

## THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL DANCE PROGRAM



COCA's Pre-Professional Dance Program is designed to encourage and support the development of professional placement in dance and/or musical theatre.

COCA's Pre-Professional Dance Program is a highly individualized program designed to prepare COCA students for careers in dance and musical theatre. Students obtain in-depth training and are offered support services such as tutoring, college and career counseling, audition preparation, opportunities for additional training in summer programs around the country and, if eligible, generous scholarships and transportation.

Guided by professionals who lend their expertise to the process, each student is encouraged to find his or her own training focus.

The Pre-Professional Dance Program is made possible through the generous support of corporate, foundation and individual contributions, with special funding provided by the Saigh Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## MISSION

The mission of the Pre-Professional Dance Program is to provide an opportunity for talented young artists to pursue a career in dance or musical theatre regardless of income, race or ethnicity.

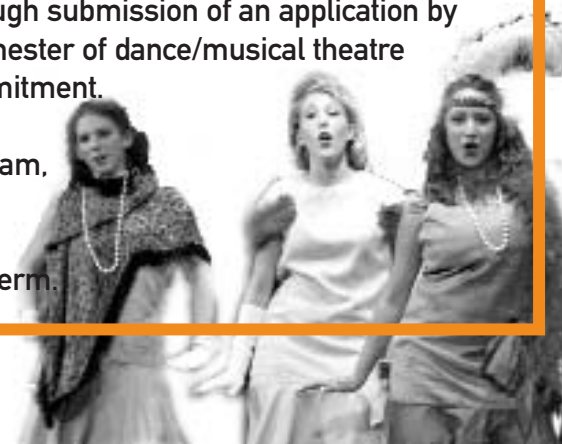
## PURPOSE

COCA's Pre-Professional Dance Program identifies, recruits, trains and gives support to students to help them reach their full artistic potential. The program is customized for each student, working in accordance with each student's interest, motivation and talent.

## RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Admission into COCA's Pre-Professional Dance Program can be initiated by a recommendation from a COCA instructor or through submission of an application by the student. Students must have at least one semester of dance/musical theatre training at COCA and must show talent and commitment.

The director of the Pre-Professional Dance Program, the student and parents or guardians review the responsibilities and benefits of the program and determine a schedule of classes for the coming term.



## STUDENT AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES



- ◆ Excellent attendance
- ◆ Appropriate dress in class
- ◆ Punctuality
- ◆ Positive attitude
- ◆ Respect for instructors
- ◆ Maintenance of a passing grade average in school
- ◆ Payment of annual program fees and tuition

## PROGRAM GOALS

### I. Educate

The COCA Pre-Professional Dance Program educates students about dance and musical theatre. Students study contemporary and classical dance and musical theatre, attend performances and articulate critical responses. Students attend seminars relevant to career development throughout the year. Tutoring is also awarded on an as-needed basis.

### II. Train

COCA's Pre-Professional Dance Program's permanent and guest faculty are selected based upon their training, professional experience and ability in the classroom. In addition to classes conducted by permanent faculty, the program offers classes taught by performers, choreographers and instructors from nationally recognized companies.

### III. Counsel

COCA's Pre-Professional Dance Program provides access to summer programs, B.A. and B.F.A. programs. Students also gain access to company directors, performing companies and summer stock companies. Dancers and actors are able to build their skills in actual rehearsal/performance situations, develop audition strategies and learn résumé preparation. A staff member assists students with academic counseling.

### IV. Assist

COCA's Pre-Professional Dance Program provides financial assistance as needed to make pre-professional training available to every talented, committed student. Aid may include partial or full waiver of tuition and other fees, assistance with the purchase of dancewear and shoes and assistance to obtain scholarships for out-of-state summer training programs, auditions and interviews.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

COCA graduates have joined the following professional companies:

- Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
- Ballet Hispanico
- Dance Theatre of Harlem
- Houston Ballet
- Philadanco
- Richmond Ballet
- Trisha Brown Dance Company

Advanced students in COCA's dance department have been accepted into prestigious post-secondary programs including:

- Ailey School/Fordham
- Boston Conservatory
- Cincinnati Conservatory of Music
- Connecticut College
- New World School of the Arts
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- North Carolina School of the Arts
- Oklahoma City University
- Point Park College
- State University of New York at Purchase (SUNY)
- Southern Methodist University
- Syracuse University
- The Juilliard School
- University of Missouri-Kansas City

COCA's students have been accepted into or have received scholarships to prestigious national summer programs including:

- Alonzo King's LINES Ballet Pre-Professional Program
- American Ballet Theatre
- Dance Theatre of Harlem
- Doug Varone
- Interlochen
- Jacob's Pillow
- Joffrey Ballet School
- Perry Mansfield Performing Arts Camp
- San Francisco Ballet
- The Juilliard School

