

# MIDLAND FESTIVAL BALLET

Dear Parents,

As we enter the 2024-2025 season, I wanted to include this information about the MFB Company, associated costs, Regional Dance America, and other company expectations.

Midland Festival Ballet is a non-profit, pre-professional ballet company whose members are all Permian Basin student dancers ages 11-18. They enjoy exciting opportunities, such as master classes from guest teachers, workshops with guest choreographers, and extra performance opportunities, both local and abroad.

With the extra performance opportunities comes extra time and effort. In addition to their weekly leveled classes, the Company has their own ballet class on Saturdays immediately followed by hours of rehearsal. They also come together to rehearse during the week after their classes on Tuesdays and Fridays.

It's a commitment, but it's an experience they never forget.

## **COMPANY OPPORTUNITIES & EXPECTATIONS**

**Class:** In addition to regular class attendance, Company dancers are expected to attend Company Class on Saturday mornings. They are also expected to attend additional rehearsals- the times are Tuesdays and Fridays following class until 9pm, and Saturdays following class. Please note that not all dancers attend all rehearsal slots each week, especially when they are new to the company. Rehearsal times will vary according to each dancer's roles for the season. Dancers will be asked to understudy different roles to further their advancement. **Company commitment includes attendance at all regularly scheduled School of MFB classes in addition to Company classes and rehearsals. Lack of attendance will put a dancer's Company membership in jeopardy.**

**Workshops:** Company dancers are asked to attend various Company Workshops throughout the season. These workshops are taught by master teachers/choreographers. During this time, the choreographer selects dancers to cast in each piece performed at RDA/SW Festival and/or our Spring Gala. Casting is at the discretion of the choreographer. **The first two company workshops will run from August 1-5 and August 8-10. (Workshop schedule will accommodate dancers in MISD.)**

**Performances:** Company dancers perform in *The Nutcracker (Dec 21 & 22, 2024)*, *The Firebird (March 29, 2025)*, and various community outreach performances throughout the year (these will be announced ASAP). Company members are also strongly encouraged to attend Regional Dance America/Southwest (RDA/SW) Festival. The Festival will take place March 12-16, 2025 in Ft. Smith, AR. While attendance is not mandatory, this is a wonderful chance for dancers to interact with their peers and work with world-class instructors.

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**What is Regional Dance America/Southwest?** Each year MFB company dancers attend RDA/SW Festival. This is not a competition, but instead a chance for dancers to attend 3 full days of classes taught by world-renowned teachers in different styles. There are also performances each night comprised of 18 companies across 5 states, so dancers can see and dance with their peers. This is especially valuable for MFB's dancers because we are isolated from professional dance and other similar ballet companies. There are also many scholarship opportunities at the festival for summer intensives and college dance programs. If you want more info about RDA, their website is a wealth of information:

<https://regionaldanceamerica.org/>

## **COSTS**

**Company Fee:** \$700 (paid in 8 installments)

**Company Dancewear:** *See Dress Code*

**RDA/SW:** Based on previous festivals, we expect the cost to attend RDA/SW will be ~\$750. This includes hotel, food, travel, and the dancer kit (class pass). The cost is the same for both dancers and chaperones. We are currently exploring fundraising options to help dancers offset the cost

*As part of our non-profit mission, MFB covers the costs associated with Choreographers and workshops, costumes, and other things of that nature.*

I know this is a lot of information all at once, so if you have questions for me or Ms. Clark, please be in touch. I'm happy to go into further detail should you have questions.

Thank you,



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