

THEATER ARTS

Junior Mainstage

An abridged musical production, complete with roles, lines, songs, choreography and costumes! This is perfect for kids getting their feet wet in theater as well as more experienced performers looking for leadership opportunities and reinforcement of fundamental theater skills. Our Junior Mainstage expands upon skills learned, allowing for increased opportunities and exploration of more in-depth theater concepts and character development. Presented in our in-house black box theater; performances are ticketed events.

Advanced Musical Theater

Students work in-depth vocally on ensemble and small group numbers, incorporating dance technique and choreography specific to musical theater, and hone their acting technique through partner scenes and vignettes. Solos, duets and monologues are implemented as students age up and progress in skill level. Curriculum utilizes professionally produced scripts and songs, creating an advanced cabaret performance featuring ensemble production numbers as well as character and vocal work. Commitment from September - June.

NEW - Advanced Acting for Film

Students in this class will train in on-camera acting technique, utilizing actual scripts from Netflix, NBC, CBS, Disney, Pixar, Nickelodeon, feature films, as well as commercials. Students will go deeper on how to approach a script, critically thinking about objectives and how to properly raise the stakes. They'll get insider tips and hands-on experience creating their own self-tape auditions, practicing slates and developing compelling personality questions. Material is selected individually for the student based on their age, skill level and personality. Commitment from September - June.

Highly Recommended - Broadway Dance

A NEW musical theater dance class at PAAM for all levels! Learn the dances that changed Broadway forever by renowned choreographers including Susan Stroman, Michael Benette, and Bob Fosse. Students will work on original choreography from hits like Hairspray, A Chorus Line, West Side Story, covering a variety of styles specific to musical theater (jazz, ballet, tap, and more). Offered in 6-week sessions.

Musical Mashup & Musical Revue

An exciting introduction to the world of musical theater! Students delight in singing and dancing to musical favorites. Classes incorporate ballet, creative movement, dance and imaginative activities in a fun-filled environment where creativity and expression are nurtured. This class builds on basic skills and allows young performers to continue to grow, learn and imagine during their preschool and beginning elementary years. Emphasis is on building coordination, musicality, rhythm, confidence, and core dance and theater technique.

Musical Theater

Dive into the world of musical theater! Students learn popular ensemble songs from musicals, complete with staging, choreography, and character work. Class begins with a jazz based warm-up followed by center technique that incorporates steps typical to musical theater and jazz. INT integrates more complex dance technique and higher expectations with regard to line delivery and acting etiquette. Vocally, students will work on range and diction for musical theater singing and apply acting techniques and musical theater dance choreography. Fall Session: students work on a mini musical, giving them exposure to individual lines and solo opportunities as well as ensemble choreography. Spring Session: students hone their abilities to execute given material with precision and work together as a group to create pieces for the May Showcase.

Petite/Demi Broadway

An exciting introduction to the world of musical theater! Students delight in singing and dancing to musical favorites. Classes incorporate ballet, creative movement, dance and imaginative activities in a fun-filled environment where creativity and expression are nurtured. This class builds on basic skills and allows young performers to continue to grow, learn and imagine during their preschool and beginning elementary years. Emphasis is on building coordination, musicality, rhythm, confidence, and core dance and theater technique.

DANCE & THE BALLET CONSERVATORY

Petite/Demi Dance Express

Our Petite & Demi Dance Express programs are designed to give our littlest artists a taste of timeless dance styles and new favorites. Your artist will be taught two styles of dance (for more information, we invite you to read about the specific styles below) in a warm, fun and engaging environment, designed to build motor skills, balance, core strength, coordination, imagination and an appreciation for the performing arts. We structure class in an age-appropriate manner, for their technical base to be built while allowing creativity to blossom.

Ballet

Please inquire for more details regarding the Ballet program and specific levels. The levels have distinct curriculum and build on foundations, expanding terminology. Overall goals of the ballet program are: proficient and excellent execution, expanding knowledge of terminology, carriage of the arms, alignment, flexibility, strength and proper engagement of muscles to promote turnout, balance and power.

