



Great Performances
Howard County Ballet
Great Training



Photos courtesy of Digital Magic



Howard County Ballet

Providing a loving and caring environment in which children and adults study and perform with professionals

Howard County Ballet is a Non-Profit Organization



The Howard County Center for the Arts
8510 High Ridge Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

www.howardcountyballet.org
410-465-9414

Educational Statement

The Howard County Ballet is unique in that we focus on developing people through the rhythm of dance that runs through all of us. We challenge dancers to reach their full potential by providing superior ballet training for all levels to professional with additional instruction in Modern, Jazz, and Character.

The Howard County Ballet provides a positive environment in which children and adults can grow and thrive as dancers and individuals. The study of dance facilitates necessary life skills such as discipline, hard work, commitment, time management and consideration for others, while learning to respect dance as an art form.

Why Dance for your child?

I saw a sign on the side of the road recently. It said, "Discipline and confidence make good grades". I agree. I also believe discipline and confidence make a good life. Dance is a fun and interesting way to learn a skill, while forming discipline and gaining confidence. The earlier these attributes are developed, the sooner a child can benefit from them. Children that have had the positive experience of dance, gain the tools for a good life. They can carry the love of dance into their adulthood, and will have it with them forever.

What type of dance should I choose for my child?

Within the art of dance there are varying styles of artistic expression. Dance is also a personal expression of art, in that we must choose for ourselves the medium of dance with which to be creative. Dance is much the same as painting or music. A painter may choose pastels, watercolors, charcoal, or oils. A musician may decide among classical, rock, jazz, popular, reggae, and so on. Children very often do not know which type of dance they prefer and as parents we need to guide them toward what is in their best interest.

Basics must be instilled as the dancer learns to love the dance. Ballet is recommended by most dancers and teachers to give students the building blocks for all dance forms. It is a good choice with which to begin your child's exploration of the art.

The Gift of Dance

The ability to dance is a gift that has been given to all living things in this world. It is a means of expressing, disciplining, and revitalizing us into better physical and emotional health. Dance can reach into our souls in a way that no other exercise can. It is a unique art form in that it encompasses many of the other forms, such as music, acting and visual arts in its presentation.



Codes of Dress and Etiquette

Dress Code

Ballet:

Girls: black leotard, pink tights, pink ballet slippers. Leotards may have any style sleeve, but should not have graphics or skirts attached. Tights should be free of obvious runs and tears. Hair must be neatly secured in a bun when possible. Girls with shorter hairstyles must secure hair off the face as much as possible. Girls en pointe should consider convertible tights for access to the toes. No baggy warm-up clothing is permitted. Ballet skirts may be permitted at the teacher's discretion; please check with your child's teacher before purchasing one.

Boys: solid, well-fitting t-shirt, solid dance pants or sweatpants, and black or white ballet slippers. No graphics. No baggy warm-up clothing is permitted.

Jazz:

Girls: solid colored leotard and tights or jazz pants. Jazz shoes are recommended.

Boys: well-fitting t-shirt, dance pants or sweatpants. Jazz shoes are recommended.

Traditional Standards of Ballet Etiquette

- Use the restroom before entering the studio to minimize disruptions to the class. Clean hands help to stop the spread of germs in the studio.
- Respectful and correct posture and attitude must be maintained throughout the entire class. This includes wearing the traditional ballet attire and hairstyle.
- If class is in progress, wait at the door until the music has stopped, the exercise has ended, and the teacher has invited you in before entering the studio.
- Directed attention toward the instructor at all times.
- Finish each exercise in the stance from which it began.
- Turn toward the barre between exercises.
- Sitting down is allowed only with the expressed permission of the instructor.
- Learn and assimilate the exercises quickly in order to receive the most out of the class. This is an art in itself and must be practiced.
- Pay attention to and assimilate corrections given to other individuals. If the correction is directed toward another person, apply it to your own learning.
- When another group is dancing, prepare yourself to begin dancing as they finish.
- At the end of an exercise, move only after the last note of the music has finished ringing.
- When executing a combination in the center of the room that advances forward; finish the exercise and move directly to the front, then to the side, before returning to the back of the room to repeat the exercise. This will enable other dancers to begin.
- Give thanks to the instructor and the accompanist at the end of each class.

Howard County Ballet Board of Directors

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Howard County Ballet Administrative Staff

Kathi Ferguson, Director
Zaneta McKoon, Production Coordinator
Rebecca Lowery, School Administrator
Heather Charles, Studio Manager

Class Descriptions

All class placements are subject to revision based on the teacher's recommendation. Students should expect to participate in each level a *minimum* of two years. Please note that the minimum age must be met by September 1 for each school year. Questions? Feel free to call us or email us at info@howardcountyballet.org.

Preschool Division Ages 2 1/2-6—No prior dance training required

These classes are designed to foster a love for dance and to teach the basics of movement and fundamentals of music in a developmentally appropriate manner while stressing creativity and imagination.

