

# Company Guidelines 2022-2023

Below are all guidelines for Company membership for the upcoming 2022-2023 season.

If any dancer does not meet the Membership Level requirements as set forth in the guidelines and their contracts, such failure to do so will be considered and may affect their level promotion the following year.

\*Note: dancers may remain at the same Membership Level for more than one year. Attendance, demonstration of the required technical benchmarks at the Company auditions, and demeanor throughout the year will be observed for level promotion at the end of each year.

## **ALL LEVELS**

- Must take Saturday Company class
- Will be required to participate in all additional Ballet Etudes performances, such as Bella Terra, Festival of Children, outreach performances, etc. as obligated by their role
- Must volunteer at all BE fundraisers, including the Sugar Plum Tea
- Are expected to behave at all times with respect towards fellow dancers, teachers and volunteers, and conduct themselves in a manner becoming of role models, including via social media and online presence
- Must meet class and rehearsal attendance requirements
- Are highly encouraged to enroll in Variations, though not required
- Pay full company fee

## **SENIOR LEVEL**

- Show requirements: required to participate in Nutcracker PLUS one of the main winter/spring performances (it is the dancer's decision which show to participate in based on availability). Highly encouraged to participate in both winter/spring shows, but only one is required.
- Class Requirements:
  - Company Class
  - 3 Ballet technique classes
  - Jazz or lyrical (or modern if taken at school)
  - Pointe 4 level required
- Role Eligibility: Eligible for every role, including principal roles (as well as soloist, demi-soloist, ensemble, corps, and character roles)
  - ❖ All casting is subject to the needs of the production
- Demonstrates the Senior level technical benchmarks in the Company audition (listed below); typically dances at a Grade 9 level or above.

## **JUNIOR LEVEL**

- Show Requirements: required to participate in Nutcracker PLUS one of the main winter/spring performances (it is the dancer's decision which show to participate

- in based on availability). Highly encouraged to participate in both winter/spring shows, but only one is required.
- Class Requirements:
    - Company Class
    - 3 Ballet technique classes
    - Jazz or lyrical (or modern if taken at school)
    - Pointe 3 level required
  - Role Eligibility: Eligible for soloist roles and demi-soloist roles, plus ensemble, corps, and character roles
    - ❖ All casting is subject to the needs of the production
  - Demonstrates the Junior level technical benchmarks in the Company audition (listed below); dancing at a Grade 8 level or above.

### **APPRENTICE LEVEL**

- Company entry-level position typically for first year Company members—must demonstrate ability to fulfill Company contract for one year; passed Grade 6 or met the requirements of Grade 6.
- Show Requirements: required to participate in Nutcracker PLUS one of the main winter/spring performances (it is the dancer's decision which show to participate in based on availability). Highly encouraged to participate in both winter/spring shows, but only one is required.
- Class Requirements:
  - Company Class
  - 3 Ballet technique classes
  - Jazz or lyrical (or modern if taken at school)
  - Pointe 2 or 3
- Role Eligibility: Still eligible for corps, ensemble, and character roles only
  - ❖ All casting is subject to the needs of the production
- Must still audition for entry into Company to demonstrate all minimum technical benchmarks—ability to demonstrate additional benchmarks a plus (listed below).

### **AFFILIATE LEVEL**

- This is for dancers who do not meet all of the requirements above for any of the other Membership Levels, such as: cannot dance en pointe for medical reasons, cannot meet the 6-class attendance requirement, are accepted on a provisional basis, or are not available to commit to Nutcracker and/or a winter/spring show; passed Grade 6 or met the requirements of Grade 6.
- Class Requirements:
  - Company Class
  - 1 ballet technique class at HAD
  - 1 additional technique class in any style
- Role Eligibility: Character, corps, or ensemble roles
  - ❖ All casting is subject to the needs of the production
- Must still audition for entry into Company to demonstrate a majority of minimum technical benchmarks (listed below).

\*Technical Benchmarks for each Membership Level

- Must be able to execute with proficiency an overwhelming majority of the steps appropriate for the respective membership level during Company auditions, which may include any of the following steps→

**SENIOR LEVEL:**

- Splits both sides
- 90° arabesques
- Triple pirouettes on flat
- Double pirouettes en pointe
- Attitude turns
- Series of fouettés
- Italian fouettés
- Beat all petit allegro [jeté with a beat, assemblé with a beat, full echappé battu (beating out and in), sissonne with a beat]
- Brisé derrière and brisé volé
- Cabriole derrière
- Series of clean ballottés
- Grand jeté in the full split
- Toe hops on one foot en pointe
- Multiple relevés on one foot en pointe
- Clean petit tour steps en pointe [petit pas de basque, chaînés, lame duck, pique turns, etc.]
- Ability to reverse steps immediately and without instruction
- Ability to make advanced, clean lines

**JUNIOR LEVEL:**

- Full forward stretch with straight knees
- 90° front & side développés
- Double pirouettes on flat
- Series of pirouettes from fifth
- Single pirouette en pointe
- Petit allegro, clean and fast
- Strong grand allegro
- Clean and correct tour jeté
- Series of entrechat quatre and royale
- Echappe battu (closing with a beat)
- Cabriole devant
- Saut de basque and chassé coupé turns
- Series of jeté temps levé with stretched feet
- Brisé devant
- Toe hops on two feet en pointe
- Clean bourrees
- Clean petit tour steps on flat [such as chaînés, pique turns, soutanu turns]

**MINIMUM TECHNICAL BENCHMARKS:**

- Correct positioning in the basic body positions
- Clean use of the feet during barre work and basic steps [ex: tendu, degage, sautés, développés, walking and running]
- Clean arm placement, especially in the cinquième and seconde positions and arabesque lines
- Strong single pirouettes
- Ability to execute basic allegro steps [jeté, assemblé, sissonne]
- Proper classroom etiquette

\*NOTE: these lists are representative only; dancers should be prepared to execute any of these steps during Company auditions, but may not be asked to show each of them. Additionally, demonstrating any one step is not sufficient for placement at that level. Placement will also be based on the overall quality, performance ability and lines demonstrated.