

# HOUSTON BALLET

Ben Stevenson Academy

The Official School of Houston Ballet

Stanton Welch, Artistic Director

Shelly Power, Associate Director

# 2009-2010 Student Handbook

Fall Semester: August 24, 2009 – January 16, 2010

Spring Semester: January 19 – May 27, 2010

Summer Intensive Program: June 21 – July 30, 2010

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## **HOUSTON BALLET MISSION STATEMENT**

Houston Ballet Foundation is committed to providing the City of Houston and its surrounding communities a ballet company and a training academy of the highest international standard. Through excellence in the classical ballet tradition, we seek to attract and expose our diverse community to the wonder and value of the art form of dance and to advance the medium overall.

Basic tenets of the mission are:

To maintain a repertory that fosters the presentation of new, established, and classical choreography, for the technical and artistic growth of the dancers and the enrichment of the audience.

To maintain the highest artistic standards of production and musical support.

To further the reputation of Houston Ballet as a prime classical and creative company of international stature through local, national, and international performances.

To continue the development of a company of dancers drawn primarily from Houston Ballet Academy in order to maintain the style and standards established by the Artistic Director.

To maintain operations with a balanced budget in support of the artistic goals.

To maintain endowment, capital and cash reserve funds so as to maintain the long-term financial viability of Houston Ballet.

## **HOUSTON BALLET'S BEN STEVENSON ACADEMY**

### **Faculty**

Stanton Welch, Artistic Director  
Shelly Power, Associate Director  
Claudio Muñoz, Ballet Master HBII  
Priscilla Nathan-Murphy, Principal of Lower School  
Cheryne Busch, Principal Instructor  
Sabrina Lenzi, Principal Instructor  
Louise Lester, Ballet Mistress  
Phillip Broomhead, Ballet Master  
Steven Woodgate, Ballet Master  
Susan Bryant, Instructor  
Beth Everitt, Instructor  
Ray Dones, Instructor  
Randall Flinn, Instructor  
Andrew Murphy, Instructor  
First Ozsoy, Instructor  
Frances Perez-Ball, Instructor  
Sally Rojas, Instructor  
Rose Taylor, Instructor  
Dr. Michael Remson, Music Consultant  
and Artists of Houston Ballet

### **Accompanists**

Grecia Lavanderos	Tomoe Hayashi
Donna Cameron	Steven Vinhlac Tran
Yury Erivanov	Tarana Taylor

### **Sports Medicine and Body Conditioning Staff**

Pilates Instructors: James Harren, Sabrina Lenzi, and Jo Yost Ulrich  
Athletic Trainers: Emory Hill  
Weight Training: Alanna Aumpai

### **Academy Administrative Staff**

Elizabeth Pogue, Administrator  
Rachel Sawyers, Registrar  
Lindsey Hurst, Administrative and Student Affairs Associate  
Jennifer Dobbs, Administrative Associate  
Nathaniel Nakadate, Academic Advisor

### **Education and Outreach Staff**

Katherine Lummis, Education Outreach Coordinator  
Lauren Anderson, Artistic Education Outreach Associate  
Alex Arizpe, Education and Outreach Instructor  
Laura Ely, Education and Outreach Instructor

## **Academy Faculty**

### **Stanton Welch, Artistic Director**

Australian-born Stanton Welch assumed the leadership of Houston Ballet in July 2003. One of the most sought after choreographers of his generation, Mr. Welch has created works for such prestigious international companies as Houston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and the Australian Ballet. After training with the San Francisco Ballet School, Mr. Welch joined the Australian Ballet, where he rose to the rank of a leading soloist. In 1995, he was named resident choreographer of the Australian Ballet, a position he held for eight years. Throughout the 1990s, Mr. Welch remained active, choreographing for renowned international companies. As director of Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy, Mr. Welch will play a major role in the training and development of Academy students.

### **Shelly Power, Associate Director**

Shelly Power assumed the position of Associate Director of Houston Ballet in January 2004. She brings over 25 years of artistic and administrative experience to the Academy. Ms. Power's history with Houston Ballet includes being a student and teacher at HBA from 1978-1982 and teacher and Director of Administration in 1997-2001.

Ms. Power credits her beginnings to her home-town dance school, Southbridge School of Ballet, under the direction of Cathy Daly. Ms. Daly brought Ms. Power to the Boston Ballet as a scholarship student in 1969. Ms. Power's training later included Harkness Ballet and Houston Ballet. While at Houston Ballet, she danced in classical favorites such as Nutcracker, Alice in Wonderland, and Swan Lake. Ms. Power then went on to teach at the Houston Ballet Academy. For thirteen years, Ms. Power owned and operated two Houston dance schools. Throughout her career she danced and choreographed local dance groups including, New Dance Group, Houston Contemporary Dance Company and Delia Stewart Dance Company.

During her Administration of the Academy, Ms. Power created three new programs for Houston Ballet: "Chance to Dance", designed to seek talent and introduce dance in Houston's inner city schools, HBA's first annual Teacher's Training Seminar, attended by teachers from across the United States and the accumulation of up to 30 college Fine Arts credits attained at HBA which are now transferable at the University of Houston downtown. In 2002, she left the Academy to fulfill a lifelong goal of finishing her degree and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BS in Interdisciplinary Studies with specializations in fine arts, psychology, and business.

In December of 2003, Stanton Welch, Artistic Director of the Houston Ballet, recruited Ms. Power to return to the HB family to fill the new position of Associate Director of the Academy. Ms. Power remains "committed to the health and well being of every student."

### **Claudio Muñoz, Principal Instructor and Ballet Master HBI**

Claudio Muñoz joined Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy staff in 1999. Previously, he was Ballet Master at the School of Ballet of the Santiago Ballet in Chile. During his career as a dancer, he filled principal roles in Peru, Uruguay, Argentina and New York, with a variety of choreographers, including Stevenson, Balanchine, Nagy and Hynd. Mr. Muñoz has worked as an instructor for the Ballet Nacional de Chile, Ballet de Santiago, Ballet Nacional de Peru and at schools in Asucion, Peru. He has coached numerous award-winning ballerinas, including the 1990 silver medalist and the 1995 bronze medalist of the International Ballet Competition.

**Priscilla Nathan-Murphy, Principal of Lower School**

Priscilla Nathan Murphy coordinates the pre-school program for the Ben Stevenson Academy in addition to managing the Academy's modern department. She created the Creative Dance and Pre-Ballet syllabi. She is registered and holds a certification from the Royal Academy of Dance, London in teaching and is a certified member of the British Association of Dancing. Ms. Murphy completed a 3 year teacher training course from the Royal Academy of Dance and participated in a summer teacher's seminar on the Cecchetti method. A recipient of numerous scholarships, Ms. Murphy received a creative artist award from the Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County for her choreographic work in 1992 and again in 1998. Ms. Murphy has received teacher recognition awards from the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts and Who's Who in Distinguished Teachers of America, and was a National Choreographers Competition winner in 2000. She has taught numerous master classes in the United States, and has choreographed for Houston Grand Opera and the Alley Theater. Ms. Murphy has taught ballet and modern in the main school and professional divisions of the Academy since 1985, and choreographed for HBII in 2000 and 2004.

**Cheryne Busch, Principal Instructor**

Cheryne Busch received her training in South Africa in both the Royal Academy and Cecchetti methods of ballet. She also studied Character Dance, Classical Greek Dance, and Spanish Dance. As a Performing Arts Graduate, she was the recipient of the Dancers Guild Scholarship to further enhance her choreographic and performing career. She was awarded International Certification from the Royal Academy of Dance in London. She choreographed a number of works for the Concours de Ballet in South Africa, many of which were included in their repertoire and are still performed today. She is also an accredited Dance Examiner on the Board of the National Society of Dance Teachers in South Africa. Mrs. Busch owned two dance schools in South Africa for 20 years before immigrating with her family to Houston and joining Houston Ballet in 1998. She has also been the head of a dance program in an HISD elementary school since 2002. Mrs. Busch received her Floore Barre Certification in New York in 2006 and now teaches the technique in the Academy. Mrs. Busch is a Principal Instructor of Ballet and Character in the Houston Ballet Ben Stevenson Academy.

