and limited center (Adagio, small jumps) is encouraged but not required.

For Fall 2020, Professional Division levels (6 and 7), in addition to the audition application, head shot, and first arabesque photos, an audition video showing barre work and center is required, with Grand Allegro not included unless space is available for it.

**All prospective students may audition in one of our regularly scheduled virtual classes instead of sending a video. Please contact registrar Hannah Rosenfeld at [hrosenfeld@balletchicago.org](mailto:hrosenfeld@balletchicago.org) to arrange.**

### Evaluations

Evaluations focus on progress and goals achieved, class processes and professionalism. Evaluation meetings can be scheduled through the School Administrator. All student evaluations are kept strictly confidential. Please do not approach teachers or directors without a scheduled meeting, as interrupting instructors during or between classes is disruptive.

### Promotions

Many factors contribute to each student's progress in the accomplishment of skills and the understanding of classical ballet technique. Body type, natural flexibility, growth rate of bones, and muscular development, as well as emotional and physiological development are factors in determining progress, and vary from student to student. Other factors include consistent class attendance, and individual commitment to training. As a student advances through the school, **expect that more than one year will be spent in each level.** Promotion to the next class level may take place at any time, as proper individual development is the most important factor in studying classical ballet - a commitment to which the directors, faculty and staff of Ballet Chicago are dedicated.

### Attendance - Class

Regular attendance is essential to the development and advancement of each student. Absences, regardless of the reason, can affect a student's ability to move to the next level. Students with exemplary attendance gain a better understanding of their physical abilities, proper ballet technique, and the art form overall.

### Attendance - Rehearsal

Attendance and being on time for all rehearsals is required in order to ensure that a student can appear on stage in Ballet Chicago performances. Signing up for these performances is the first step in securing one's ability to be on stage! Please carefully consider your commitment to these activities – **students are required to be at every rehearsal, on time, dressed, and ready to enter the studio or theatre.** Fulfilling these requirements is mandatory. It is the only way the dancer is sufficiently prepared to realize the excitement and benefits of dancing on-stage with confidence and joy. **For Fall 2020 these attendance requirements will apply via Zoom.**

### Tardiness

Being on time for class and rehearsal is as important as attendance. Proper muscular preparation, development, review of material covered, and the progression of each class are carefully planned. **Students who are late for class may be asked to observe.** This is at the discretion of the teacher.

### Absences

If a student is ill and cannot attend class, please notify the School Administrator prior to the start of class. Classes can be made up in the level below the student's assigned level and must be scheduled through the School Administrator. Injured students are required to observe all assigned classes and rehearsals unless prior excusal is given.

### Notice of Non-Discriminatory Policy

Ballet Chicago admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, financial aid programs, and other school-administered programs.

## Programs

### Children's Classes

Ballet Chicago's curriculum is carefully stepped and provides students with the foundation necessary to pursue a career in classical ballet. The technique is Balanchine-based and offers the most advanced training methods available to ballet dancers today. All classes are conducted by teachers experienced in developing young children and are accompanied by one of our expert class pianists. Ballet Chicago's faculty is composed of former and current dancers. A unique feature of enrolling at Ballet Chicago is that students participate in a performance-based curriculum. On-stage experience builds confidence, promotes teamwork, and provides a twice-yearly benchmark for each child's progress. Our young dancers are given two exciting performance opportunities:

- Ballet Chicago's annual Nutcracker performance (December)
- Annual School Performances (TBD)
- Opportunity to perform in Ballet Chicago's Annual Balanchine + Beyond Spring Series (TBD)

### The Preparatory Division

Ballet Chicago's Preparatory Division classes provide an inspired introduction to the arts with a focus on creativity, group interaction, motor skill development, and the joy of self-expression. For summer activity, Children's Theme Camps are offered for Preparatory Division students.

