

FUSION DANCE



October 2011

Beware of Ghosts and Goblins

Ghosts, goblins and other colorful characters are invited into the Fusion Dance Studios during the week of October 25–28.

Students should bring a treat to share with others. We will dance to Halloween music and play Halloween games.

Students may dress in their Halloween costumes during the following classes:

If your class is not scheduled to have a Halloween party, please come celebrate with us during Junior Hip-Hop class time on Monday, October 24, from 4:00–4:45.

October 24, 2011

4:00-4:45 All Technical Classes
join Junior Hip-Hop
Class for a party!

October 25, 2011

5:00-5:45 3-4 Year Old Class
5:45-6:45 5-6 Year Old Class

October 27, 2011

4:45-5:30 Beta/Delta Teams



Annual Performance and Costume Commitment Forms Due November 1

The *2012 Annual Performance and Costume Commitment Form* has been handed out to each student. Please indicate if your child will be participating in the Annual Performance in June. If so, please determine the costumes you wish to order. Forms must be turned into the front desk by November 1, 2011.

You may pay the entire balance with the commitment form or you may choose a payment system of one-half of the costume

and wig payment on November 1. The remaining balance must be paid by December 1, 2011.

Costumes are ordered during December and January for June recitals. The price of costumes also includes tights (pink or tan), minor costume alterations and possible hairpieces, small props, or rhinestones.

Curly wigs are standard for ages 3-7 combination classes. These curly wigs are a one-time pur-

Fusion Dance Referral Program

Tell your friends about the great time you have at dance class. Share Fusion Dance with others! Referral cards are available at the front desk.



We value the word-of-mouth advertising we receive from our costumers! Thank you for telling others about our dance program.

If your friend joins Fusion Dance, and stays with the studio for at least three months, you will receive \$51.00 (the monthly tuition for a one hour a week class.) The referral discount will be taken off your Fusion account.

Referral cards are good for students who join the studio from October 1 through December 1, 2011.

chase and will be used every year. The curly wigs must be purchased through Fusion Dance only, as we need all wigs to be uniform.

Costume and wig payments are not refundable after orders have been placed with supply companies.

Students will be measured for costumes during classes in December.



Upcoming Events:

October Payments Due	Oct. 1
Bring a Friend to Dance Week	Oct. 3-6
JUMP Dance Workshop Registration Due	Oct. 13
Fall Fundraiser Due	Oct. 18
Fall Break—No Dance	Oct. 19-23
Ovation! Dance Convention, Crown Plaza St. Paul, MN	Oct. 23
Halloween Parties	Oct. 24-27
Showcase/Competition Team Choreography Rehearsal Day	Oct. 29
Costume Order Forms and 1/2 Payment Due	Nov. 1
November Payments Due	Nov. 1
Jump Workshop Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, MN	Nov. 18-20
Wreath and Poinsettia Fundraiser Pickup	Nov. 22
Studio Closed - Thanksgiving	Nov. 23-27
Costume and Wig Payments Due	Dec. 1
December Payments Due	Dec. 1

Benefits of Taking Dance Lessons

By Dorothy Bassett, Shared by friends at DanceArt

Taking dance lessons has been a very interesting and rewarding experience for me at so many different levels. Of course, there are the obvious benefits to studying dance - it's a great form of exercise, it's an enormous amount of fun, and it is a wonderful confidence-builder - not just for kids, but for anyone of any age. It's a wonderful creative and expressive outlet as well.

I was also surprised to find how much studying dance provided me with very rich opportunities for personal growth. It has helped so much in giving me a greater sense of poise and confidence in expressing myself through movement, and it has helped me to overcome a fear of making mistakes, of "being wrong," (Trust me - I make all kinds of mistakes! I'm just not *afraid* of them anymore, because I learn and I grow *through* them. :-)) It has also helped me (strangely enough) to identify personal insecurities and to work on them through dance. (Like a sort of a self-styled movement therapy, I guess!)

From a technical perspective, as someone who has studied dance for a few years, I've found that studying with a good instructor has dramatically shortened my learning curve. Instead of having to figure things out on my own, having an instructor gives me someone I can ask questions to, someone to provide me with feedback and insights on how to improve my work, someone to help me troubleshoot when I'm having problems learning a figure, and someone who can demystify the "how" of executing a dance

step properly. (As I've found, a lot of the technical aspects of dance are not easily perceived by the average onlooker, and without a dance instructor to help me learn, for example, how to create "load" in order to unleash a step with speed and precision, I would be entirely clueless.) One of the particular benefits that I've found in working one-on-one with an instructor is that he is able not only to tell me what to do and how to do it, but he is able to identify the "inclusions" - those movements or actions that I'm doing that shouldn't be in the figure or the action that I'm working on - and help me to eliminate them. In short, he helps me purify and refine my dancing.

Studying with an instructor has also shed a lot of light for me on the performing/competition aspect of dance. I have a musical performance background, and so I thought it was all the same. Surprisingly, dance performance/competition is quite a bit different from performing or competing in music. With

music, you work and work and polish until you have a finished, completed, "perfect" product. Then you perform it. It took me a while to get used to the fact that the quality of your dancing is something that you're *always* polishing, always improving, and that every performance, every competition simply shows where you are at that *moment*.

Because of the ongoing nature of growing and evolving as a dancer, it is possible to have an *excellent* product on the floor, but you'll probably never have a *perfect* product in a performance or competition. (That was a hard one for me to get used to!) I do love the polishing aspect of dancing, however. It is so rewarding to see even the tiniest improvements on steps or movements that I have been working diligently to improve. I enjoy the sense of crafting something, of shaping something, under the guidance of a master dancer/teacher. One of the most valuable things that I have come to realize is that when you study with a good instructor (and by this I

mean someone who has studied and competed extensively him/herself) you are not just learning from that one person. Rather you are tapping into the combined years of knowledge and experience of that person and all the people that *they* have studied with and learned from. The knowledge that you gain in this fashion is very refined and is very highly evolved, making it possible for you to learn far more quickly than you would be able to on your own. It is a very, very rich experience to learn in this way, and to be able to be a small part of a greater lineage of dancers who have handed their knowledge down from dancer to dancer over the years.



A Great Way to Save Money

Are you looking for ways to help ease the dance bills? Participate in fundraisers! Fusion Dance, in cooperation with Gertens Greenhouses, is offering a fundraising opportunity for families. Part of the proceeds from your sales will go to your Fusion Dance account.

For those who are participating in the winter

wreath, swag, spruce tip arrangement and poinsettia fundraiser—order forms are due at Fusion Dance by Tuesday, October 18, by 9:00 pm. Gertens will deliver items to the studio on Tuesday, November 22.



The fundraiser amounts will be credited to your account in late-November.

"We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort."

— Jesse Owens