**Sabrina Lenzi, Instructor**

Sabrina Lenzi is a former principal of Stuttgart Ballet and Birmingham Royal Ballet. A native of Rome, she began her dance career at the age of nine. She danced professionally for eighteen years and retired. She married Andrew Murphy, a principal at Houston Ballet, and moved to Houston in October 2003. In 2003, Sabrina became involved in Pilates because of her own injuries in dance. She was able to dance again as a result of her Pilates training. She believes her work in Pilates made her dancing more intelligent. She studied Pilates with in London with Alan Herdman, the founder of Houston Ballet's Pilates program in 1979. She became certified in June 2003. She is the lead instructor of the pilates department as well as a full time ballet instructor.

## **Academy Administrative Staff**

### **Elizabeth Pogue, Administrator**

Mrs. Pogue received her degrees from Texas Tech University in Communications Studies and Music (specializing in flute). She joined Houston Ballet Ben Stevenson Academy in June 2004 as administrative associate. She was promoted to registrar in September 2004, and then to Administrator in July 2005.

### **Rachel Sawyers, Registrar**

Ms. Sawyers received her degree in Arts Administration and Dance Performance from Butler University in Indianapolis, IN. Ms. Sawyers began her internship with Houston Ballet's Institutional Giving Department in May of 2005. At the beginning of July 2005 she joined the Ben Stevenson Academy as Academy Associate and Student Liaison and was promoted to Registrar in September 2006.

### **Lindsey Hurst, Administrative and Student Affairs Associate**

Ms. Hurst began her dance training with Houston Ballet Academy at the age of 10 and remained a student for 6 years before leaving the Academy. She graduated a dance major from the High School for Performing and Visual Arts and went on to attend the State University of New York, Purchase Dance Conservatory with a Modern Dance Concentration. In 2002 Ms. Hurst transferred to St. Thomas University to pursue a joint degree in Communications and English, and graduated in 2006. In July 2005 she joined the Houston Ballet Ben Stevenson Academy as Academy Administrative Assistant.

### **Jennifer Dobbs, Administrative Assistant**

Ms. Dobbs received her degree in May 2008 in Journalism from Baylor University, with a public relations major and film and digital media minor. She moved to Houston in September 2008 and joined the Houston Ballet Ben Stevenson Academy as Academy Administrative Assistant.

## **Education**

### **Nathaniel Nakadate, Academic Advisor**

Mr. Nathaniel Nakadate is a revered professional educator who has taught in nine different grade levels from Kindergarten to being a guest writer at the college level in his 15 year career. He has garnered numerous teaching awards such as "Teacher of the Year," and additionally he received the prestigious national accolade of Outstanding Young Professional Educator in 2000. He has also been awarded various grants and commendations. He currently teaches Senior AP literature and Honors American Literature at Stratford High School. Mr. Nakadate is also a freelance writer who has been published over 40 times in major magazines in the past three years.

## **Outreach and Education Staff**

### **Kate Lummis, Administrative and Education Outreach Coordinator**

Ms. Lummis attended Boston College where she pursued a BA/MA degree in History. After graduation, Ms. Lummis moved to Houston to teach in a local private school. She joined Houston Ballet Ben Stevenson Academy in the fall of 2006 as Administrative and Student Affairs Associate. Ms. Lummis currently works with education outreach as Administrative and Education Outreach Coordinator.

### **Lauren Anderson, Artistic and Education Outreach Associate**

Native Houstonian Lauren Anderson danced with Houston Ballet from 1983 to 2006, performing leading roles in all the great classical ballets, appearing across the world to critical acclaim, and in the process, becoming one of Houston Ballet's most beloved stars. Ms. Anderson trained exclusively at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy from the age of seven. She joined the Company in 1983 and in 1990 became the first African-American to be promoted to principal dancer at Houston Ballet – and one of the few African-American ballerinas at the head of a major ballet company anywhere in the world. In January 2007, Ms. Anderson assumed her new role of Artistic Outreach Associate in Houston ballet's education department where she teaches ballet classes at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy, conducts master classes at area schools, and lectures to students on dance and her historic career as one of America's most distinguished African-American ballerinas.

## **Pilates and Sports Medicine Team**

**Joyce Yost Ulrich** studied dance at North Carolina School of the Arts. She danced with Houston Ballet from 1985 until she retired in 1995 to study Benesh Movement Notation, a form of movement analysis used for preserving and documenting choreography. With this skill she was able to notate and restage the work of various choreographers, including Trey McEntyre, Dominic Walsh, and the late Sir Kenneth MacMillan. Jo is now a certified instructor in Pilates, Yamuna Body Rolling, and personal training. She has been able to use her background in dance and movement analysis to have a positive influence on the body.

**James Harren** holds Bachelor of Science, M.Ed, and C.S.C.S. of Pilates Houston. He was certified under Romana Kryzanowska and is a second generation Pilates instructor. James was involved in the creation of the original Pilates studio of the Houston Ballet Academy from 1993-2000 where the primary focus was helping injured dancers maintain their fitness and performance levels. Prior to his success in this arena, James was a dancer at City Ballet of Houston from 1986–1989. Simultaneously, he was a Pilates instructor at Houston Ballet from 1987–1993.

**Physiotherapy Sports Medicine** began working with Houston Ballet in January of 2006. They coordinate with Houston Ballet team physician, Dr. Kevin Varner, to provide an entire team of health professionals to oversee dancer wellness. This team includes an onsite certified athletic trainer, Emery Hill. Dancers also have access to Methodist Hospital's Center for Performing Arts Medicine.

## 2009-2010 Level Advisors

In order to provide the best communication possible, we assign main teachers to each level. The assigned teacher of the student's level is your contact for questions regarding the student's progress. The assignments are as follows:

<u>Level</u>	<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Email</u>
HBII Men	Claudio Munoz	cmunoz@houstonballet.org
HBII Women	Sabrina Lenzi	slenzi@houstonballet.org
Level 8 Men	Claudio Munoz	cmunoz@houstonballet.org
	Andrew Murphy	amurphy.hba@gmail.com
Level 8 Women	Sally Rojas	srojas.hba@gmail.com
	Susan Bryant	sbryant.hba@gmail.com
	Frances Ball	fball.hba@gmail.com
Level 7 Women	Cheryne Busch	cbusch@houstonballet.org
	Susan Bryant	sbryant.hba@gmail.com
Level 7 Men	Claudio Munoz	cmunoz@houstonballet.org
	Andrew Murphy	amurphy.hba@gmail.com
Level 6	Cheryne Busch	cbusch@houstonballet.org
	Sabrina Lenzi	slenzi@houstonballet.org
Level 5	Cheryne Busch	cbusch@houstonballet.org
	Susan Bryant	sbryant.hba@gmail.com
Intermediate	Priscilla Nathan Murphy	pnathan@houstonballet.org
Level 4	Priscilla Nathan Murphy	pnathan@houstonballet.org
	Cheryne Busch	cbusch@houstonballet.org
Level 3 A and B	Priscilla Nathan Murphy	pnathan@houstonballet.org
Level 2 A and B	Priscilla Nathan Murphy	pnathan@houstonballet.org
Level 1 A and B	Priscilla Nathan Murphy	pnathan@houstonballet.org
Pre-Ballet	Beth Everitt	everitt.hb@gmail.com
	Cheryne Busch	cbusch@houstonballet.org
Creative Dance 2	Beth Everitt	everitt.hb@gmail.com
	Priscilla Nathan Murphy	pnathan@houstonballet.org
Creative Dance 1	Beth Everitt	everitt.hb@gmail.com
	Priscilla Nathan Murphy	pnathan@houstonballet.org
Open Class Level 3	Firat Ozsoy	fozsoy.hba@gmail.com
	Priscilla Nathan Murphy	pnathan@houstonballet.org
Open Class Level 2	Firat Ozsoy	fozsoy.hba@gmail.com
	Priscilla Nathan Murphy	pnathan@houstonballet.org
Open Class Level 1	Firat Ozsoy	fozsoy.hba@gmail.com
	Priscilla Nathan Murphy	pnathan@houstonballet.org
Open Class Jazz 1	Alex Arizpe / Priscilla Nathan Murphy	pnathan@houstonballet.org