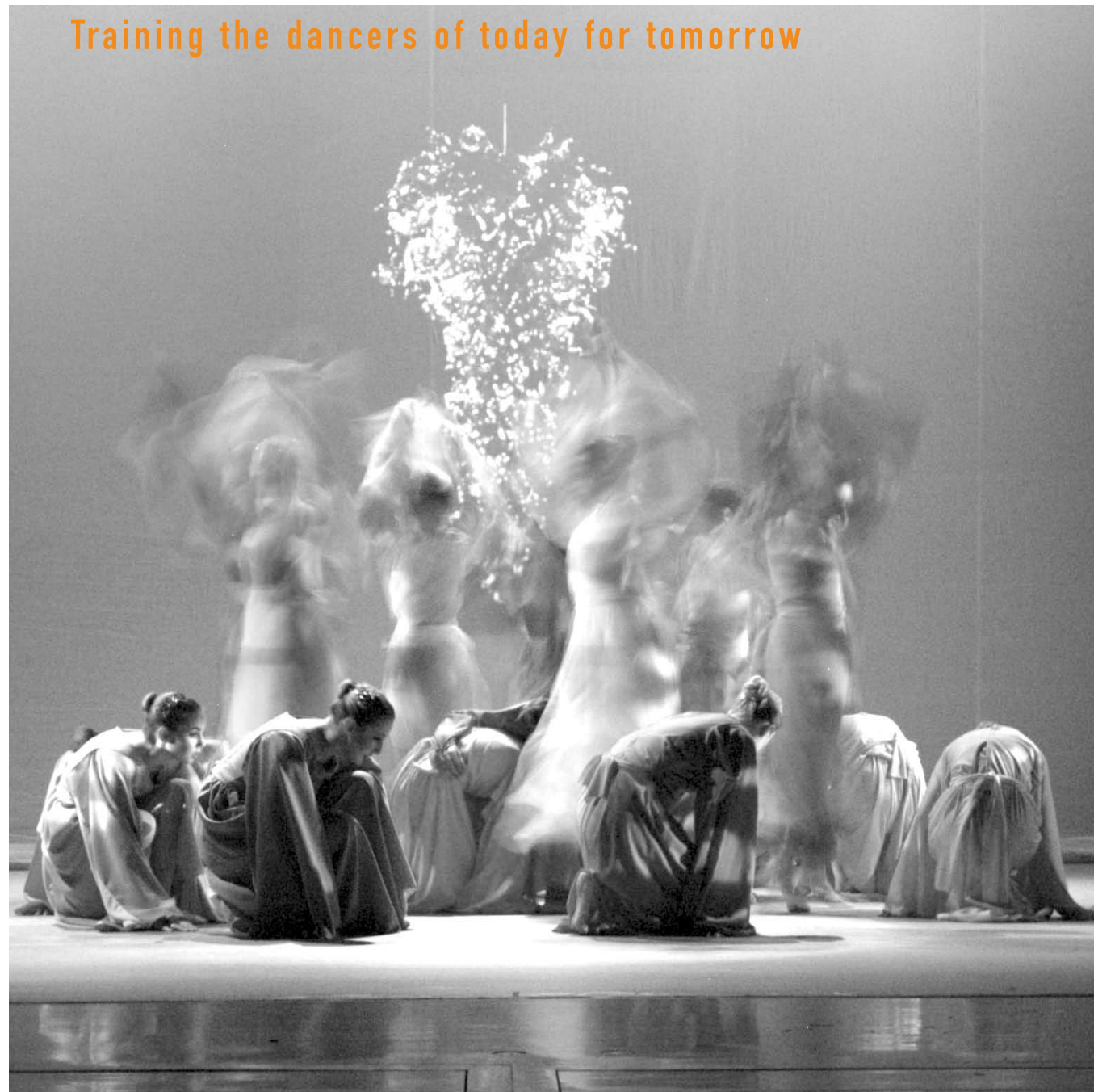


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WHAT'S INSIDE

# COCA

## PRE-PROFESSIONAL DANCE PROGRAM

Training the dancers of today for tomorrow



# PRE-PROFESSIONAL DANCE CURRICULUM



The following curriculum is implemented once a student has completed at least one semester of training at COCA, at age eight or older. The level of training for the student's first year in the program depends on his/her training experience, maturity and skills.

Required classes are year-long.

Students will be required to attend master classes offered at COCA and at other institutions, as well as pre-professional workshops at COCA on dance and musical theatre-related subjects such as dance history, musical theatre history, anatomy, composition, partnering, pedagogy, nutrition, improvisation, acting and music.

# MUSICAL THEATRE PRE-PROFESSIONAL CURRICULUM

## GRADES 2-3/AGES 8-9

2 classes/week

### Required

- One acting or voice class
- One ballet or jazz class

## GRADES 6-9/AGES 11-14

5 classes/week

### Required

- One acting class
- One voice class
- One ballet class
- One jazz class
- One tap class

## GRADES 10-12/AGES 14-18

7 classes/week

### Required

- Two acting classes
- Two voice classes
- One ballet class
- One jazz class
- One tap class

## GRADES 4-5/AGES 9-11

3 classes/week

### Required

- One acting or voice class
- One ballet class
- One jazz class

## GRADES 2-3/AGES 8-9

2 classes/week

### Required

- One ballet class
- One of either modern, jazz, or tap.

## GRADES 6-9/AGES 11-14

5 classes/week

### Required

- Two ballet classes
- Two of either modern, jazz, or tap.
- One Dance Enrichment class of student's choice.

\* Students are required to audition for COCA dance and/or Ballet Eclectica.

## GRADES 10-12/AGES 14-18

7 classes/week

### Required

- Three ballet classes
- Three in either modern, jazz or tap.
- One Dance Enrichment class of student's choice.

\* Students are required to audition for COCA dance and/or Ballet Eclectica.

## GRADES 4-5/AGES 9-11

3 classes/week

### Required

- Two classes of ballet
- One of either modern, jazz, or tap.

\* At the age of 11 or older, and in the high intermediate level of training, students are recommended to audition for COCA dance and/or the Ballet Eclectica.



COCA instructors document the development of each pre-professional student during each semester. Students are evaluated on the basis of their progress within the curriculum, arts and skills learned and ability to meet responsibilities. Progress reports are distributed to parents /guardians, to the program director and to the student's faculty advisor.

In 2003, COCA's Pre-Professional Dance Program was honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with a *Coming Up Taller* Award. The award, which recognizes outstanding youth development programs, was presented to COCA representatives at The White House by First Lady Laura Bush.

For more information on the Pre-Professional Program please consult Lee Nolting at (314) 725-1834 x113 or [lnolting@cocastl.org](mailto:lnolting@cocastl.org).