

Canton Ballet Company

DANCER'S CONTRACT 2023-2024

The Dancer is invited to take part in training and performance activities with Canton Ballet during this school year. In order to maintain a smoothly running, quality performance group, the following Company rules and policies have been established:

“Believe in your infinite potential. Your only limitations are those you set upon yourself.” ~Roy T. Bennett

Responsibilities

A. *Classes* In dance our bodies are our instruments. They only become as finely tuned as we are willing to work them, and consistency is a key ingredient to accomplishment. Therefore, all Dancers must take a minimum of five 90-minute ballet classes per week, one jazz/tap and one contemporary class plus any other classes scheduled for company dancers. Those who take additional classes tend to progress more quickly.

B. *Rehearsals* Dancers are responsible for knowing their rehearsal schedule (posted online on the company page.) The site should be checked daily for changes and information. Remind will be used for last minute changes and information as well as questions for the faculty.

C. *Absences* Dancers are required to be present for any rehearsal in which they are cast or scheduled to understudy. OCCASIONAL absences for outside activities or schoolwork are permitted. Be sure that you speak directly with Ms. Jennifer regarding any planned absence that must be approved in advance and give written advance notice of at least **one week** whenever possible. If a Dancer misses rehearsal for any reason, he/she is expected to learn the missed material **BEFORE** (not during) the next rehearsal, in order not to disrupt the rehearsal process.

D. *Nutrition* In order to present themselves in the most professional light, Dancers must eat nutritiously. Canton Ballet follows the standards of the pre-professional field in expecting a fit and healthy body along with nutritious eating habits.

E. *School* School work is recognized to be of vital importance. In order to participate in the Company, Dancers must maintain their grades. If grades drop below a level satisfactory to the parents, the Dancer will be released from performances and asked to attend only three classes per week until grades have been brought up. We encourage parents to make us aware of any problems with school and will make every effort to help the Dancers find time to study.

F. *Lecture-demonstrations* Dancers will take part in lecture demonstrations for schools and community groups. Every effort is made to work around Dancers' school activities, but lecture demonstrations during the school day are part of our program. All Dancers are required to participate in these programs.

G. *Corrections* As a part of their training, Dancers will receive frequent constructive criticism (called corrections) throughout the year. Actual touching and physical moving of body parts is essential to the proper teaching of ballet. Parents should feel free to ask questions as they arise.

H. *Questions and Concerns* Parents are encouraged to come to a member of our Artistic Staff if a problem arises: jcatzaro@cantonballet.com , angelolemmo@cantonballet.com or Ms. Kristen at kexpo@cantonballet.com The office staff is not able to answer questions relating to the company.

I. *Conferences* Each Company dancer will receive an annual private (with a parent or guardian) contract conference with Ms. Jennifer, a Parent Teacher Conference by request during the year and a written end-of-year report. Apprentices and junior apprentices will meet with Mr. Angelo or Ms. Jennifer. New apprentices and parents will take part in a group meeting in late summer prior to their first year. Parents are encouraged to schedule additional conferences throughout the year as needed.

F. *Injuries* Canton Ballet's insurance coverage requires that the Artistic Director be advised of and visually inspect any injury a dancer may sustain which affects his/her ability to dance. Dancers must advise her immediately of any doctor's recommendations or outside treatment that they have had.

J. *Code of Ethics* Dancers of Canton Ballet Company represent the highest standards of morals, ethics, honesty and responsible behavior. They set a good example for their peers and for the younger children in the school. Each Dancer should help and encourage all of the others to do their best and set a good example for others.

K. Dancers will ALWAYS represent themselves with class on ALL SOCIAL MEDIA. Bullying, foul language, inappropriate pictures, hazing or harassing on any social media will not be tolerated. The director reserved the right to determine the appropriate action which could include dismissal from the company.

L. *The drinking of alcohol or taking any form of drugs by a Canton Ballet dancer will be considered a very serious offence.

M. *Outside study* Dancers are encouraged to seize opportunities to visit and take class at major schools around the US whenever possible. However, Company Dancers may **not** study **Ballet** at any LOCAL school at any time during the year.

N. *Summer Auditions* All Dancers are required to attend three (3) auditions for summer school programs annually as a means of learning how to take audition classes, whether or not their intent is to attend those programs that summer. The auditions are part of their training and are **mandatory** even if the dancer will not be going away that summer. (There is generally a fee per class.) If a dancer is given a scholarship to several different summer programs, he/she should write an email to the schools he/she is declining, thanking the school and expressing interest in another opportunity in the future.

O. *Summer School* Summer is an important study period for Dancers. Serious students realize the necessity for continuous year-round work to further develop their technical strength. **Each Dancer is expected to attend at least 4 weeks of daily classes** (3 or more classes per day in ballet, modern, jazz and other idioms) at **the School of Canton Ballet + 1 week of pre-fall season get in shape week**. Dancers may also attend nationally or internationally recognized **Ballet** summer schools that audition across the United States. *Dancers who do not fulfill this requirement in full or in part will see this reflected in diminished roles for fall season.*

Fulfilling your summer school obligation is a condition of company membership.

P. *RDA Festival*

Being part of Regional Dance America and going to festivals is part of what makes Canton Ballet Company stand apart from other pre-professional companies. Dancers attend the Festival as a learning experience whether or not they are performing. The experience is one not to be missed and is a great deal of fun.

**ATTENDANCE AT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE RDA/NE FESTIVAL
IS A REQUIREMENT OF COMPANY MEMBERSHIP.**

All Dancers (except Apprentice 1, Junior Apprentices) aged 13 and over are **required** to attend the Regional Dance America Festival in its entirety. Apprentice 1 dancers aged 13 and over are also strongly encouraged to attend the whole festival. Sometimes classes are also available for dancers under 11-12. We will go by bus and be raising money during the year to help underwrite the expense.

Q. Outside Dance Photo Shoots. Dancers may take part in photo shoots for outside organizations HOWEVER, they must be identified as a member of Canton Ballet Company in any published photos of them in dance positions or attire.

Finances

A. Tuition, CB Membership and Company Fee:

See Payment Details in documents. Annual Tuition includes a special Student (non-voting) membership in Canton Ballet, Company fees, and tuition. Dancers may participate in any additional regularly scheduled class at the school without additional charge.

C. Costumes and shoes Costumes for company performances are provided. Some pointe shoes are provided for principal company dancers in *Nutcracker* based upon the budget. UPON REQUEST Dancers must provide black tights, black and pink trunks and /or additional undergarments. (Dancers will be told when their role requires the purchase of these items. DO NOT BUY IN ADVANCE.)

D. Discipline As a pre-professional company, Canton Ballet maintains the highest standards of grooming, discipline and dress. A fine system has been established for infractions of discipline committed during performance and in the theatre. Any carelessness in attire, punctuality or other matters of basic discipline is subject to a \$10 fine per incident. An example of such an infraction would be pointe shoe ribbons or hair falling out or the loss of any part of a costume or a prop onstage due to negligence, leaving the dressing room in a mess, etc. Failure to pay these fines will result in a loss of company membership.

Dancer's Attire

Dancers agree to follow the director's rules regarding performance attire.

1. Female Dancers will wear false eyelashes for EVERY performance and for final dress rehearsals **without being asked**.
2. Dancers are expected to prepare their own pointe shoes and ballet shoes for performance. This preparation may include either spray painting or covering them with pancake makeup or using magic markers to color them. Dancers must provide their own pancake makeup. Canton Ballet will provide paint when needed.
3. Canvas shoes are NOT permitted for girls in class or performance.

Artistic Director

Dancer

Date

Parent