

LakeCities Ballet Theatre

REQUIREMENTS FOR LBT 2

WHAT IS LBT 2

LakeCities Ballet Theatre 2 is a Junior Company of LakeCities Ballet Theatre. Members of LBT 2 are dancers who are accepted through an open audition process. These auditions take place annually each spring. LBT was established in 1984 as a non-profit organization to provide a much needed performance venue for the serious dancer as well as to provide the community with the art of classical ballet. LBT and LBT 2 are guided by a volunteer Board of Directors and supported by an organized guild. Both groups devote many hours to the planning, administration and guidance of the ballet company. The LBT 2 is directed by Mrs. Shanon Tate. The Junior Company consists of approximately 12 to 15 members ages 10 & up. Apprentices are also accepted into the Junior Company to give students a chance to gain the strength necessary to become full members. We do not want to discourage anyone from dancing and realize that those who do not make the company will be disappointed. Every parent dreads dealing with this issue, but it is a very real part of any performing arts career, and it is possible to prepare your children to deal with disappointment in a positive way. It can be used in a healthy way as motivation to work harder towards their goals. Unlike "Nutcracker" where nearly every dancer receives a part, this is not possible in the company. Please discuss this possibility with your dancer before the audition. Everyone who is not accepted will receive an encouraging personal letter from the audition board explaining what areas need improvement.

It is important to remember that membership into LBT 2 is separate from your training with Ballet Conservatory. Ballet Conservatory is a school providing excellent training by an exceptional faculty. Tuition is paid to the school for this instruction only and to operate the building and staff. The school provides only one production each year (the Recital) in which each dancer pays a recital fee and for their own costumes. The company, however, provides several performing opportunities for a smaller and select group of dancers. The instruction received during company rehearsal concentrates more on the performing art, learning difficult repertory, perfecting technique and performing in front of an audience. The emphasis is on presenting classical ballets and these are very expensive to produce. The non-profit company allows us to raise money to offset these expenses, to apply for grants that assist cultural arts groups in the community, and to receive corporate and individual donations from those who support our mission to provide the community the professional quality ballet performance and to provide invaluable performance opportunities for our serious ballet students.

WHO MAY AUDITION: Those ages 10 & up whom are in Level 5 or higher may audition. Those 10 & up in Level 4 for the second year or those who are in Level 4 and are ages 12-14 may audition. LBT 2 will only accept between 12 and 15 members.

WHEN ARE LBT 2 REHEARSALS?

In addition to Friday company class and rehearsals from 4:45 to 6:45 pm dancers must take ballet class a minimum of three (3) day per week and one (1) modern class per week. Additional classes such as jazz and tap are highly recommended to achieve the musicality, style and versatility desired for LBT II dancers. A minimum of three (3) weeks of intensive training during the summer either at the Ballet Conservatory workshop or at an approved out of town program is also required. There will be Saturday rehearsals during Dracula, Nutcracker as well as during the spring show. Dancers must be available the first Saturday of Spring Break for rehearsal.

WHEN IS THE AUDITION? The audition is Saturday, May 8th 11:00-11:30 registration and 11:30-1:00 audition. A parent must sign the requirement sheet for the dancer to be considered for membership. Member will still need to audition for their "Nutcracker" part at the regular Open Audition.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR AND WHAT WILL THE AUDITION BE LIKE?

The standard audition attire is required: Ladies - black leotard, pink convertible tights, soft pink ballet slippers, pointe shoes if on Pointe and no skirts. Jazz shoes should also be brought into the audition. A ballet barre and combinations in ballet, modern and jazz will be given. Hair should be in a classical ballet bun, no bangs. Men – black tights, white T-shirt, white socks and shoes. Look your best! No sloppiness or dirty tights! No Jewelry! Dancers will be given approximately 1 ½ hours of class and 1 hour of Pointe combination as well as a modern combination.