- Creative Movement (ages 3-4)
- Pre-Ballet (age 5)
- Introduction to Ballet (ages 6-7)

### The Student Division

The Student Division consists of classes for Level 1 through Level 5 and includes our special Bravo Boys! classes. The curriculum is carefully stepped and provides students with the foundation necessary to pursue a career in classical ballet.

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| • Ballet 1 (ages 7 & 8) - no audition required   | • Ballet 3 - audition required |
| • Bravo Boys! (ages 7-12) - no audition required | • Ballet 4 - audition required |
| • Ballet 2 - audition required                   | • Ballet 5 - audition required |

### The Professional Division

Ballet Chicago's Professional Division offers advanced training for those wishing to pursue a career in ballet. A comprehensive curriculum consisting of women's technique and pointe, men's technique and weight training, pas de deux (**not in Fall 2020 curriculum due to Covid-19**), repertory, pilates, gyrokinesis, and stretch classes. All PD students attend several classes each day and have the opportunity to become members of the Ballet Chicago Studio Company. Special seminars in foot care, nutrition and injury prevention are also offered.

- |                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Ballet 6 – audition required     | • Ballet 7 - audition required       |
| • Ballet 6 / 7 – audition required | • Men's Division – audition required |

To schedule an audition, contact Hannah Rosenfeld at [hrosenfeld@balletchicago.org](mailto:hrosenfeld@balletchicago.org). There is a \$25 audition fee.

### Career Counseling

Counseling in preparation for the annual audition process is offered to all eligible students. One-on-one meetings provide assistance with researching companies to audition for, as well as assembling all needed collateral: resumes, photos, video footage and cover letters.

## Performance Opportunities

### The Preparatory Division

- The Nutcracker
- Annual School Performance

### The Student Division

- The Nutcracker
- Spring Repertory
- Annual School Performance

### The Professional Division

- DanceVision
- The Nutcracker
- Spring Repertory
- Annual School Performance

### DanceVision

Each fall, Ballet Chicago's DanceVision fosters the making of new works by bringing together young choreographers, Ballet Chicago students, and live music played by talented young musicians through our collaboration with the Merit School of Music.

**This year's Covid Edition will be a virtual experience. We are looking forward to being able to share this beautiful program and all of its works with a limitless audience.**

### The Nutcracker

The Nutcracker is an exciting holiday tradition that has been performed for over a century. Participating in The Nutcracker is a wonderful experience and an invaluable part of a young dancer's education

**The 2020 Covid edition of The Nutcracker is still being imagined and planned. Many factors go into keeping our holiday tradition alive while keeping everyone safe. Plans will be announced as Covid-19 re-opening phases develop.**

## Registration and Tuition

To register, complete the registration forms found online at [www.balletchicago.org](http://www.balletchicago.org) or in the Ballet Chicago School Office. Please return to administration with tuition payment. All students are charged a yearly registration fee. Please add the registration fee to the first payment.

Full payments may be made by check or credit card and are due by the first day of the semester. If you choose to take advantage of the monthly payment option, a credit card must be provided and tuition will be automatically deducted between the 1st and 5th of each month, September through May. In all cases, late payments, bounced checks, or declined credit card charges will be billed a \$30 per incident fee. Once a student is enrolled, annual tuition is non-refundable.

All Student and Professional Division dancers must audition before registering. Full year enrollment is required. If you choose the monthly payment option, you are responsible for a deposit and eight monthly payments until the annual tuition is paid in full.

Once the student is enrolled, tuition is non-refundable.

### Preparatory Division

Level	Annual Tuition
Creative Movement (ages 3-4)	\$650
Pre-Ballet (age 5)	\$650
Introduction to Ballet (ages 6-7)	\$650
	<b>Registration Fee: \$35</b>

### Student Division

Level	Annual Tuition
Bravo Boys!	\$650
Ballet 1	\$1,055
Ballet 2	\$2,000
Ballet 3	\$2,875
Ballet 4	\$4,550
Ballet 5	\$5,750
	<b>Registration Fee: \$75</b>