Pointe

Approval is required for entrance into the pointe program. Class begins with focused work on strengthening feet, finding balance, and pulling up and out of the toes. Beginning classes consist of barre work with the goal of moving towards center. At the barre, exercises promote proper placement, turnout, hips and abdominal engagement, and lower body strength through the limbs and feet. Barre work builds strength properly, working on moving from execution with two feet, to exercises transferring weight from one foot to the other and focusing on technique engaging one supporting/standing leg at a time. Once students establish proper barre execution, they continue to center and across the floor technique. Advanced pointe students are individually approved to wear pointe shoes in designated ballet classes to allow dancers to fully transition to en pointe, executing technical exercises and choreography.

Jazz

A combination of a variety of styles of dance - ballet, musical theater, modern, and social dances – Jazz explores explosive and dynamic movement. This class builds a firm technical and strength base, allowing for individualized movement. Emphasis is on developing strength, style, dynamics, expression and flexibility. Students of jazz are strongly encouraged to study ballet simultaneously for the best possible jazz experience.

Jazz Funk

Founded in a variety of dance styles, Jazz Funk also incorporates elements of pop and hip hop influences. This high energy and sassy class is a fun extension of the classic jazz style. Students of jazz are strongly encouraged to study ballet simultaneously for the best possible jazz experience.

Broadway Dance

A combination of a variety of styles of dance that are all seen in musicals and on Broadway - ballet, jazz, character, folk, cultural dances and social dances. Broadway Dance explores storytelling through diverse and dynamic movement that bring the emotion and intent of music to life. This class builds from a technical jazz warm-up, center and across the floor work focused on technique necessary for the musical theater dancer, and culminates with choreography from a musical. This class is a great option for the well-rounded dancer or musical theater performer, emphasizing movement, dynamics, timing, rhythm, execution and expression.

Contemporary

A FUSION class – students interested in contemporary and lyrical will find this class an excellent fit. A challenging and inspiring class, Contemporary takes elements of ballet, jazz, lyrical and modern dance, fusing into movement that is edgy, grounded, graceful, and driven by emotion. This class aims at exposing students to a distinct quality of movement, engaging core strength, balance, and flexibility while emphasizing bodylines and sustained extension. Ballet training is encouraged to maximize results.

Lyrical

Combines the beauty of ballet with the power of jazz, using motion to interpret music and express emotion. A lyrical dancer's movements attempt to show the meaning of the music. Lyrical is a passionate dance style and tells a story through every movement made. Lyrical dance has a relatively recent history and a genesis based on the coming together of ballet with rock/folk/pop/alternative music and a variety of jazz dance styles and modern dance. It is mainly performed to music with lyrics, and the song's lyrics are a driving force and key inspiration for the movement. Choreography is often emotional, gripping, and delicate, all at the same time.

Tap

A must for the well-rounded dancer and student of musical theater, PAAM tap class curriculum goals focus on building proficient tap dancers in the style of musical theater. Tap is specifically wonderful for building rhythm, timing and execution of intricate patterns. Technique expands from basics like shuffles and flaps and incorporates more advanced techniques such as time steps, wings, drawbacks, pullbacks and more. Dancers work on developing clean sounds, expression and coordinating upper body presentation with fast footwork.

Hip Hop

Set to popular music, Hip Hop aims to build rhythm, expression and style. Class begins with a high-energy warm-up followed by core strength exercises to develop a strong base. Center work includes hard-hitting choreography, isolations, complex footwork, and more. Students are encouraged to integrate expression and attitude, and gain an understanding of dynamics and timing. Choreography increases in difficulty and maturity as the students get older and more experienced.

Acro

Dancers learn how to properly develop acrobatic and gymnastic skills with an emphasis on balance, strength and flexibility. Unlike a gymnastics class, acro does not employ the use of large apparatus. Most work is done on mats, with the goal of moving to the floor. Props such as "cheese mats", bosu balls, Therabands, blocks (and more) are used to assist with proper execution and increase strength and flexibility. Students learn to blend dance and acrobatics as seen in such places as Cirque du Soleil.

Leaps/Turns

This technique class concentrates on the technical aspects of leaping, jumping and turning by teaching a series of jumps, leaps and turns, weight and direction changes. Dancers develop balance, strength, elevation and increased body alignment. Class is a highly recommended supplement to dance training. Curriculum increases in difficulty through the levels and exposes dancers to the latest trends and technique combinations. This is a non-performing class.

Progressions

A more advanced version of our leaps/turns class, focusing not only on across the floor skills, but also on the linking of advanced skills through intricate transitions, and focus on technique and approach to a sequence of skills as opposed to individual/isolated technique. This is a non-performing class.