## 2009-2010 CALENDAR

May 18	Registration opens for new Pre-school and Open Class students
June 22	2009 Summer Intensive Program begins
July 31	2009 Summer Intensive ends
August 1	Main School audition
August 17	Fall semester begins for HBII students
August 22	Main School audition
August 24	Fall semester begins for all Main School, Pre-School, and Open classes
September 5-7	Labor Day – <b><u>No classes</u></b>
September 12	Nutcracker audition for levels 2-5
September 14	Nutcracker audition for levels 6-HBII
September 28	Teacher in Service – <b><u>No classes</u></b>
October 1	2nd tuition payment due
November 23-28	Thanksgiving Holiday – <b><u>No classes</u></b>
December 1	3rd tuition payment due
December 7	Spring registration opens for new Pre-school and Open Class students
December 7-12	Parent Observation for levels CD1- Level 3, & Children’s Open Classes
December 14-19	Parent Observation week for levels 4-HBII
Dec.21-Jan.3	Winter holiday – <b><u>No classes</u></b>
January 4	Classes resume after winter holiday
January 16	Fall semester ends
January 18	MLK Day/Teacher in Service – <b><u>No classes</u></b>
January 19	Spring Semester begins
February 1	4th tuition payment due
March 15-20	Spring break – <b><u>No classes</u></b>
April 2-3	Spring Holiday – <b><u>No classes</u></b>
April 16-17	Academy Spring Performances
April 19	Student Holiday – <b><u>No classes</u></b>
May 3-8	Parent Observation for levels CD1- Level 3, & Children’s Open Classes
May 10-15	Parent Observation week for levels 4-HBII
May 28	Last day of classes
June 21	2009 Summer Intensive Program begins
July 30	2009 Summer Intensive Program ends

### Teacher In-Service Days

Each semester, one day of class will be canceled for teacher in-service. Students may make up these classes within the current semester. There are no classes held on these days.

2009 - 2010 Teacher In-Service Days:

Monday, September 28, 2009

Monday, January 18, 2010

## ENROLLMENT

### **Pre-School Program**

The Pre-school Program is geared towards students ages 4-6. An audition is not required to enroll in Creative Dance or Pre-Ballet. Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Classes are closed once capacity is reached. To be eligible for Creative Dance 1, Creative Dance 2 or Pre-Ballet for the 2009-2010 year, a child must be four, five or six years old respectively on or before August 24, 2009. Students enrolled in Creative Dance I and Creative Dance II will be given priority registration for the following school year. Students not registered by the deadline will be required to abide by the general registration procedures. Registration for the fall semester will close once the semester begins. A second registration date in December is available in December should any vacancies exist. We encourage you to contact the Academy Office a week prior to registration to discuss available class days and times. Please refer to the Academy Calendar for enrollment dates.

### **Open Class Program**

The Children's Open Class Program consists of ballet and jazz classes for children ages 7-14. This program does not require an audition to enroll. Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Classes are closed once capacity is reached. Students enroll in classes based on previous dance experience. Students enrolled in the Open Class Program will be given priority registration for the following school year. Students not registered by the deadline will be required to abide by the general registration procedures. A second registration date in December is available in December should any vacancies exist. We encourage you to contact the Academy Office a week prior to registration to discuss available class days and times. Please refer to the Academy Calendar for enrollment dates.

### **Main School Division**

Students ages 7 and up are eligible to audition for Houston Ballet Academy's Main School Division. Students must be 7 by August 24, 2009. The Main School is comprised of levels 1-8. Auditions are held in August for the fall semester and in December for the spring semester should vacancies exist. Students will be considered for both the Main School Division and Open Class Program during these auditions. Please refer to the Academy Calendar for audition dates.

All students auditioning will be notified by email of their audition results. Houston Ballet Ben Stevenson Academy maintains a policy of non-discrimination with regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sexual preference or non-job-related disability.

### **Houston Ballet II**

Houston Ballet II (HBII) is Houston Ballet's pre-professional dance company and second company to Houston Ballet. HBII students range in age from 15-19 years old. HBII prepares students for a professional career in the field of dance. Admittance into HBII is by audition only. Students may audition for HBII at any one of the Houston Ballet Company auditions (please visit [www.houstonballet.org](http://www.houstonballet.org) for audition dates) or during the Academy's Summer Intensive Program.

### **Auditioning by DVD**

Students living outside the United States may submit a DVD audition in order to be considered for the upper levels of the Main School or HBII. Students residing within the U.S. are encouraged to audition in person. U.S. citizens wishing to submit a DVD must first contact the Academy Office for special permission.

### **Withdrawal Policy**

Should a parent desire to withdraw a student prior to the end of the year, the Academy must receive either a written note or email stating the student's name and date the student will officially withdraw from the program. **THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL TUITION PAYMENTS DUE UNTIL THE DATE THE ACADEMY OFFICE RECEIVES NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL IN WRITING FROM THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN.** Tuition will not be refunded for any withdrawal case except for withdrawal due to injury or illness as verified by a doctor's note. Payment will be due for all classes attended up until the point of withdrawal. Should a full refund be granted for a student, all but \$15 will be refunded to the parent's/ guardian's account. Verbal notification of withdrawal will not be accepted.

## **REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **Registration Process**

Registration for current students takes place three times a year:

- 1.) In August for the fall semester;
- 2.) In December for the spring semester if vacancies exist; and
- 3.) In February for the summer intensive program.

All dates are posted on Houston Ballet's website at [www.houstonballet.org/Academy](http://www.houstonballet.org/Academy)

Regardless of the program in which the student is enrolling, in order to reserve and confirm a space in class for the 2009-2010 year, the Academy must receive all completed registration materials by the registration deadline.

Level placement will be noted on the student's registration form. The Registrar will not reserve a space for a student without the required materials.

### **Forms of Payment**

Houston Ballet accepts checks, cashier's checks, traveler's checks, cash, credit cards (American Express, VISA, MasterCard)

A student's tuition may be paid by the parent/guardian selecting one of the three options on the registration form:

- 1.) Payment in Full at the point of Registration (cash, check, or credit card)**

## **2.) Installment Plan (cash, check, or credit card)**

Tuition can be paid in quarterly installments on or before the designated due dates:

First Payment	Due at the point of registration
Second Payment	Due no later than October 1, 2009
Third Payment	Due no later than December 1, 2009
Fourth Payment	Due no later than February 1, 2010

The parent(s) or guardian of the registered child will be responsible for ensuring the Academy Office receives payment prior to the end of each billing cycle. Payments may be mailed, hand-delivered, or phoned-in to the Academy Office.

## **3.) Automatic Payment Plan (credit card only)**

If selected, the credit card designated in the Credit Card Payment section will be automatically charged for one quarter of the total tuition amount. The designated credit cards will be charged on the designated dates:

First Payment	At the point of registration
Second Payment	October 1, 2009
Third Payment	December 1, 2009
Fourth Payment	February 1, 2010

The selected credit cards must not expire prior to February 2010. If at any point you wish to change the credit card on file, you may do so by contacting the Academy Office.