Preschool Ballet – Ages 2 1/2 -5 – No prior dance training required

Dance Basics – Ages 2 1/2 -3 – No prior dance training required

Pre-Ballet--Ages 4-6, No prior dance training required

This class is designed for the kindergarten student who has had limited dance training or a pre-schooler who has completed at least one prior year of dance. This class is more structured than Dance Basics and will concentrate on learning preparatory ballet skills. Excellent preparation for Ballet Level A.

Youth Division Ages 6-18- School uniform and traditional rules of ballet etiquette are taught and enforced as developmentally appropriate in this division.

Ballet Level A—Minimum age 6; one to two years prior dance training recommended and must be in 1st grade or above.

This class will introduce a more formal ballet class. Emphasis is placed on learning the fundamentals of ballet training.

Ballet Level B -Min. age 8; 2-3 years of prior dance training required

This class is designed to continue teaching a solid ballet technique while challenging the dancer with new steps. The dancer will be learning longer combinations and will be asked to apply corrections and show steady improvement. Dancers are required to take two classes per week at this level.

Ballet Level C- Min. age 10; Approval of Instructor Required

This class is designed to train the emerging dancer. Training will concentrate on gaining strength and flexibility while continuing to learn new steps and combinations. This class will provide a challenge. Dancers may be placed "En Pointe" as strength and age allows (this is strictly enforced by approval of the instructor). Dancers at this level are required to take three technique classes per week and are encouraged to take more.

Ballet Level D- Min. age 12, Approval of Instructor Required

This class is designed for the serious ballet student. Training will concentrate on producing a well-rounded ballet dancer. Technique, strength, flexibility and discipline are among the elements that will be stressed. Dancers at this level are required to take three technique classes per week and are encouraged to take more.

Youth Beginning Ballet- ages 9-13

This class is designed for the beginner ballet student in the third grade or above. It covers the same curriculum as Levels A and B but at a pace more appropriate for the older beginner. Students spend up to three years in this class and transition into the regular youth or teen/adult program as recommended by the instructor.

***** Classes specified as Youth classes with no age indicated, such as Modern/Lyrical and Jazz, are open to ages 7-13. Pre-professional classes require permission of instructor and are intended for youth dancers who have passed Level D.**

Teen/Adult Division Ages 14 and up

Jazz

Emphasis is placed on learning the fundamentals of a variety of jazz styles.

Beginner Ballet

Emphasis is placed on learning the fundamentals of ballet training.

Intermediate Ballet

This class is designed to continue teaching a solid ballet technique while challenging the dancer with new steps and more complex combinations.

Intermediate/Advanced Ballet- Approval of Instructor Required

This class is designed for the serious ballet student. Development of technique, strength, flexibility, and discipline continues and artistry gains more emphasis. Students should come prepared to work with a mature attitude toward their training. Dancers at this level are required to take three technique classes per week and are encouraged to take more.

*****Students approved for pointe classes must take a minimum of three ballet technique classes per week.*****

The Company: Mission and Sponsors

The Howard County Ballet is proud to provide the dancers, musicians, and audiences of Howard County with the opportunity to participate in high quality dance productions. It is part of our ongoing mission to provide dancers with new and exciting performance opportunities. Howard County Ballet performs *The Nutcracker* annually in December and performs a ballet in the spring of each year. These HCB performances are accompanied by live music played by the Howard County Ballet Orchestra. The company also performs at a variety of community events, such as the B&O Railroad Museum holiday program and local conventions. Events and performances vary from year to year.

Howard County Ballet production auditions are open to all area dancers, regardless of school of training. Auditions are held in September for *The Nutcracker* and in late January for the spring production.

The Howard County Ballet Company is supported by The Columbia Foundation, The Maryland State Arts Council, and The Howard County Arts Council through a grant from the Howard County Government.

Howard County Ballet is a non-profit 501(3)c organization. All donations are tax deductible. Call 410-465-9414 or visit www.HowardCountyBallet.org to make a donation.

Rachel Noonan is a graduate of Goucher College studying dance with concentrations in Arts Administration and Performance. She began her training in her hometown of Houston, Texas where she attended the exemplary High School for the Performing and Visual Arts studying a wide range of styles, including Ballet, Modern, Tap, Jazz, Indian, and Latin Ballroom. She has been teaching and choreographing for the past 8 years and currently performs with Deep Vision Dance Company and Chorégraphie Antique Dance Company.

Maria Royals has been a dance professional for over 20 years. She earned a BA in Dance, cum laude with high honors in dance, from Butler University, Indianapolis. She performed with the Harbinger Dance Company, The Michigan Opera Theater and Dance Detroit (Detroit, MI), Blue Mercury Dance Company and Elenor Coleman (New York), Arlington Classical Ballet, City Ballet of Milwaukee and Buffalo Ballet Theater. She has also performed leading roles with the Howard County Ballet. She received her Maryland Teaching Certificate (grades 6-12) in 2003 and is employed as the dance teacher at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School (Baltimore County).

Emily Runkle was born in Baltimore, Maryland and first began studying ballet at Ballet with Cindee Velle, under the direction of Cindee Velle and the esteemed Caryl Maxwell. For her senior year of high school she studied at The Rock School for Dance Education in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She has attended summer programs at the Rock School and at Ballet Magnificat!. In 2008-2009 she was a trainee with Ballet Magnificat!, America's premiere professional Christian ballet company. She is currently dancing professionally with the Harford Ballet Company and Howard County Ballet. Emily also dances with Merge Dance Company and is excited to combine her ballet technique with her new found love for contemporary styles.

Tuition Payment Schedule

Preschool and Youth Classes

Preschool and Youth Division classes are organized into three 12 week sessions for ease-of-payment purposes. We ask that you think of the three sessions as a year-long commitment. Tuition will be due the first week of each session. Scheduled breaks are built into the 12-week sessions. Due to Monday holidays, the tuition rate for Monday classes may be adjusted. Tuition is payable by cash or check.

Teen/Adult Classes

Teen/Adult Division classes are offered throughout the calendar year and are ongoing when the youth division classes are on break. Dancers ages 16 and above may chose to adhere to the youth schedule and payments or may purchase a 10-class card. With the class card, dancers may take any class on the schedule without the hassle of making up missed classes. Payments accepted in cash or check. *Class cards expire 1 year from date of purchase.*

Please visit our website,
www.HowardCountyBallet.org
for the current class schedule and tuition rates.

Teaching Staff

Kathi Ferguson, Founder, Director, and Choreographer, a native of the D.C. area, received her training at the National Ballet of Washington and Butler University. Having formerly danced with the Baltimore Ballet, Northern Ballet Theater of Virginia, Camile Izard and Dancers, and Classical Ballet Theater of Virginia, she is currently an instructor in dance at Goucher College. She was owner of Aesthetics for 17 years and has been the director of the Howard County Ballet since its inception. Ms. Ferguson is a recipient of a 2003 Award for Excellence from the Maryland State Arts Council for choreography. She also holds a Certificate in Innovation Management from the University of Maryland.

Dottie Adams received her training at the Montgomery Ballet Studio and graduated from the University of Maryland as a Dance Major. She danced for both the Montgomery Ballet Company and the Maryland Dance Theater and has been a respected teacher of dance in Maryland for over twenty years.

Leigh Alexander studied the R.A.D syllabus under Patty Enoch Bond in the Children's Dance Division at Towson University and attended Carver Center for the Arts where she studied under Elizabeth Lowe Ahern, Amanda Thom Woodson, Ken Skrzysz, and Jamie Host. Ms. Alexander holds an A.A. degree from CCBC in Dance and a BA in Dance Therapy from Goucher College. She was awarded outstanding dancer of the year for two consecutive years at CCBC. She has taught creative movement, ballet, tap, modern and lyrical. She is currently performing with the Howard County Ballet.

Debbie Braun began her studies locally at the age of five. She was awarded a scholarship at the Maryland Ballet and also studied Jazz with Wally Saunders, Paula Lynn, and Tim Roberts. She has been teaching for over 25 years. Ms. Braun also co-directs and performs with The Ellicott City Can Can Dancers, and has performed with several local dance companies. Her movie credits include *Cecil B. Demented* and *The Runaway Bride*, and she has also done numerous commercials.

Amanda Fair has been both dancing and writing poetry for over 21 years. A graduate of The Baltimore School for the Arts and The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, she holds a BFA in Ballet Performance. She has studied and assisted with teaching at The Dance Theatre of Harlem and has worked with choreographers such as Milton Myers, Andrew Papp, and Ronen Koresh. She has taught Ballet, Pointe, Modern and Jazz in numerous dance schools and is currently adjunct faculty at The Community College of Baltimore County's Essex and Catonsville campuses. Amanda has performed with Shange Dance Productions and The Washington Reflections Dance Company and is founder and director of Poetic Xpressions School for the Creative Arts and Poetic Xpressions Dance Company. Her choreographic work can be seen on Full Circle Dance Company, Shange Dance Productions, Synergy and Poetic Xpressions Dance Company. Ms. Fair is a winner of the 2010 Baker Artist Awards.

Rebecca Vaeth Lowery, School Administrator, began her dance training in the R.A.D. method at the Baltimore Ballet School under Wendy Robinson and continued her training at Towson University, Arthur Murray, the Classical Ballet Center, and Aesthetics. She has performed for Arthur Murray and with Dance Arts, the Baltimore Ballet, and the Howard County Ballet. She holds a B.S. in psychology, an M.Ed. in early childhood education, and has 18 years of classroom teaching experience. Ms. Lowery has taught ballet and ballroom dance in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina.

Zaneta Orem McKoon, Production Coordinator, was born in St. Louis, Missouri and grew up in Carroll County, Maryland. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Dance at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. She has performed nationally and internationally and has competed in the Ballet Internacional de Trujillo Competition in Peru. She has danced with the Butler Ballet of Butler University directed by Michelle Jarvis, where she performed in works by Susan McGuire (former member of Paul Taylor Dance Company), Merek Cholewa, Cynthia Pratt and Derek Reid.