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DANCER

1. Dancers must take a minimum of 3 days per week at the Ballet Conservatory: three days of ballet class and one modern class in addition to a Company Class on Fridays from 4:45 pm to 5:45 pm. This company class will be followed by company rehearsal from 5:45 to 6:45 pm. It is recommended that dancers continue with jazz, and tap classes, as training in the other dance forms will make you a stronger and more versatile dancer making you more valuable to LBT. Even though classical ballet is our focus, those who do not take modern or jazz may not be cast in modern or jazz choreography and may have difficulty being accepted. A minimum of three (3) weeks of intensive training during the summer either at the Ballet Conservatory workshop or at an approved (by Mrs. Lannin) out of town program is also required. I must be available the first Saturday of Spring Break for rehearsal. LBT 2 dancers will have a Ballet set on them this summer the week of July 19-23rd.
2. Dancers must be serious about their dance training and commit to the company for the entire school year. Parents should help the dancer understand the commitment involved when signing your name to a contract. While new friends will obviously be made within the company, a dancer should not audition for social reasons. Dancers will be expected to practice regularly to uphold the standards of LBT performances.
3. Dancers must maintain excellent attendance. A rehearsal cannot be missed without prior approval, and only for special reasons. Parents must call Mrs. Tate in advance if an illness or conflict arises. Dancers with excessive absences or conflicts will be placed on probation and or removed from the company.
4. Company members will accept any role assigned to them by the Director or guest choreographer with a positive attitude. While not all dancers are used for all LBT performances, they must all perform Dracula in October, "Nutcracker" in November and our Spring Show (TBA). Dancers are required and must be available to perform in the Youth America Grand Prix in Jan or Feb, Dance for the Planet in April/May, elementary school performances if scheduled and other performances as they come up. We receive invitations to perform throughout the year.
5. Due to the potential conflict of interest, standards or schedules, LBT and LBT 2 company members may not take classes at a studio other than the Ballet Conservatory, or perform with another group unless permission is received from the Artistic Director.
6. Positive attitudes are a must from both the dancer and the parents. Complaints should be addressed in a professional and respectful manner with the Board of Directors. Complaints concerning the dancer's casting or dance related areas are to be discussed with the directors. Dancers or their parents who are uncooperative, abusive verbally or otherwise, will be removed from the company with no refund of fees given. A Code of Conduct will be given out with contracts to protect our staff, Board Members, other dancers, volunteers and the reputation of LakeCities Ballet Theatre. Contracts will be given out after audition results are posted and must be returned by May 14th.
7. Dancers are required to work specific fundraisers. More specific information is included in the contract. Each female member will be responsible for their own black camisole leotard, tights and shoes as well as a pair of white or pale pink trunk, nude liner, a 1karat sized cubic zirconium earrings, false eyelashes and a group cover-up. Male members will be responsible for black tights and white tights, black shoes and white shoes and a group cover-up.
8. There will be a mandatory parent/dancer meeting on May 14th from 5:30 to 7:00pm.
9. Dancers and at least one of their parents must attend the mandatory annual meeting to be scheduled in September.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PARENT OF AN LBT II MEMBER?

While this organization was formed to provide a valuable performing opportunity for serious ballet students that will someday feed into LakeCities Ballet Theatre, the Ballet Conservatory cannot support the group financially. While the school will donate studio space, heating and cooling, etc. the studio cannot pay for the additional faculty, theater, costumes, lights, choreography, or any of the other large expenses incurred in a production. Therefore, it is up to the parents of the dancers who are receiving this wonderful opportunity to provide the additional support for this organization. This support comes in the form of an additional fee, fundraisers and volunteer hours to make the productions happen for your child. These volunteer hours can be chosen from the following: Fundraising and volunteering to assist with the various aspects of production such as costumes, backstage help, lobby sales, Basket for Ballet, etc. A committed Board of Directors is responsible for grant writing, policy-making, and deciding which fundraisers are most beneficial. The parents of LBT and LBT II members currently assist in all fundraisers as part of an organized guild. **Unfortunately, a child cannot participate if chosen without the parents' support and cooperation.** Below is a summary of the financial and volunteer commitments required.

1. Parents of LBT 2 members will pay \$25 a month in addition to their normal tuition to Ballet Conservatory to pay for the faculty and choreography needed for Friday's class and rehearsal.
2. In addition, there is a \$500 annual fee made payable to LakeCities Ballet Theatre. The first half is due with the signed contract in May and the remaining half at the annual meeting in September. Company members **do not** pay the \$85 "Nutcracker" participation Fee.
3. Parents are required to volunteer as members of the LBT Guild (Minimum of 30 hours 15 fall and 15 spring)
4. An annual parent and dancer meeting will be held for all current and new members and parents in September to discuss volunteer options, to sign contracts, discuss the season, and to answer any questions. The date of the LBT II meeting will be announced with the audition results. There will be an additional meeting for parents & dancers on May 14th 5:45-7:00pm. Mrs. Tate will give info to dancers each week via email and the web site.

WILL DANCERS HAVE TO RE-AUDITION EACH YEAR?