Please note that students with delinquent accounts will not be admitted to class or be able to register for the summer intensive program or the following year until their account is current. Please contact the Registrar at 713-535-3218 if you need to make special arrangements for tuition payments.

## **Returned Checks**

A \$25 fee will be due for all checks returned for any reason. The fee must be paid in cash within one week from the time the owner of the account is notified.

## **Refund Policy**

**Tuition is non-refundable.** Refunds will not be made, except in the case of serious illness or injury, verified by a doctor's certificate. If a student is dismissed from the academy because of unacceptable behavior, no tuition will be refunded. Houston Ballet Ben Stevenson Academy reserves the right to deny any refund request. Should a full refund be granted for a student, all but \$15 will be refunded to the parent's/ guardian's account.

## **Need-Based Financial Assistance**

Parents may apply for need-based financial assistance by providing to the Academy an application form and a copy of the family's most recent income tax return. A scholarship committee, composed of faculty and staff, reviews the financial aid applications prior to each semester and applicants are notified of the committee's decision by mail.

At any time, a student on financial assistance may be placed on probation for behavior, attitude, excessive absences, missed rehearsals, or limited progress. If the scholarship committee recommends further action, the student's financial assistance may be revoked.

Financial assistance is not automatically renewed each year. Requests must be submitted by a date yet to be determined for the Summer Intensive Program 2010, and with registration for the 2010 fall semester.

### **Merit Scholarships**

Merit scholarships are awarded by Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy scholarship committee. Awards are based on the student's physical and artistic ability. All scholarship students must review and sign a scholarship commitment contract, which outlines all responsibilities and duties of scholarship students.

### **Stipend Awards**

The Academy's artistic staff awards stipends, in writing, to students in the Level 5 and HBII division who may not otherwise be able to attend the Academy. Stipends are based on financial need and require knowledge of the family's income.

Stipends are granted on a confidential basis and carry with them work responsibilities to Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy. These responsibilities include teaching assistant work in classes, computer work in the office, special projects throughout Houston Ballet, laundry detail, library organization, furniture movement, etc. Stipends are paid every other Thursday to students.

## **CLASS UNIFORMS**

### **Children's Open Classes**

Girls: Black, sleeveless, scooped neck, tank-styled leotard, pink tights and pink ballet shoes.  
Hair pulled back neatly in a bun. No shoes, jewelry, or skirts.

Boys: White short-sleeved, form-fitting, crewneck leotard, black bike shorts, white socks, and black ballet shoes.

### **Creative Dance I and II**

Girls: Black, sleeveless, scooped neck, tank-styled leotard (Motionwear 2100, Color #201,) and pink footless tights; no shoes

Boys: White, short-sleeved form-fitting crewneck T-shirt and black bike shorts; no shoes.

### **Pre-Ballet**

Girls: Black, sleeveless, scooped-neck, tank-styled leotard (Motionwear 2100, Color #201,) pink tights, pink ballet shoes and a notebook.

Boys: White, short-sleeved, form-fitting, crewneck T-shirt, black bike shorts, black ballet shoes, white socks and a notebook.

### **Main School Division**

#### **Level 1**

Girls: Leotard: Montionwear - Tank 2200, Sweetheart fully lined, Silkskin, color- Cirrus Blue;  
Tights: Danskin - Style 387 footed, pink. Pink ballet shoes.

Boys: Bike shorts: Motionwear - Style 7105, color - 210 Black; Leotard: Baltogs - Style 380T. General white form fitting crew neck T-shirt. White socks and black ballet shoes.

## Level 2

Girls: Leotard: Montionwear - Tank 2200, Sweetheart fully lined, Silkskin, color- Iris; Tights: Danskin - Style 387 footed, pink. Pink ballet shoes.

Boys: Bike shorts: Motionwear - Style 7105, color - 210 Black; Leotard: Baltogs - Style 380T. General white form fitting crew neck T-shirt. White socks and black ballet shoes.

## Level 3

Girls: Leotard: Montionwear - Tank 2200, Sweetheart fully lined, Silkskin, color- Cobalt; Tights: Danskin - Style 387 footed, pink. Pink ballet shoes.

Boys: Bike shorts: Motionwear - Style 7105, color - 210 Black; Leotard: Baltogs - Style 380T. General white form fitting crew neck T-shirt. White socks and black ballet shoes.

## Level 4

Girls: Leotard: Motionwear - Tank 2200, Sweetheart fully lined, Silkskin, color- Hunter; Tights: Danskin - Style 387 footed, pink. Pink ballet shoes.

Boys: Bike shorts: Motionwear - Style 7105, color - 210 Black; Leotard: Baltogs - Style 380T. General white form fitting crew neck T-shirt. White socks and black ballet shoes.

## Intermediate

Women: Leotard: Montionwear - Princess Cami 2518 shelf lined, Tencel, color- Royal Blue; Pink tights. Pink ballet and pointe shoes.

Men: Shirt: Montionwear - Style 7207 white. Leotard: Baltogs - Style 380T white. Black footed tights and black ballet shoes.

## Level 5

Women: Leotard: Montionwear - Princess Cami 2518 shelf lined, Tencel, color- Royal Blue; Pink tights. Pink ballet and pointe shoes.

Men: Shirt: Montionwear - Style 7207 white. Leotard: Baltogs - Style 380T white. Black footed tights and black ballet shoes.

## Level 6

Women: Leotard: Montionwear - Princess Cami 2518 shelf lined, Tencel, color- Purple. Pink tights. Pink ballet and pointe shoes.

Men: Shirt: Montionwear - Style 7207 white. Leotard: Baltogs - Style 380T white. Black footed tights and black ballet shoes.

## Level 7

Women: Leotard: Montionwear - Princess Cami 2518 shelf lined, Tencel, color- Cranberry; Pink tights. Pink ballet and pointe shoes.

Men: Shirt: Montionwear - Style 7207 white. Leotard: Baltogs - Style 380T white. Black footed tights and black ballet shoes.

## Level 8

Women: Leotard: Montionwear - Princess Cami 2518 shelf lined, Tencel, color- Sapphire Blue; Pink tights. Pink ballet and pointe shoes.

Men: Shirt: Montionwear - Style 7207 white. Leotard: Baltogs - Style 380T white. Black footed tights and black ballet shoes.

## **HBII**

Women: Black, camisole leotard, pink tights and pink ballet shoes and pointe shoes.

Leotard #1: Motionwear-Style #2518 Princess Seam Camisole Cut, shelf lined, tencel fabric, color-Black

Leotard #2: Motionwear-Style #2518 Princess Seam Camisole Cut, cotton/lycra fabric (color to be determined)

Men: Black leotard, dance belt black-footed tights, black ballet shoes.

Official Leotard: Baltogs – Style #380T (black). Shirt: Motionwear-Style #7207, color-Black

### **Additional Class Attire**

Modern: Black or pink footless tights

Jazz: Jazz shoes, black tights or black jazz pants (optional)

Character: Women: Black character shoes and black character skirt- (mid-calf length)

Men: Jazz shoes or ballet shoes

**\*\*Note:** Leg warmers and ballet skirts are not allowed in classes.\*\*

### **Additional Requirements**

Female students must have their hair pulled back away from the face and secured neatly in a classical, netted bun. Female students with short hair must wear a headband and secure the hair at the back.

Male students must have a clean-cut, traditional haircut, and no facial hair. Ponytails, barrettes, and shaved heads are unacceptable.

Students may not wear jewelry, other than pierced ear studs, in class or rehearsal.

Students should not bring valuable jewelry to the Academy.

