
Announcing Auditions

for the

Shenandoah Contemporary Dance Theatre

Friday, September 23rd, 2022, 5:15-7:00

Dance & Company - 115 South Main St. Harrisonburg, VA



5:15 - Arrive to check in and begin stretching

5:30-7:00 - Auditions

All Intermediate and Advanced Students are highly encouraged to attend (ages 14+).

Come for the experience!

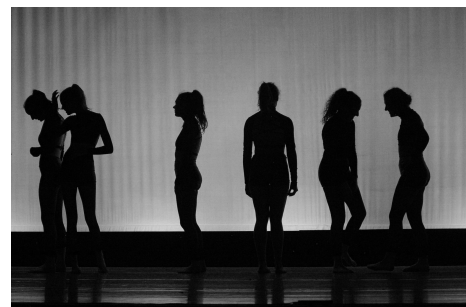
DANCERS NOT ACTIVELY SEEKING COMPANY MEMBERSHIP ARE STRONGLY URGED TO PARTICIPATE AND LEARN

Interested in...

- Advancing *leadership skills*
- Increasing *confidence in performance skills*
- Acquiring *additional experiences* in the audition process
 - Increasing operational *knowledge of the Arts*
- Receiving *additional hours of dance training* with sensitive, informative feedback
 - Gaining *skills in retention* of sequential material
- Focusing intensely and exclusively on *connecting mind, body, effort and emotion?*

Mark your calendars now.
Honor us with your presence!

More information online at
www.dancenco.com/companies



A WORD ABOUT COMPETITION AND AUDITIONS

The faculty and administration of Dance & Company is not interested in wounding and maiming fragile, burgeoning, adolescent self-concepts. We urge our students to support and encourage one another and frown upon competition between students. We encourage Dance & Company dancers to compete only with one's own best efforts and NOT amongst one another. I believe in providing our young artists a mutually respectful and supportive environment; a belief shared repeatedly with our faculty. This value is one not found within the teaching atmosphere of some training sites. Sadly, competition and intimidation are very potent and effective motivational training tools. This has slowly been changing but it still exists, especially at higher and more prestigious levels.

Given this, it is not realistic to assume our students will continue to operate in an environment embracing healthy competitive practices. It is important for students to be educated in audition protocol and exposed to the process in a semi-nurturing environment. The more one knows-the less one fears.

ADJUDICATORS

Dancers actively seeking membership in the Shenandoah Contemporary Dance Theatre will be selected by the collective consensus of 2-3 impartial adjudicators. Volunteer adjudicators are typically local professional dance artists, choreographers and/or career dance educators instructing at the university level. Every effort is made to select dance professionals with no prior knowledge of or connection to prospective participants.

WHAT TO WEAR TO THE AUDITION

Ladies should dress in a black leotard and pink convertible tights. Black spandex, leggings, or skirts are optional. Gentleman should wear black shorts and a tight fitting black or white t-shirt. Bare feet or foot thongs are appropriate for the SCDT audition. Make sure long hair is pinned back without bangs, and is very securely in place. A hairnet is suggested. All jewelry should be removed.

BEFORE THE AUDITION

The audition begins when participants are given a number, which henceforth serves to identify each dancer and will be pinned to the front of each dancer's leotard. Each dancer must complete an SCDT Audition Information Form which is collected before the audition. Only students who indicate on this form a level of commitment expected of company members will be considered for acceptance. Those actively seeking membership in the SCDT will be selected based on the collective judgement of the panel of impartial dance professionals.

Directors will then share the pit-falls of auditions with parents and students at a brief meeting, and why the results of any audition should never impact an individual assessment of self-worth. This includes a discussion of the fact that an audition result is based solely on one single day's performance. This is seldom an accurate representation of one's complete lifetime of fabulousness! I feel it is also important to reveal each individual is complex and multi-faceted. Abilities in just one of so many areas should never be used as criteria for valuing a person as a whole. Nobody nails every audition. Everyone flubs a lot of auditions. Professional stage performers flub more than they ace. And even if one truly does nail an audition cold, this doesn't mean one will be chosen. Many directors and adjudicators even hold very specific pre-set characteristics in mind.

Young aspiring artists need to hear and understand these concepts. Even though some may decide tomorrow that dance is boring and explore something else, most will encounter situations where one is called upon to put themselves out to the greatest place of vulnerability. Hopefully the contents of this discussion will reverberate then, in a comforting way, for each "sense of self."

THE AUDITION PROCESS

Following a brief warm-up, dancers will be taught movement combinations in the dance medium and level of difficulty representative of the choreography comprising the yearly performance repertoire of the company. Each dancer is scored on identical score sheets. Ranking scores are given, based upon objective numerical assignments on multiple skills including technique & alignment, knowledge of phrase, performance quality and musicality. This evaluative criterion remains consistent for each combination performed.

Once the performance part of the audition concludes, each judge will tally scores for every section. Judges determine their individual top-scorers and present these to the panel. Selections are based on the intersections of judging opinions. This also is usually consistent with actual numerical score values.

Once the group consensus arrives at the top scoring potential selectees, the individual survey sheets are examined. This is to assess whether or not a prospective dancer indicates the necessary level of commitment, has no conflict with regularly scheduled company rehearsal times (Fridays 5:00-6:30), and the dancers' potential availability for the inevitable extra rehearsals as scheduled.

Once selections are finalized, **invitations for membership to SCDT will be made by phone or email and the results will be posted at the Water Street entrance of the dance center by Monday afternoon.** All participants are notified of the results. First time dancers rarely achieve an invitation to membership. This is why it is a good idea to begin experiencing this opportunity well before one reaches the age required for company members.

We look forward to working through this process with you all! Call or email dancencompany@gmail.com with any further questions. See the SCDT contract online for more information about the commitment involved with membership.

Drew Jones, Executive Director - 540-810-3631

Rebecca Thomas, Educational Director

Melodie May, SCDT Liaison Director & Office Manager - 540-421-6155

Emily Parkinson, SCDT Company Director - 703-887-9602