### Professional Division

Level	Annual Tuition
Ballet 6	\$6,900
Ballet 6/7	\$8,000
Ballet 7	\$8,000
Men	\$8,000
	<b>Registration Fee: \$75</b>

**Fall 2020**

17 N State St, Suite 1900, Chicago, IL 60602 • [www.balletchicago.org](http://www.balletchicago.org)

## Dress Requirements

**While Ballet Chicago is conducting classes virtually, students are encouraged to adhere to the assigned dress code for their class level, but students will be permitted to wear a solid-colored leotard of any color in virtual classes. Assigned Dress Requirements must be followed by all students when in-person classes resume.**

### Class Uniform for Girls:

#### Preparatory Division:

- **Creative Movement I and II** - Dress requirements [HERE](#)
- **Pre-Ballet** - Dress requirements [HERE](#)
- **Introduction to Ballet I and II** - Dress requirements [HERE](#)

*Preparatory Division students are permitted to wear tutus and tiaras / tunics and crowns so that they can experience the full joy of being a young ballerina or future male danseur!*

#### Student Division:

- **Ballet 1** - Dress requirements [HERE](#)
- **Ballet 2** - Dress requirements [HERE](#)
- **Ballet 3** - Dress requirements [HERE](#)
- **Ballet 4** - Dress requirements [HERE](#)
- **Ballet 5** - Dress requirements [HERE](#)

#### Professional Division:

- **Ballet 6** - Dress requirements for rehearsal and in-studio showings [HERE](#)
- **Ballet 6 / 7** - Dress Requirements for rehearsal and in-studio showings [HERE](#)
- **Ballet 7** - Dress requirements or rehearsal and in-studio showings [HERE](#)

*Professional Division students wear black leotard for technique classes. navy leotard for pointe classes. pink tights, pink leather ballet slippers, and pointe shoes. All female students are required to have their hair in a bun, neatly and securely fastened. Dancers with short hair will need to pull their hair back away from their face and secure with headbands and pins.*

### Class Uniform for Boys and Men:

- **All Levels** - Dress requirements [HERE](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wear Moi</b></li> </ul> <p>www.wearmoi.us 3352 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL 60657 773-850-3119</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Allegro Dance Boutique</b></li> </ul> <p>www.allegrodanceboutique.com 2114 Central St, Evanston, IL 60201 847-733-8460</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chicago Dance Supply</b></li> </ul> <p>www.chicagodancesupply.com 5301 N. Clark St., 2nd floor Chicago, IL 60640 773-728-5344</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discount Dance</b></li> </ul> <p>www.discountdancesupply.com</p>
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## Policies and Procedures

### Code of Conduct

It is a policy of Ballet Chicago to promote a healthy and positive environment for all students and staff. Students are expected to behave in a responsible manner and are required to adhere to the School's Policies and Procedures. Students are expected to show exemplary conduct at all times, and to treat other students, staff, faculty, volunteers and building personnel with respect. Ballet Chicago strives to ensure that the rules are reasonable and clear. Ballet Chicago reserves the right to dismiss any student whose conduct is found to be unsatisfactory.

The following are prohibited at Ballet Chicago:

- Verbal harassment, physical threats or intimidation, acts of violence of any kind
- Theft, destruction of school property or property of others
- Possession or use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs by any students attending the program
- Firearms or weapons of any kind
- Tobacco: Ballet Chicago facilities are designated non-smoking areas. Illinois State law prohibits persons under the age of 21 to smoke, and prohibits smoking in any public facility and within 30 feet of any building. This includes vaping, Jool, e-cigarettes, etc.
- Photography or Videography in locker rooms or bathrooms
- Inappropriate use of the internet or social media
- Inappropriate use of cell phones

Violation of any of these rules will lead to immediate disciplinary action. Actions may include (but are not limited to) Expulsion, Dismissal from the Program, Suspension, Probation, Fines. Ballet Chicago reserves the full authority to enforce the Code of Conduct, which may include revocation of scholarships or financial assistance.

