

August 14, 2024

Dear Prospective State Street Ballet Young Dancers and Parents:

We are looking forward to an exciting year for 2024-2025. 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 Junior Intensive performance: Celebration of the 80's at the Lobero Theatre, as well as the SSB Summer Intensive performance at Center Stage. Other dancers went away to programs at Kansas City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

This past year, SSBYD dancers took center stage in our productions of Rudolph and Tina the Ballerina, and put on their own show: Celebration of Dance. We expect to have another packed SSBYD season this coming year, with some incredible guest choreographers, like Aaron Smythe, as well as some talented alumni, such as an award-winning piece by Fenna Roukema. 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 an early Spring Emerging concert. This opportunity continues to be available to all SSBYD members in the following levels; Company IV, III, & II.

The dancers in Levels 3B-6 are invited to audition to be part of the SSBYD performing company every year and those placed in Company III or IV attend the The Ballet Alliance Festival each year. Company II dancers are invited to attend, but not required. At the TBA festival, dancers 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. Promoting the young choreographer's voice is a primary mission of The Ballet Alliance (TBA), the national organization to which we have belonged for over 20 years now and we think it has been a valuable experience. SSBYD dancers attended the TBA Festival in May of last year in Spokane, WA, with many dancers performing in "Sharp Crown" choreographed by Oscar Bravo. This year's festival is scheduled to be in **Spokane, WA, April 29-May 2, 2025.**

Please see the following pages for more information on each Division, Adjudication, TBA Festival, annual dues, required items, and the SSBYD Contract.

Sincerely

Allison Gustafson and Cecily MacDougall

Co-Directors of State Street Ballet Young Dancers

## **SSBYD Divisions & Adjudication**

*In SSBYD, there are four divisions of dancers — Company IV, III, II, & I. Those levels are based on experience, level of technique and movement quality, maturity, commitment and work ethic. **Dancers will often spend 2 years within a division**, to ensure that they are properly prepared and strong enough to move up, and to uphold the strict standards of each division.*

**Company IV** division 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 Company 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 is **Sunday, March 9th**. Additionally, Company IV dancers are required to attend the TBA festival in **Spokane, WA, April 29-May 2, 2025**.

**Company III** division dancers are the second highest level dancers in SSBYD, generally made up of Level 4C&5 dancers in the school. Company III dancers may be chosen to be in an adjudicated work, but it is not guaranteed. Company III 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 IV & Company III dancers are invited and encouraged to understudy those works. By understudying the works, dancers learn the style and develop strength so that they may improve as dancers. Company III dancers still take part in the Adjudication class on **Sunday, March 9th**, regardless of casting in Adjudicated works. Company III dancers are required to attend the TBA festival in **Spokane, WA, April 29-May 2, 2025**.

**Company II & I** dancers make up the lower divisions of SSBYD, and are designed to ease the dancers into the more demanding and competitive divisions of the SSBYD company. These levels are generally made up of Level 3B, 4A, and 4B dancers in the school. They will not be cast in any adjudicated works and will not take the adjudication class but will perform in SSBYD performances. These dancers are highly encouraged to observe the adjudication class and performance on **Sunday, March 9th**. Company I dancers must be available for Friday and Saturday rehearsals; Company II must be available for Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday rehearsals. Company II dancers are encouraged, but not required, to attend TBA Festival. Company I dancers will only be invited to attend the Festival if there are enough opportunities for the younger dancers.

**All dancers in Level 4-6 will be cast in Rudolph in the Fall and only those in SSBYD will be cast in The Nutcracker.** We will have guest choreographers work with the dancers for the Spring Celebration of Dance. There will also be an Emerging Choreographers Performance for

Company IV, III, & II dancers. Only members of SSBYD will perform in the Spring Celebration of Dance performance & The Nutcracker. 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 will also receive 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, August 24th**. The SSBYD Photoshoot is tentatively set for **Saturday, October 5th**.

### **SSBYD Dancer & Family Obligations**

*Below are listed the major obligations of each dancer and family for being a part of SSBYD.*

1. Dancers must be fully registered at State Street Ballet Academy. 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 to be pre-approved. 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, 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. Injured dancers should still attend rehearsals. For the company to work as a team and keep its standards high, we need to have all members in attendance at every rehearsal, otherwise 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 those 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 theater 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.

## **SSBYD Dues**

The 2024-2025 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

The required dues per individual are **\$675 cash or check**, due upon acceptance. Dues may also be paid in three installments of \$225, on the 15th of September, October, & November. Checks must be made out to SSBYD. Checks or online payments made to State Street Ballet Academy cannot be accepted. 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.

### **Additional TBA Festival Costs:**

Anticipated Individual Festival Travel Costs: \$1500+

- Flight from Santa Barbara
- Transportation to and from the Hotel
- Hotel for 4 nights
- Festival Kit Price

+ Spending and Meal Money: \$300

*Festival dues may be paid in installments in the Spring, once the finalized amount is calculated.*

## **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 trunks for under costumes
- White practice tutu
- Pink Ballet Shoes, Pointe Shoes, Toe protectors, Toe Tape
- Non Slip Socks or Booties for over Pointe shoes at the theater
- 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 for conditioning
- Nail Polish Remover
- Sewing Kit
- Jet Glue/Super Glue for Pointe Shoes as needed
- Hair Supplies including Hair Nets and Gel
- Stage Make-up:
  - 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: Black 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

## **SSBYD Dancer Contract/Code of Conduct 2024-2025**

*Please return this form with a check for the \$675 dues made out to SSBYD by September 15, 2024. If you would like to opt-in for installment payments, please return this form with a check of \$225 in dues by September 15. The following 2 payments of \$225 will be due October 15 & November 15.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Student's name), agree to be a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (level of SSBYD) member of the State Street Ballet Young Dancers for the 2024-2025 season (August 26-May 18). I understand that there are four divisions of dancers — Company IV, III, II, & I — and those levels are based on experience, level of technique and work ethic. Company IV & III dancers have the opportunity to be cast in adjudicated works and will take the adjudication class. Company II & I 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:

### **Code of Conduct:**

1. I will attend the required classes for my level per week (as outlined in the Class Level Requirements found on the SSBA website) and all rehearsals. I will notify the office before 3:30pm on weekdays, and by 8:30am 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 or email 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 SSBA, 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 theater 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.
6. I will not miss class or rehearsals two weeks prior to a performance date.
7. I will not miss any dress rehearsals or performances.
8. I will make sure that I have my List of Required Items.

9. I will pay attention in all classes and rehearsals, avoiding unnecessary conversations.
10. 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.
11. I will show respect to all parents of SSBYD dancers who are working hard to make my participation with SSBYD possible.
12. I will show responsibility by communicating directly with directors, teachers and choreographers when I need to.

I understand my placement in the SSBYD 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 \$675 in dues, plus all Festival fees for my dancer (Juniors and Apprentice 1 may be excluded). I will assist with preparations for adjudication and the Celebration of Dance performance on March 15th by signing up to volunteer or paying an additional \$100 opt out fee (The parent volunteer commitment for SSBYD is separate from the parent volunteer commitment for SSBA). Further, I will support the SSBYD mission to the best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent Signature) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)