Students may not wear rubber pants, leg warmers, or sweat pants in class.

Students should not wear dance clothes as street wear outside Houston Ballet.

### **Beginning Pointe**

Students usually begin pointe work in level 4. New students in level 4 should not purchase pointe shoes until speaking with their instructor.

Students will be notified when the instructor feels that the student has sufficient strength, level of technique, and maturity necessary to begin pointe work. Pointe work can be damaging to the dancer if it is attempted too early.

The decision to start pointe work will be made on an individual basis with the advice of the instructor, even if the student has been on pointe at a previous studio. Instructors will check the fit of the shoes to ensure the students purchase proper shoes for their feet. Students should not sew ribbons and elastics on their shoes until they receive approval from the instructor.

Pointe work is difficult and can be dangerous if practiced unsupervised. Improper floor surface could cause injury to students. The Academy faculty discourages students from practicing pointe work outside the Academy studios unless otherwise approved.

### **Company provided Ballet and Pointe Shoes**

Students who perform with the Houston Ballet will receive one pair of shoes for a given number of performances. Periodically, shoe vouchers will be given to the students and students will be responsible for purchasing their own pair of performance shoes with that voucher.

HBII students will be provided with one pair of performance shoes for HBII and Houston Ballet performances. The Ben Stevenson Academy and Houston Ballet will not pay for the HBII's rehearsal shoes. It is the HBII's responsibility to complete a shoe invoice form when ordering shoes and to keep an up-to-date shoe profile form on file in the Academy.

## **ACADEMY PROCEDURES**

### **Attendance/Absences**

Students are required to attend all classes assigned to their level.

If a student in Creative Dance, PreBallet, Open Classes or levels 1-6 is not able to attend class, it is not necessary to call the Academy Office; however, we do encourage the parent to email the student's instructor to notify him or her of the absence.

Students in levels 7, 8, and HBII are required to contact the Academy Office prior to missing class. Please leave a voicemail if no one is available.

If students have three unexcused absences in one semester, they may be ineligible for advancement to the next level.

All students from level 1-HBII who miss a semester are required to audition for re-admission. All students from level 4-HBII who do not attend the summer intensive are required to audition for re-admission.

### **Making up Absences**

Students must make up absences due to illness, injury, religious holiday or required school activity during the semester of the absence.

Students in levels 4 - 6 may make up by attending a class in the level below the level in which they are enrolled. Students in Creative Dance, Pre-Ballet and levels 1, 2, and 3 may make up classes in the other section of their class level.

To make up a class, students are to request a make-up form from the Academy office. The student or parent must complete the form and give it to the instructor of the make-up class. It is mandatory for all students to attend all classes, including supplemental classes such as modern and jazz.

### **Swine Flu**

Students that have flu like symptoms should not attend class and should make an appointment with their physician. Students that are diagnosed with the swine flu should notify the academy as soon as possible. The Academy will send an email to parents to notify them that there is a case of the flu so that parents can watch their children for symptoms. If a student in level 7-HBII that is residing in the dormitory or living without a parent is diagnosed with swine flu and the doctor recommends isolation, then the parent of the student would be responsible for providing care and expenses for the isolation.

### **Bad Weather Days/ Class Cancellation**

Classes may occasionally be canceled due to severe weather conditions. The Academy follows Houston Independent School District's closing schedule for inclement weather. The academy will notify parents by email should class(es) be canceled. Parents may call the office at 713-535-3210 for updates. Students are encouraged, but not required to make up classes missed due to inclement weather.

### **Athletic Trainer**

Students in levels 7A, 8, and HBII may see the physical therapist or athletic trainer during designated hours free of charge. Company members' needs will be the highest priority for

appointments. Hours available to academy students are posted on the bulletin board at the beginning of each semester.

Level 7A, 8, and HBII students who are injured must have a written note from the athletic trainer that indicates if the student should observe class, participate in class, or be seen by a doctor. Students are not permitted to sit out from class without a pass. If the athletic trainer is not present the student should see the academy office.

Methodist Hospital conducts monthly clinics where physicians come to Houston Ballet to treat company dancers. Clinic appointments may be arranged for HBII students with permission from the athletic trainer.

HBII students may sign up for massage appointments with permission from the athletic trainer. Appointment space for HBII students will be limited as company members receive precedence. Students in level 7A, 8, and HBII that would like to schedule massage appointments may do so at their own cost. Students should see the academy office for contact information on referred massage therapists.

### **Arriving for Class**

Students in Creative Dance, Pre-Ballet, Children's Open Classes and levels 1-4 should not arrive more than 15 minutes prior to class. Upon arrival, students in levels CD1, CD2, Pre-Ballet, Beginner Ballet 1, 2, and 3, and levels 1-4 should wait in the student lounge to be escorted upstairs by the teacher or teacher's aide. It is not necessary to check-in with the Academy office when you arrive for class. Parents are welcome to wait with their child in the lounge. Vending machines with sodas and snacks are available to everyone.

Students in levels 5-HBII are welcome to venture upstairs before the start of their class. We do ask that all students keep the hallways clear of bags and trash at all times.

### **Arriving Late to Class**

Students in Creative Dance, Pre-Ballet, Children's Open Classes who arrive after the start of class must be escorted upstairs by an Academy Staff member. Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late to class will not be permitted to participate in that class but are permitted to watch the remainder of the class.

### **Student Pick-up**

Students must be picked up on time. The Academy is not responsible for the safety of the students after Academy office hours.

Parents that anticipate a delay in picking up their children should contact the Academy office as soon as possible.

### **Attending Adult Classes**

Students currently enrolled in levels 8 and HBII may take adult classes free of charge. Students who have withdrawn from levels 8 and HBII are ineligible to take adult classes for free, unless they receive permission from the Associate Director.

Students who have graduated from Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy must have permission from the Academy office to attend adult classes and to be in the building.

Students who are 14 and older may attend open classes at a rate of \$15 per class. Behavior policies for the Academy Main School Division apply to the adult classes as well.

**Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

In the event of an emergency, an alarm will sound, and a staff member will notify the teachers and building occupants. Teachers will guide students out of the building, and a staff member will remain with students until parents arrive. Parents waiting in the lobby should exit the building immediately and wait outside the West Bell entrance or in the Sue Cullinan Memorial Garden adjacent to the student lounge. Teachers will familiarize students with exit information at the beginning of each semester.

**Hurricane Emergency Plan**

In the event of a hurricane evacuation for Harris County, Houston Ballet will be responsible for sheltering students living in Houston Ballet dormitories or in apartments/homestay without parents/guardians. All students are required to evacuate and stay at the shelter provided by Houston Ballet unless otherwise noted in advance in the Hurricane Intent Form. Houston Ballet will work with the American Red Cross to determine a safe shelter location. Students will be transported in vans and cars and be chaperoned throughout their stay. Food, water, and first-aid supplies will be provided and prepared for students. Academy staff will stay in communication with parents by email and/or telephone.

**Complimentary Tickets**

Each member of level 7, 8, and HBII is entitled to one complimentary ticket to each rep performed by Houston Ballet. A sign-up sheet is posted ten days in advance of the performance and taken down five days before opening night. Students who have not signed up for their ticket in this time period will not be permitted to have a complimentary ticket.

No student of the Academy is to go to the ticket services and ask for free tickets under any circumstances. All tickets are under the supervision of the administrator of the Academy.

**Auditions for Other Companies**

Again, the experience of auditioning is an important part of dance education. All level 8 and HBII students must submit written permission to and receive permission from the Associate Director before auditioning or taking class with another company. Such an audition or class must not interfere with rehearsals or performances.