LBT 2 members will audition again each year to re-evaluate work ethic and progress for the year and to allow new dancers the opportunity for membership. All LBT and LBT II members must be a part of and audition for their "Nutcracker" parts. Later membership in LBT is not guaranteed particularly if pointe technique is not strong enough yet.

IF I AM NOT ACCEPTED INTO LBT 2, CAN I EVER HOPE TO BE A MEMBER OF LBT?

Of course! Some members will be "too old" or "too tall" to be in this junior company, but they will still be able to audition for LBT when they are strong enough in their pointe work. Some students will be late bloomers. We do not want to discourage any one from dancing and realize that those who do not make the company will be disappointed. Every parent dreads dealing with this issue, but it is a very real part of any performing arts career, and it is possible to prepare your children to deal with disappointment in a positive way. It can be used in a healthy way as motivation to work harder towards their goals. Unlike "Nutcracker" where nearly every dancer receives a part, we anticipate that LBT II will only have 12-15 members. Parents should prepare their child for this before the audition. Do not allow your child to audition if you think they are still too young to mentally understand the audition process. Feel free to speak to Mrs. Tate or Mrs. Lannin if you have any questions about whether to allow your child to audition.

NAME OF DANCER _____
AGE _____

1. I HAVE READ THE REQUIREMENT SHEET AND ALLOW MY CHILD TO AUDITION FOR LBT 2.
2. IF ACCEPTED, I AGREE TO ALLOW MY CHILD TO BECOME A MEMBER OF LBT 2.
3. I REALIZE THAT IF ACCEPTED, THIS COMMITMENT IS FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR. BREAKING A CONTRACT IN MID-YEAR FOR ANY REASON BESIDES SERIOUS ILLNESS IS UNPROFESSIONAL AND THE DANCER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REAUDITION FOR ANY LBT FUNCTION OR CONCERT. NO FEES ARE REFUNDABLE.
4. I ALSO AGREE TO PAY THE NECESSARY FEES AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ITEMS MENTIONED ABOVE.
5. I UNDERSTAND THAT LBT IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY PARENT VOLUNTEERS AND I AM WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE MY TIME AS NEEDED. (A MINIMUM OF 30 HOURS 15 fall and 15 spring)
6. I WILL MAKE SURE MY DANCER ARRIVES PROMPTLY TO ALL CLASSES AND REHEARSALS. I WILL ASSIST MY CHILD IN LEARNING TO COMMUNICATE PROFESSIONALLY WITH THE DIRECTOR WHEN IT COMES TO CONFLICTS, ETC. THESE COMMUNICATION SKILLS WILL BE NECESSARY IF THE DANCER SOMEDAY GOES ON TO DANCE WITH THE SENIOR COMPANY.
7. IF ACCEPTED, I WILL GO OVER THE DETAILED CONTRACT WITH MY CHILD AND UPHOLD THIS AGREEMENT WITH LAKECITIES BALLET THEATRE.
8. AT LEAST ONE PARENT AND DANCER WILL ATTEND ALL MANDATORY MEETINGS SCHEDULED. I WILL TURN IN THE REMAINING HALF OF MY FEE AT THIS MEETING.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO BY:

DANCER SIGNATURE
DATE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE

LBT & LBT II
Audition application 2010-2011

Name: _____ Studio Level (Ballet): _____

Parents' Names (if under 18): _____

Address: _____

City/Zip Code: _____ School: _____ Grade (2010-11): _____

Home Phone #: _____ Mom Cell: _____

Dad Cell: _____ Dancer Cell: _____

We communicate with email, please include all addresses necessary to stay informed:

Mom Email: _____ Dad Email: _____

Dancer Email: _____ Other Email: _____

Age: _____ Birthday: ___ / ___ / ___ Height: _____ Weight: _____

Please list # of classes per week in each dance form:

Ballet: _____

Pointe: _____

Modern: _____

Jazz: _____

Tap: _____

Pilates (Mat): _____ Pilates (Reformer): _____

Other (list anything else that enhances your dance training): _____

List Company experience (LBT, LBT II, Dance Fusion, etc.) (include # of years): _____

Please list any conflicts that might interfere with the rehearsal/performance schedule

(ex: orchestra, piano, dance team, work): _____

(Conflicts may determine whether or not we can accept you, as well as past attendance problems)

The Artistic Staff will decide which company (LBT or LBT II) you will benefit from the most regardless of age.

If you are not selected for LBT will you be willing to be a member of LBT II?

Yes: _____ No: _____ If No, please explain: _____

**TOTAL HOURS
PER WEEK (ALL):**

Days per Week: