

# *LakeCities Ballet Theatre*

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR LBT**

**(Adults see Director about requirements)**

### **WHAT IS LBT AND WHO CAN AUDITION?**

LakeCities Ballet Theatre is a company of dancers who are accepted through an open audition process. These auditions take place annually in the 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 is 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 company is directed by Mrs. Kelly Lannin and assisted by Mrs. Nancy Loch with Allan Kinzie as Artistic Advisor. Mrs. Janet Waters, a long-time principal dancer with LBT, serves as LBT's Ballet Mistress.

The company consists of approximately 20 to 25 members made up of adult and student dancers who are strong pointe dancers. Apprentices are also accepted into the company to give students a chance to gain the strength necessary to become full members. The minimum age for the senior company is 12 and females must be on pointe. 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 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 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.

### **WHEN ARE THE COMPANY REHEARSALS?**

Company Members are required to attend rehearsals Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:15 – 9:45 p.m. and on Saturdays including first Saturday of Spring Break from 12 to 6 p.m. Students are required to take the technique class prior to these times for proper warm-up and so that all the allotted time can be dedicated to rehearsals. A rehearsal schedule is posted each Monday to let dancers know of the upcoming week's rehearsal schedule. During peak performance times, all of these hours are used and an occasional additional rehearsal may be necessary. During off peak times, dancers may not have rehearsal at all. If dancers foresee a conflict whether during peak or off peak times, they must notify the Director personally as soon as possible to see if the problem can be resolved. Dancers who demonstrate poor attendance in classes or rehearsals will be removed from LBT.

### **WHEN IS THE AUDITION?**

The audition is Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 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. Members 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 shoes, pointe shoes, jazz shoes and no skirts. Men – black tights, white T-shirt, white socks and shoes. Hair should be in a classical ballet bun, no bangs. Look your best! No sloppiness or dirty tights! Dancers will be given approximately 1 ½ hour of class and 1 hour of pointe combinations, as well as a modern combination.

## **WILL DANCERS HAVE TO RE-AUDITION EACH YEAR?**

LBT student senior members must audition each year for their “Nutcracker” parts, but they do not have to audition for continued membership into LBT. However, LBT Apprentices must audition each year to re-evaluate work ethic and progress for the year.

## **WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DANCER?**

LBT dancers have become known for their highly polished presentations of classical dance and for their professionalism even though they are primarily students. To maintain this standard, the following must be agreed upon:

1. While many LBT dancers take classes 5 to 6 days a week, each dancer must take a minimum of 4 ballet technique classes a week in addition to company rehearsals. Those who take the minimum number of days will not be strong enough to be considered for more difficult roles. It is recommended that dancers continue with jazz, modern 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. Those who do not take modern may not be cast in modern works. Members must take a minimum of 3 weeks of Summer Workshop with at The Ballet Conservatory or at an out of town program.
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 standard of LBT performances.
3. Dancers must maintain excellent attendance. A rehearsal cannot be missed without prior permission and only for special reasons. Dancers must call if an emergency or serious illness or conflicts arises. Dancers with excessive absences or conflicts will be placed on probation and or removed from LBT.
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 (Jan or Feb), Dance for the Planet in April or May, elementary schools 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 Mrs. Lannin or Mrs. Loch. Dancers or their parents, who are uncooperative, physically or verbally abusive 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, dancers, volunteers and the reputation of the LakeCities Ballet Theatre.
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 trunks, nude liner, small diamond (Cubic Z.) stud earrings 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. 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 MEMBER?**

While the Ballet Conservatory understands the need for LBT, it cannot support the group financially. Ballet Conservatory will donate studio space, heating and cooling, etc. There are many additional expenses such as theater rental, 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, etc. A committed Board of Directors is responsible for grant writing, policy-making, and deciding which fundraiser are most beneficial. The parents of LBT members currently assist in all fundraisers as part of an organized guild. There is also an annual fee. **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. A \$500 annual fee made payable to LakeCities Ballet Theatre. Half will be due with the signed contract and the remainder due at the Annual meeting. Please contact a board member or the treasurer, Sharon Schweitzer if other financial arrangements need to be made.
2. 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 new members and parents in September to discuss volunteer options, discuss the season, and to answer any questions. Mrs. Lannin will give information to the dancers each week and post a rehearsal schedule on the board each Monday, as well as on the LBT Website at [www.lakecitiesballet.org](http://www.lakecitiesballet.org).

NAME OF DANCER \_\_\_\_\_  
AGE \_\_\_\_\_

1. I HAVE READ THE REQUIREMENT SHEET AND ALLOW MY CHILD TO AUDITION FOR LBT.
2. IF ACCEPTED, I AGREE TO ALLOW MY CHILD TO BECOME A MEMBER OF LBT.
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. THERE WILL BE NO REFUND OF FEES.
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. (MINIMUM OF 30 HOURS, 15 fall and 15 spring)
6. I WILL MAKE SURE MY DANCER ARRIVES PROMPTLY AT ALL CLASSES AND REHEARSALS. I WILL ASSIST MY CHILD IN LEARNING TO COMMUNICATE PROFESSIONALLY WITH THE DIRECTOR WHEN IT COMES TO CONFLICTS, ETC.
7. IF ACCEPTED, I WILL GO OVER THE DETAILED CONTRACT WITH MY CHILD AND UPHOLD THIS AGREEMENT WITH LAKECITIES BALLET THEATRE. I WILL TURN IN MY CONTRACT AND THE SECOND HALF OF THE FEE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. THE CONTRACT WILL INCLUDE A CODE OF CONDUCT AND OTHER INFORMATION.
8. AT LEAST ONE PARENT WILL ATTEND ALL MANDATORY MEETINGS SCHEDULED.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO BY:

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DANCER SIGNATURE

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

**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?

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

**# Days per Week:**

**Yes:** \_\_\_\_\_ **No:** \_\_\_\_\_ **If No, please explain:** \_\_\_\_\_