**ACADEMY GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Academy Office Hours**

Monday – Friday.....8:30am – 5:00pm  
Saturday.....8:30am – 2:30pm  
Sunday.....Closed

### **Traditional and Distance Education for Levels 7, 8, and HBII**

Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy has a fundamental belief that all students within the Academy need to finish their education, both at the Academy and within traditional educational institutions.

Students training at the Academy from outside the Houston area and who have not received a high school diploma or GED must be continually working on their education. Houston Ballet Academy provides students with an Academic Advisor during the Fall and Spring semesters. Students who have not graduated from high school must meet with the Academic Advisor once a week for a minimum of two hours. The Academic Advisor is available to proctor student exams, assist with homework, etc.

Houston Ballet and Houston Ballet Academy is fortunate to have relationships with universities and online institutions to facilitate enrollment and class advancement.

### **Parent Observation Days and Demonstration Days**

Classes at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy are closed to visitors. Parents are welcome to wait in the first floor lounge while their children are in class. Parents are not allowed to go upstairs and observe their children in class without expressed written permission from the Academy. Staff members will escort parents who elect to go upstairs back to the lounge.

Parents of students in all levels are invited to observe a demonstration class at the end of both the Fall and Spring semesters.

<b>Observation Dates</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
CD1 Monday	December 7, 2009	May 10, 2010
CD1 Thursday	December 10, 2009	May 13, 2010
CD1 Saturday	December 12, 2009	May 15, 2010
CD2 Monday	December 7, 2009	May 10, 2010
CD2 Thursday	December 10, 2009	May 13, 2010
CD2 Saturday	December 12, 2009	May 15, 2010
Pre-Ballet Tuesday	December 8, 2009	May 11, 2010
Pre-Ballet Wednesday	December 9, 2009	May 12, 2010
Pre-Ballet Saturday	December 12, 2009	May 15, 2010
Levels 1 - 3	December 7-12, 2009	May 3-8, 2010
Levels 4 - HBII	December 14-19, 2009	May 10-15, 2010

### **Pilates**

Pilates are offered to students between Levels 4 and HBII. One Pilates card (5 sessions) per semester has been included in levels 5-8 tuition rate. To start the program, students should stop by the Academy Office to schedule an appointment in the Pilates Appointment Book located in the Academy Office. Additional pilates cards are purchased in the Academy office and are non-refundable for unused sessions. Eligible students are encouraged to participate in this program. Pilates sessions costs \$100 for 5 sessions. All pilates cards must be used prior to the end of the Spring 2010 semester. Unused cards will not roll over into the summer session.

### **Class Level Advancement**

The Associate Director and artistic staff determine the class placement of each student. Faculty members evaluate students on artistry, physicality, maturity and technical ability.

Each student progresses at a different pace; therefore, students in the same level may be promoted at different times. Levels 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are intended to each be a 2 year program. However, students who remain in a level for three or more years are subject to an advancement evaluation. The student and parent will be required to meet with the Associate Director regarding future plans.

### **Evaluations**

Students in levels 5 - HBII complete a self-assessment each fall and receive an evaluation from their teachers twice a year. Students in Pre-Ballet and levels 1 - 3 receive evaluations once each semester. Students do not receive evaluations during the summer program, but the faculty does consider each student's progress during the program in determining fall class placement.

### **Student Physicals**

HBII's are required to have a physical at the beginning of the fall semester. Drug testing may be administered at this pre-season physical.

Dr. Gordon Crofoot is the primary care physician (general family practitioner) for Houston Ballet Academy. All HBII's must fill out the necessary paperwork required by the offices of Dr. Crofoot.

### **Physical Education Class Credit**

Several Houston area school recognize a student's hours spent at Houston Ballet Academy as an alternative to regular physical education classes at the school. Should your child wish to receive credit for their training at Houston Ballet Academy, please first contact the student's school to confirm that Houston Ballet Academy is an acknowledged program and ask about the necessary paperwork to register the student for the program and the process for grade reports.

### **Bulletin Board**

All students and parents should refer to the bulletin boards, located in the hallway leading to the student lounge, for information regarding rehearsals, class schedules and last-minute changes. An Academy staff member must first review any article posted on the bulletin board.

### **Lockers**

Lockers, located in the dressing rooms, are available for Level 5 - HBII students. Students choose their locker. Students should bring a combination lock to secure belongings. Please do not leave valuables in the locker room, as the Academy is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

### **Telephones**

Telephones in the Academy office and on the second floor are for staff use only. There is a telephone at the receptionist's desk for emergency use.

**Lost and Found**

Students should first check the lost and found bins in the men's and women's dressing rooms for misplaced items. A second lost and found is located outside Studio A for items recovered from the second floor. All items are discarded at the end of each week.

**Making Change**

The Academy does not provide money change to students or parents unless it is for tuition payments in cash.

**Change of Address/Information**

Parents and students must promptly notify the Academy office of any change in address or phone number or medical insurance information.

**Public Relation Events**

At different times during the year, with particular emphasis on the Holiday season, different organizations will ask small groups of level 7, 8, or HBII students to perform or appear at a gala, a school festival, a holiday party as ambassadors of Houston Ballet. Occasionally, these are performances where students are paid; other times there is no monetary gain.

**SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAM**

The curriculum is accelerated during the Summer Intensive program, and each class is taught at a more advanced level. Students who attend the summer intensive program and apply themselves make significant progress in their dance training.

**Pre-School Summer Classes**

One week long summer workshops are offered in June and August for Pre-school age students. Registration opens during the Spring semester. Please refer to our website at [www.houstonballet.org](http://www.houstonballet.org) for registration information.

**Levels 2-5**

There are two 3-week summer sessions available to level 2-5 students. Students may attend either 3-week session or the entire 6-week session. There will be no ability to carry over, make up, or overlap either session.

For local students in either level 4 or 5, full attendance of either 3 week session or the 6-week program is necessary or you will be required to re-audition for the reentry into the school.

Students in levels 2 and 3 are not required to attend the summer program.

Registration forms will be mailed to all students in January. Registration for the summer program is due in mid-February.

**Levels 6-HBII**

Students in Level 5 - HBII must attend the entire summer program. Students may miss a total of three days. Students who do not attend the full six weeks must audition for re-admission for the following year.

Absences are not excused without the prior written approval of the Associate Director.

Students may not make up classes during the summer program.

### **Auditioning for Other Summer Programs**

The experience of auditioning is an important part of a dancer's training process. Students must obtain permission from the Associate Director before attending another program. If students miss Academy classes to attend an audition, they are required to submit a written request to the Associate Director to attend the audition. Requests to attend auditions will be granted if the audition does not interfere with Houston Ballet rehearsals, performances or the Academy's Spring Performance. Students who do not attend Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy Summer Intensive program are required to re-audition for the fall semester.

Although written permission to attend another summer program is required, re-admission to the Ben Stevenson Academy is not guaranteed.

### **STUDIO PROTOCOL**

Each student is expected to approach all classes with energy, enthusiasm, and the desire to learn. Students should maintain an open and responsive attitude and apply all corrections given in class and rehearsals.

Students may not enter class late or leave class early without permission from the instructor. Injuries are caused by insufficient warm-up and interruptions are distracting to the other students in class. If a student is more than 10 minutes late, the teacher must give permission for the student to participate in class.

Food, drinks and chewing gum are prohibited on the second floor. Students in level 5-HBII may bring water bottles into the studios, but spills must be cleaned immediately. This rule is strictly enforced for the safety of the dancers and the protection of the floors.

Rosin may not be used in any Houston Ballet studio.

Students are not permitted to play the pianos.

Students may not talk with friends or accompanists during class.

Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy reserves the right to dismiss students from class for inappropriate behavior.

Students must be in the specified uniform at all times.

Parents are not allowed on the second floor for any reason without the permission of an Academy staff member. Parents and visitors must have a visitor's pass from the Academy.

## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

### Academy Spring Showcase

Level 1 - HBII students will perform at the Wortham Theater Center on Friday and Saturday, April 16 and April 17, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. respectively. This performance is open to the public, and all students are encouraged to attend.

Once a student is cast, a packet will be sent out in mid January. A performance fee will be charged to each dancer. Students and parents must sign an agreement to perform by the first week in February 2010. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.houstonballet.org](http://www.houstonballet.org) or by calling 713 - 227 - ARTS.

### The Nutcracker

Students in the Main School levels 2-5 are given the opportunity to audition for *The Nutcracker*. Students are cast in roles as party children and clowns. Please refer to the 2009-2010 Calendar for audition dates. Due to costuming restrictions, there is a height requirement for children wishing to audition for *The Nutcracker*. If your child wishes to audition, he/she can be no taller than 4'10" at the start of the *The Nutcracker* performances in November.

Students in the Main School levels 6-HBII may also audition for roles as mice, soldiers, and cooks. Participation in *The Nutcracker* is mandatory for students in levels 8 and HBII.

Due to *Nutcracker* performances, some out-of-town students will not be able to go home between Thanksgiving and December 27<sup>th</sup> without prior permission from the Associate Director. Please always check before making plane reservations, lease agreements, etc.

### Houston Ballet Productions

Students gain valuable performance experience by participating in Houston Ballet productions. As HBII students are approaching the completion of their training, they are frequently used in Houston Ballet productions. Younger students are occasionally cast in *The Nutcracker* and other classical ballets during the Houston Ballet season.

Houston Ballet performances are professional productions, and the artistic staff makes all casting decisions. The following factors are considered when casting for a Houston Ballet production:

- Animation and Musicality
- Ability to assimilate steps quickly
- Ability to take instructions
- Maturity and attention span
- Height and size

## **POLICIES AND RULES**

### **Non-Discrimination/Non-Harassment Policy**

Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy is dedicated to the treatment of all persons with respect and dignity and to providing an environment that is free from any form of discrimination or harassment. The Ben Stevenson Academy prohibits and will not tolerate harassment of any kind to or by any persons, including teachers, staff, students, parents and any other person affiliated with or doing business with Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy. This prohibition includes harassment for any unlawful discriminatory reason, such as race, gender, national origin, disability, age or religion. This policy also prohibits actions that, while they may not be so severe or serious as to constitute harassment in a legal sense, are nevertheless commonly understood to be abusive and disrespectful of others. Accordingly, slurs, jokes, or remarks that are derogatory of a person or group's race, ethnic background, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, economic status or age are considered inappropriate for the Academy's environment.

Each person is responsible for exercising his or her own good judgment to avoid engaging in conduct that may violate this policy. A person who believes himself or herself to be a victim of discrimination or harassment should report the incident to the Academy Associate Director. The matter will be dealt with on a confidential basis with disclosure only to the extent necessary for fair problem resolution and only to those who have an immediate need to know.

### **Media Policy**

All media inquiries and requests for interviews and information must be referred to Houston Ballet's public relations department. No dancer, student, parent, teacher, employee, staff member or other person affiliated with Houston Ballet or the Academy should talk with a member of the media about Houston Ballet, the Academy or any individual associated with either organization, on or off the record, without prior authorization from the public relations department.

All photographs taken of Houston Ballet students during Houston Ballet classes or photo sessions are the sole property of Houston Ballet.

Occasionally, students are interviewed by journalists and media crews to promote activities of the Academy and Company. In my signing of this form, I give permission for an indefinite period of time for my child, (myself if over 18), to be photographed, filmed, and/or interviewed in a Houston Ballet supervised environment for the sole purpose of promotions for the Academy and/or Company.

### **Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Policy**

Houston Ballet Academy does not allow or tolerate drug use or underage drinking. All persons involved with the Academy, including dancers, students, parents, faculty and staff, should obey the law and refrain from providing alcoholic beverages at any location, including but not limited to private homes, to those who are not of legal age.

Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy reserves the right to require a drug or alcohol screening of any student. The student and his or her parents are responsible for all costs, including those for drug tests, evaluations, counseling, medical treatment and therapy. Any student refusing an initial drug test or alcohol screening will be subject to dismissal.

No student under the age of 18 is permitted to smoke on Academy property. Those students over the age of 18 may not smoke in the Sue Cullinan Memorial Garden, nor may they smoke outside the front doors. They must remain outside the chain link fence. In addition, students may not smoke outside the Wortham Theater or in the vicinity of any other performance venue or location in which the student represents Houston Ballet.

If a student is found with an illegal substance, authorities will be notified and penalties under Texas law will apply.

A positive drug test, admission to drug/alcohol use, violation of the tobacco policy, and/or if a student is found with an illegal substance will result in the following:

- Parent(s) will be notified
- Expulsion from the academy as determined by evaluation
- Suspension from the academy as determined by evaluation. If a student is suspended, they will be required to:
  - Participate in individual and/or group counseling (such as a Drug, Alcohol, or Tobacco Awareness Program), as recommended by evaluation. Students are responsible for all costs and transportation to and from counseling appointments.
  - Participate in random drug/alcohol screening for one calendar year upon their return to Houston Ballet.

### **Healthy Weight Management Policy**

Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy is committed to supporting the health and well being of its students. Students in levels 5-8 and HBII will be reviewed by a health professional each year, and students in levels 5-8 are required to submit a student wellness form to the Academy signed by their family physician.

The Academy staff will not discuss a weight concern with a student who is under the age of 18 unless at least one parent is present, in person, or via telephone. If a student is 18 or older, the Academy staff will meet with the student about the weight concern, and the student's parents will be notified of the discussion via mail or by phone.

The Academy faculty will not make specific recommendations regarding a student's weight. If desired, the student and parents may seek such a recommendation from a health professional. A list of resources, including doctors, nutritionists and body conditioning specialists, will be made available to the student and parents. Students will be required to schedule a monthly meeting with a member of the Academy staff for three to six months after the initial meeting. A student approached with an underweight concern may return to classes only with a physician's written approval.

A student will not be taken out of a level or have a scholarship or stipend revoked on account of a weight issue. However, scholarship and stipend students will be re-evaluated each semester on all criteria, including healthy weight.

Students attending pas de deux class will be assessed at the beginning of each semester. Only students at healthy dancing weight will be allowed to participate. If a student's weight or musculature presents a danger to the student or the student's partner, the student will not be allowed to complete the semester's pas de deux classes. Each student will be re-evaluated for participation at the beginning of each semester.

## **Houston Ballet Ben Stevenson Academy Rules**

### **Firearms**

Firearms are strictly prohibited on Houston Ballet property.

Students may visit with friends only in the first floor student lounge. Noise must be kept to a minimum, so company rehearsals and Academy classes are not disrupted. Please remember the facility also serves as an office building.

Students and parents may not sit on or at the bottom of the stairs. Students may not hang on the stair railing, as the staircase must remain accessible.

Students may not run in the lounge, halls, or on the stairs. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Bicycles are not permitted inside the building. A bicycle rack is located at the West Bell entrance, where they should be securely locked.

Small children must be supervised. Parents will be asked to remove disruptive children.

Only students taking class are allowed upstairs. Parents are to remain in the student lounge at all times.

### **Unacceptable Behavior**

Unacceptable behaviors, whether occurring in class or outside the studio, include, but are not limited to:

- Violation of any law, Academy rule or policy
- Failure to observe proper studio protocol
- Lying, cheating or stealing
- Falsifying documents
- Theft (including attending Houston Ballet performances without a ticket)
- Destruction of property
- Drug or alcohol use
- Any behavior that places other students, staff, visitors, innocent bystanders and/or self in danger
- Verbal, written or physical harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or appearance
- Swearing, cursing or yelling
- Smoking anywhere on campus

### **Consequences for Unacceptable Behavior:**

- Dismissal from the Academy
- Dismissal from the dorm (if applicable)
- Suspension from classes
- Suspension from the dorm (if applicable)
- Early curfew and grounding at the dorm (if applicable)
- Referral to counseling
- Community service
- Fines
- Probation
- Loss of scholarship (if applicable)
- Loss of stipend (if applicable)
- Loss of privileges (such as use of equipment)
- Suspension of privileges



# HOUSTON BALLET

STANTON WELCH - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## 2009-2010 HOUSTON BALLET SEASON

Manon

September 10 – 19, 2009



Without Boundaries

(Houston Ballet Premiere)

Falling Angels

(World Premiere)

Elements

(Houston Ballet Premiere)

In the Upper Room

September 24 – October 4, 2009



The Nutcracker

November 27 – December 27, 2009



LA BAYADÈRE (“The Temple Dancer”)

(World Premiere)

February 25 – March 7, 2010



American At Heart

(Houston Ballet Premiere)

Fancy Free

(Houston Ballet Premiere)

Apollo

Hush

March 11 – 21, 2010



Houston Ballet Academy

2010 Spring Showcase

April 16 - 17, 2010



Pecos

Sandpaper Ballet

Pecos

Ballo Della Regina

(Houston Ballet Premiere)

May 27 – June 6, 2010



La Fille Mal Gardee

June 10 – 20, 2010

## **DONATING TO HOUSTON BALLET**

Houston Ballet's donors participate in a number of ways.

### **Ambassadors**

For \$3,000 annually, patrons enjoy valet parking at performances, parties at elegant homes and Green Room receptions, among many other benefits.

### **Annual Fund Campaign**

Donations during this fall and winter campaign support the General Operating Budget of the Ballet, which provides the day-to-day needs of the Foundation and Academy. Donors of \$40 or more receive the Ballet's quarterly newsletter, Houston Ballet News, while donors of \$300 or more are listed in Playbill for one full year.

### **Ball**

This elegant event occurs each winter and is one of Houston Ballet's two major fundraisers, netting close to \$500,000. Table levels range from \$5,000 to \$50,000, and individual tickets are \$1,000.

### **Corporate Sponsorship**

By sponsoring a Ballet production or educational program, corporations gain community visibility and enjoy tickets to a performance of the sponsored ballet along with entertainment privileges in the Masterson Green Room—a treat for employees or clients.

### **Endowment Fund**

Contributions to the Endowment become part of a permanent fund that generates support to the Annual Operating Fund. Contributions can be made to either the general Endowment Fund or to specific categories of artist activity (e.g. Endowed Artistic Positions, Touring, Productions, Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy and Education and Community Outreach).

### **Foundation Support**

Foundations help make possible the many programs, performances and services of Houston Ballet, such as education and outreach programs, the creation of new dance works and the preservation of time-honored programs.

### **Houston Ballet Guild**

Active members of the Houston Ballet Guild contribute their time and talent in a variety of ways, with daytime projects as well as night and weekend activities. Volunteer commitment can be tailored to meet available times for at least one required activity per year.

### **In-Kind Donations**

Companies and individuals make gifts of products and services to help support Houston Ballet's fundraising efforts, marketing initiatives and administrative work.

### **Matching Gifts**

Many companies match employee contributions to charitable organizations, thus increasing the dollar value of these donations. Please consult your company to find out if it has a matching gift program.

### **Junior Patrons**

Membership in Junior Patrons provides a wonderful opportunity for children to develop a love of ballet, as well as an appreciation for the arts. Members are invited to one of three parties with a backstage tour following matinee performances of *The Nutcracker* to meet the dancers, get autographs and see the sets up close. Junior Patrons also have a fun-filled event in the spring at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy studios. Membership is \$35.00.

### **Nutcracker Market**

Each November, more than 300 merchants from across the nation descend on Reliant Center for this renowned holiday shopping wonderland. This four-day event is the Ballet's largest fundraiser, netting well over \$1.5 million. Underwriting and sponsorship opportunities on many levels are available.

### **Planned Giving**

Many people choose to remember a favorite organization by establishing a bequest in their will. Such an estate gift is yet another way to benefit Houston Ballet's programs, educational activities and mission.

### **President's Circle**

For \$6,500 annually, President's Circle members enjoy the same benefits as Ambassadors, as well as a private reception and dinner.

For any information on any of these giving categories, please contact Houston Ballet's development department at 713-523-6300

## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

### **Guest Speaking**

Lauren Anderson, former principal dancer and Houston Ballet's Education Outreach Associate, is available to speak on a variety of dance related topics. The goal of Ms. Anderson's appearances is to provide Houston-area students with a free, educational experience in the art of ballet through her own personal accounts. Possible topics include the artistic process, ballet history, career development, and motivational speaking.

### **Ballet Talks**

Docents from Houston Ballet are available to give a one hour presentation, introducing students to the art form of dance. Docents will talk the students through the story of the ballet, while they watch a DVD of Houston Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker* or *The Sleeping Beauty*. This presentation is tailored for smaller groups of elementary aged students, preferably grades K-3<sup>rd</sup>. Costumes, props, and pointe shoes will be available for students to examine.

## **Dance Works!**

Designed to introduce students to different types of dance, Dance Works! offers schools three different options.

- **Chance to Dance** – Students from diverse communities are invited to participate in a series of six Academy classes. Houston Ballet provides bus transportation to and from the studios free of charge. Classes are all-inclusive with students actively participating, regardless of physical ability or previous dance experience. Academy artistic staff, however, will evaluate promising students for enrollment in our year round program on scholarship.
- **Learning from the Masters** – Invite Houston Ballet to your school through our Learning from the Masters series. Teaching artists are available to teach a series of six classes on-site. Schools have the option to schedule the Classical Ballet, Creative Movement/Modern, or Dance through the Decades series. All options can be tailored to meet the experience level of your students and do not require an actual dance facility.
- **Studio to Stage** – This program is available exclusively for high school students. It is designed to introduce high school students to the different career options available to people interested in the arts. Each class focuses on a different aspect of arts administration or artistic development. Studio to Stage culminates in an evening performance at the Wortham Theater Center.

## **Studio Series**

For one week each fall and spring, Houston-area students are invited to Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy for a student oriented performance by HBII, Houston Ballet's pre-professional division. Accompanying a narration by a Houston Ballet member, HBII dancers perform selections from both classical and contemporary ballets. At the end of the performance, the audience engages in a question and answer session. Studio A provides a unique opportunity for students to observe the creativity and excitement of Houston Ballet in our studios.

## **Student Matinee**

Houston Ballet offers schools the opportunity to attend a matinee performance at a discounted rate. Each participating school will receive a set of study guides and performance programs specifically designed for elementary and middle school students. The performance itself will be narrated by Houston Ballet Artistic staff, which may include an appearance by our Artistic Director Stanton Welch. Intermission will be an interactive experience between company members and selected students.

## **HBASP**

Houston Ballet's After School Program is available to two schools each year. HBASP meets two afternoons per week at participating schools. In addition to classical ballet classes, students are introduced to ballet history, take costume and make-up lessons, learn ballet vocabulary and have the option of attending Houston Ballet dress rehearsals at the Wortham Theater Center. HBASP is a well-rounded program that gives students an entire year of dance education.

## **Graceful Givings**

The Graceful Givings Project seeks to benefit schools and students through the donation of dance shoes (ballet slippers, tap shoes, jazz shoes, lyrical sandals etc.), leotards, and costumes. Graceful Givings receives donations on a monthly basis and we fill each request to the best of our ability. To donate to our outreach schools, please contact [hboutreach@houstonballet.org](mailto:hboutreach@houstonballet.org).

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