



July 6, 2022

Dear Prospective SSB Young Dancers and Parents:

We are looking forward to an exciting year for 2022-23. Dancers have worked hard throughout the summer to maintain their technique and avail themselves of whatever dance opportunities are available. Many SSBYD dancers performed at the Lobero performance: A Summer Celebration of Music, as well as the SSB Summer Intensive performance at Center Stage. Other dancers went away to programs at Joffrey Chicago and Boston Ballet. This past year, it was great to be back in our home theater, having regular performances like the SSBYD Spring Celebration of Dance, Madeleine, and Rudolph. We were also proud to continue our Emerging Choreographer's program culminating in a concert at the studio in late Spring. SSBYD also attended the first TBA Festival since the pandemic, held in El Paso. We expect to have another full SSBYD season this coming year, with some amazing choreographers, like Eva Stone, as well as some talented alumni.

Promoting the young choreographer's voice is a primary mission of The Ballet Alliance, the national organization to which we have belonged for over 20 years now and we think it has been a valuable experience. The dancers in Levels 4-6 audition to be part of this performing company and attend the Festival each year, where they take classes from well-known instructors, attend seminars and performances, and have opportunities to learn about college dance programs. Advanced dancers can audition for summer program scholarships or college programs. Last year, the Festival was held in El Paso, Texas. This year's festival is once again scheduled to be in El Paso, Texas April 5-9, 2022.

In 2018, SSBYD instituted an Emerging Choreographer's program, where dancers in SSBYD can apply to set choreography on other members to be performed in a late Spring Emerging concert. This opportunity continues to be available to all SSBYD members.

In SSBYD, there are five divisions of dancers—**Company, Apprentice 1 and 2, and Junior 1 and 2**,--and those levels are based on experience, level of technique and movement quality, maturity, commitment and work ethic.

Company Level dancers are the highest level dancers in SSBYD, generally made up of Level 5&6 dancers in the school. In addition to the Level Requirements for their level in the school, they will take the Wednesday SSBYD class and be available for rehearsals on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday all throughout the school year and be available when visiting choreographers are in town to set works. (Scheduled well in advance.) **Company** dancers will be given first consideration(although consideration is not a guarantee) in all adjudicated works. This year's adjudication date will be confirmed in the fall and will most likely occur in January.

Apprentice 2 dancers may be chosen to be in an adjudicated work, but it is not guaranteed. Apprentice 2 dancers must also be available Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays for rehearsals. The choreographers choose the dancers they want to have perform their works. If not chosen to be in an Adjudicated work, **Company and Apprentice 2** dancers are invited and encouraged to understudy those works. By understudying the works, dancers learn style and develop strength so that they may improve as dancers. **Apprentice 1 and Junior** dancers will not be cast in any adjudicated works and will not take the adjudication class, but will perform in SSBYD performances and must be available for Friday and Saturday rehearsals. Apprentice 1 dancers are allowed, but not required to attend Festival, but **Junior dancers** will only be invited to attend the Festival if there are enough opportunities for the younger dancers. **All dancers in SSBYD** will be cast in both *Rudolph* and *Nutcracker* in the Fall, and, we will have guest choreographers work with the dancers for the *Spring Celebration of Dance*. There will also be an Emerging Choreographers Performance. Only members of SSBYD will perform in the Spring SSBYD performances. **All members** will have a headshot taken, along with group photos, will be represented on the SSBYD website, and receive a company t-shirt and leotard. New SSBYD dancers may order and purchase an SSBYD jacket. To maintain the high standards set by The Ballet Alliance for pre-professional ballet companies (like SSBYD), each dancer is expected to strive for his/her personal best. Placement auditions will be Saturday, **September 11**.

Below are listed the major obligations of each dancer and family when becoming a part of SSBYD.

1. Dancers must be fully registered at Gustafson Dance. Attendance is mandatory for all classes for your level. Exceptions to the required class schedule must be discussed with the directors prior to the start of classes in order to be pre-approved.
 2. Classes that are missed for any reason, including homework, illness, school activities, and family commitments, should be made up in other classes during the week.
2. Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals. Absences due to homework, illness, school trips, and family commitments are not excused by this policy. Absences for any reason, however unfair it may seem, may necessitate a dancer being replaced in choreography.

In order for the company to work as a team and keep its standards high, we need to have all members in attendance at every rehearsal or other people's time and energy are wasted. We want to enhance the performance of the group by utilizing rehearsal time in a productive and positive way. This can only happen when EVERYONE is present. Directors, teachers and dancers will be enthusiastic, focused and committed if all in the Company are participating at the highest level.

3. Attendance at all Dress Rehearsals is mandatory. **Dancers may not be absent at any time during the two weeks prior to the date of scheduled performances, Adjudication or Festival.** Plan to be at the theatre multiple days of the week for the major shows.

4. If a dancer has 5 absences without make-ups being arranged, the consequences may include being dropped from all choreography with no refunds given or not being allowed to attend Festival as a performing member.

6. The 2022-2023 budget for the State Street Ballet Young Dancers includes the following:

- Annual dues for The Ballet Alliance
- Choreographers' fees
- Rehearsal costs
- Production costs including costumes, programs, posters
- Some administrative and office supply costs
- Celebration of Dance production costs
- Adjudicator hosting costs
- Website hosting annual fee
- Company Photography and Videography
- Festival Raffle Prize
- Festival Raffle Tickets for dancers
- Company T-shirts and leotards

7. The required dues per individual are \$650 cash or check or \$675 with credit card, due upon acceptance. . Once these fees are paid, they are nonrefundable, regardless of the circumstances. Parents will be expected to assist at the SSBYD adjudication and shows. We are looking forward to your participation in SSBYD this year.