### Building Rules

Ballet Chicago is located in a public, multi-use building. Parents are responsible for accompanying young children to and from the 19th floor. Parents are welcome to wait for their children in the main reception area. Please refrain from entering other floors of the building. Please also refrain from entering staff offices, unoccupied studios or the wardrobe room. For Fall 2020, all entrants to the building and in its public areas must wear masks, exercise social distancing protocols, and observe all Covid-19 protocols of the building, the CDC, the State of Illinois, and the City of Chicago.

### Attire

Students must wear street clothes to and from the studio.

### Photo and Video

Photography or videography (including cell phone photos) is not permitted in any class, rehearsal or performance. Ballet Chicago shall not be liable in any way for images or footage that violate this policy.

### Publicity

Enrollment grants Ballet Chicago the permission to use photos and videos from classes, rehearsals, special events, and performances for the purposes of marketing the School and Ballet Chicago performances. Enrollment waives any rights of compensation or ownership thereto. Ballet Chicago promotional material is inclusive of, but not limited to, Ballet Chicago marketing materials, brochures, information packets, videos, website photos, dance related newspaper and magazine articles, Facebook, and Twitter.

### Dressing Rooms

Ballet Chicago has four dressing rooms: three female, one male. Both the men and advanced level female students have large dressing rooms with bathrooms and showers. The younger level students have a separate dressing rooms located across from the kitchenette and lounge.

### Fall 2020

## Policies and Procedures Continued...

### **Casting**

Casting is the selection of dancers for specific roles.

Participating students and parents are required to adhere to the following Casting Guidelines:

- Casting is the sole and singular responsibility of the Artistic Directors of Ballet Chicago
- Questioning of casting by parents or dancers will not be permitted.
- Ballet Chicago runs its production casting process the same as any and all pre and professional ballet casting. Being able to weather minor disappointments is part of the process. Please make sure to express to your child that there are no small parts in a show, every dancer on stage is important.
- Dancers will end up playing the same roles several years in a row. It is very important to manage expectations for your dancer.
- All discussion of casting should be kept positive. Dancers should be supportive of others success.
- Being an understudy is an important position, and a benefit in that the dancer gets to learn extra choreography. The dancer must be prepared for anything to happen during a performance and ready to go on. Understudies are essential for any production; it is not an unimportant task.
- Learning assignments for roles during the rehearsal process are not final casting, but a way to prepare dancers for the future and should be seen as a positive experience. Students will often learn choreography for more roles than they will end up dancing.
- A full commitment to class, rehearsal and costume fitting schedules is required.

Other important notes:

- Learning assignments are not casting. Dancers learn many more roles than they end up performing as part of their overall education and development of skills.
- Designated understudies are responsible for knowing and preparing any assigned understudy role whether or not they are cast to perform it. Illnesses and injuries happen unpredictably, and an understudy's readiness to perform any role understudied at moment's notice is a given part of the profession.
- Casting is subject to change at any time
- A parent's role is to support their child's self-esteem regardless of their child's disappointment over casting. Weathering disappointments with grace is a life skill important to a child's development.
- Parents are not permitted to approach or accost any member of Ballet Chicago's faculty, administration, or Artistic Staff about casting.

## Policies and Procedures Continued...

### Communication

Ballet Chicago relays schedules and information regarding important future events in three different ways:

#### Call Board

The call board is “information central”, a means of disseminating information that is an industry standard in the world of ballet and theatre. Schedules and important information are physically posted in a specific location and artists are expected to refer to the call board as their primary source of information. The Ballet Chicago call board is located in the main hallway opposite Studio 3. It is essential that dancers know their class level and to which rehearsals or roles they have been assigned. This enables the participant to be accurate regarding what information to look for on the call board. It is the dancer’s responsibility to check the call board upon arrival and repeatedly throughout the day. For our younger dancers, parents or legal guardians are required to check the call board for their child. **While Ballet Chicago remains virtual, all Call Board information will be relayed via the Ballet Chicago online portal and email communications. It is important to observe normal Call Board procedures during this time, and to check frequently for changes and new information.**

#### Emails

Emails are sent as needed to our email list to inform students and parents of future events, and changes to current events and schedules.

#### Website

The parent’s section of our website requires a username (your email address) and password (supplied to you by Ballet Chicago), in order to gain access. The login for the parent’s section can be found on our website and you can choose between full year program or summer, depending upon which season it is. You can only gain access to the parent’s section of the website if your dancer is enrolled at our school. Once you are enrolled you should receive a password from our staff.

Please note that schedules are subject to change, especially during performance season, so please check the callboard frequently. Dancers and or legal guardians of children participating at Ballet Chicago, agree to know their own class level, what learning assignment or role they have been cast in, and agree to check the call board upon arrival and before leaving the studio. You are responsible for your own schedule.

#### School Closings

In the event of inclement weather, please go to the Ballet Chicago website, [www.balletchicago.org](http://www.balletchicago.org). Any cancellations will be posted on the home page, and on our social media. The School of Ballet Chicago generally follows Chicago Public School Districts guidelines for school closings.

#### Liability Waiver

Ballet training and the exercises associated with it places unusual stress on the body and carry with them the risk of physical injury. The School of Ballet Chicago, its faculty, staff or board members shall not be liable in any way for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted during attendance at the School or any of its related functions. It should also be understood that dance instruction involves kinetic corrections that may include physically touching students as part of regular class work and rehearsals.

## Fall Semester Calendar

### Important Dates

SBC Classes Begin	Wednesday, September 9, 2020
BCSC Company Zoom Parents Welcome	Friday, September 11, 2020
Prep Division Town Hall	Saturday, September 12, 2020
Nutcracker Packets Due	Saturday, September 26, 2020
Student Division Nutcracker Zoom Meeting - <b>Mandatory</b>	Saturday, September 26, 2020
Nutcracker Rehearsals Begin	Saturday, September 26, 2020
Fall Fundraiser	Thursday, October 1 - Thursday, November 12, 2020
Winter Intensive	Monday, December 28 - Thursday, December 31, 2020
Classes Resume	Monday, January 4, 2021

### Dress-Up Days (optional)

Halloween	Saturday, October 31, 2020
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### Performances

Virtual DanceVision	November 13 & 14, 2020
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### Holidays

Fall Break	October 10 - 12, 2020
Election Day - School Closed	November 3, 2020
Veterans Day - School Closed	November 11, 2020
Thanksgiving Break	November 25 - 29, 2020
Winter Break	December 21 - January 3, 2021
Martin Luther King Jr. Day - School Closed	January 18, 2021

Spring and Summer calendars will be announced later in the Fall. Please keep an eye out for updates!

## Supporting Ballet Chicago

Ballet Chicago provides one of the highest caliber curriculums in the nation. We are the only Midwest school and company singularly dedicated to sustaining and developing upon the artistic legacy of New York City Ballet founding director, George Balanchine, which includes permission from The Balanchine Trust to perform select ballets from the master's opus.

We are committed to a positive working environment, to providing individual attention to each student, live piano music for all classes, and offering multiple main-stage performance opportunities for our dancers.

Ballet Chicago is a not-for-profit organization, and tuition covers only 50% of the cost of operating our school.

Gifts from parents, both past and present, are vital to the organization. Parents can donate through various means:

**Performance Sponsorships**  
**Masterworks Society Membership**  
**Fall Fundraiser**  
**Nutcracker Gifts**  
**Calendar end-of-year Solicitation**  
**Spring Gala and Paddle Raise**  
**Fiscal end-of-year Solicitation**

The money raised from these drives is essential in helping us bridge the very real gap between tuition and the actual cost of running Ballet Chicago. Visit [balletchicago.org](http://balletchicago.org) to view giving options and donor benefits, or to make your donation easily and securely online.

There is no correlation between parents' personal gifts to the School and a child's progress in Ballet Chicago classes or in performance casting.