Sincerely,
Allison Gustafson and Cecily MacDougall
Co-Directors, SSB Young Dancers

SSBYD Dancer Contract/Code of Conduct 2022-23

Please return this form with a check for the \$650 dues made out to SSBYD by September 18, 2022.

I, _____ (Student's name), agree to be a
_____ (level of Company) member of the State Street Ballet Young
Dancers for the 2022-2023 season (August 23-May). I understand that there are five divisions of

dancers—Company, Apprentice 1 and 2, and Junior 1 and 2 --and those levels are based on experience, level of technique and work ethic. Company and Apprentice 2 dancers have the opportunity to be cast in adjudicated works and may be invited to take the adjudication class. Apprentice 1 and Junior dancers will not be cast in any adjudicated works and will not take the adjudication class. I further understand that the choreographers choose the dancers they want to have perform their works. Even though I may not be in the adjudicated pieces, I recognize the value of being a part of this group, in that I will dance in choreography in the SSBYD show in the Spring, may understudy works I have not been chosen for and will attend the Festival as a member of the SSB Young Dancers. As a dancer, I agree to the Code of Conduct as outlined below:

1. I will attend the required classes for my level per week (as outlined in the Class Level Requirements found on the Gustafson Dance website) and all rehearsals. I will notify the office before 3:30pm on weekdays, and by 8:30 am on Saturdays if I become ill or if I am unexpectedly unable to attend that day. For any known absent dates, I will turn in a note in writing at least two weeks in advance, but preferably in September. I will also be responsible to take makeup classes, therefore maintaining the proper level of training, keeping my body strong and healthy, and contributing to the company as a unit.
2. I will represent Gustafson Dance, SSBYD and State Street Ballet Company to the best of my ability by behaving in a professional and respectful manner at all classes, rehearsals, performances and group activities.
3. I will show respect to all teachers, directors, choreographers, fellow dancers, parents, and theatre staff.
4. I will come to classes, rehearsals and performances in uniform, on time and prepared to work.
5. I will not consume alcoholic beverages or engage in drug use while a member of SSBYD. I understand that if I violate this rule, consequences may include probation or expulsion from SSBYD.
5. I will not miss class or rehearsals two weeks prior to a performance date.
6. I will not miss any dress rehearsals or performances.
7. I will make sure that I have my List of Required Items.
8. I will pay attention in all classes and rehearsals, avoiding unnecessary conversations.
9. I will respect my fellow dancers, choreographers, teachers, chaperones and directors, by avoiding gossip, unhealthy competition and unnecessary discussion over the internet. I understand that all dancers in SSBYD are committed members of the Company and should be treated with the utmost respect regardless of abilities and casting.
10. I agree to sell 10 tickets to the Celebration of Dance performance on March 19.
11. I will show respect to all parents of SSBYD dancers who are working hard to make my participation with SSBYD possible.
14. I will show responsibility by communicating directly with directors, teachers and choreographers when I need to.

I understand my placement in the Company, what I am required to do and how I am expected to behave as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

_____ (Student Signature)

_____ (Date)

I, _____ (Parent's name), agree to support my child's participation in the State Street Ballet Young Dancers. I agree to make the financial commitment of \$575 in dues, plus all Festival fees for my dancer (*Juniors and Apprentice I may be excluded*). I will assist with preparations for adjudication and the Celebration of Dance performance on March 19 by being in charge of _____ or by paying an additional \$50 opt out fee (The parent volunteer commitment for SSBYD is separate from the parent volunteer commitment for Gustafson Dance.). Further, I will support the SSBYD mission to the best of my ability.

_____ (Parent Signature)

_____ (Date)

Anticipated Individual Festival Travel Costs: \$1650

Flight from Santa Barbara: \$450

Hotel for 4 nights: \$300

Spending and Meal Money: \$200

Festival Kit Price: \$550

Shared Chaperone Cost: \$150

List of Required Items

- Women:** Company Leotard (Will be decided on in September)
Colored Leotard for appropriate class level
Black Leotard
Black Ballet skirt (Bullet Pointe style preferred)
Pink Ballet Shoes, Pointe Shoes, Toe protectors, Toe Tape
Non Slip Socks or Booties for over Pointe shoes at the theatre
Ballet Pink Tights
Black Tights
Black Jazz Pants
Black Jazz shorts
Black and Tan Jazz Shoes
Nude Undergarments, and any Undergarments needed for specific costumes (as needed).
Sparkle Earrings
Character Skirt
Theraband and Yoga Mat
Nail Polish Remover
Sewing Kit
Jet Glue/Super Glue for Pointe Shoes as needed
Hair Supplies including Hair Nets and Gel
Stage Make-up, including Deep Red Lipstick and lip liner
Purple, Brown and White Eye
Shadow
Black Pencil and Liquid Eye
Liner
White Pencil

Pencil Sharpener
Eyelashes and Glue
Face Make-up and Powder
Red/Rust toned blush Blush (not

pinky pink)

Suggested: Tan Character Shoes, Foot Undies

Men: Company Dance top (Will be decided in September)
White and Black T-Shirt/Dance Top
Black tights, Black Jazz Pants, Black Jazz Shorts
Black and White Ballet Shoes, Black and Tan Jazz Shoes
Light Stage Make-up
Dance Belt