



Dance Company INFO Packet 2010-2011

AMP runs 5 Student Dance Companies, providing pre-professional experience for serious dancers ages 9-20 years old. Students must participate in a rigorous month-long audition process (applications, dancing, oral/written interviews) to enter one of five dance companies (Impact, Vibe, Impulse, Axis and Axis Pro) which combined include 40 dancers. Company dancers are trained in ballet and jazz technique, choreography, and have opportunities to attend Master Classes, travel to conventions, and perform at local events.

Through AMP's partnership with Santa Barbara Dance Arts, company dancers receive their formal dance training through a broad and rigorous curriculum offered by Dance Arts faculty. Company members are also trained in mentorship and philanthropy. Dancers serve as dance company captains, big sisters to younger dancers, and teaching assistants. Company dancers also learn about the business of running and sustaining dance programs at a local level. Our companies have their own annual show at Center Stage Theatre called Configuration in which the company members perform their repertory and are taught to choreograph and assist in production, lighting, and costuming. Year after year, Company members insist this is their favorite weekend of the year and in 2010 we sold out 4 shows! Collaborating with Santa Barbara Dance Arts has allowed AMP to host its second annual Student Choreography Showcase directly in a dance studio. This show was completely directed and produced by the Axis and Axis Pro Dance Companies with the assistance of the other three companies. These young philanthropists raised over \$5000 for the Arts Mentorship Program scholarship and company programs.

AMP's Student Dance Companies also have unique opportunities to perform and travel. The dancers attend The PULSE Convention in Las Vegas with So You Think You Can Dance and America's Best Dance Crew professionals. In 2010, Axis Dance Company received the great honor of being the Faculty Favorite and was invited to perform in NYC and LA. The Dance Companies also perform at local events including: SBCC Football Game Halftime, UCSB Gaucho Basketball Halftime, The Lemon Festival, Earth Day, MUS Carnival, Crane School, SB International Film Festival, Dance Alliance Teen Choreographers Showcase, and the Santa Barbara Dance Alliance's BASSH, and Santa Barbara Dance Day. For Student Dance Company requirements, [application](#), [calendars](#), and [information](#), please click on the links.

Requirements To Audition

We encourage ALL interested dancers to audition even if it is for the EXPERIENCE! It takes pressure off of future audition years

- 9 years old +
- Movement/Technique - double pirouette, double chaine, grande jete
- THOROUGH review of calendar (attached) and understanding of time & commitment.
- **COMPLETED AUDITION PACKET:** AVAILABLE on the website www.ampsb.org

Companies Requirements & Guidelines:

NOTE: In 2011-2012 season, placement will be made in the FALL as opposed to the SPRING. The first week of classes will be an audition. All dancers must come to their 2009/10 classes the first week or two to be assessed. Therefore training throughout the summer will affect your dancer's placement.

Axis Senior Dance Company

Company Class – Tuesdays 7:00 – 8:30

Jazz 2x week, Ballet 2x per week (First class is an audition) and one **additional dance class**

Axis Professional Dance Company

Jazz 2x week, Ballet 2x per week, and rehearsals TBD by company

PLUS **flexible choices** for college bound and University dancers to meet extra requirements (see Axis PRO supplemental packet for rehearsals and details)

Impulse, Vibe & Impact

Company Class – Friday 5:15 – 6:45pm Jazz class 2x per week, and Ballet 2x per week.

Compare and Contrast: Company vs. Dance Team (Emeralds etc) or OTHER Activities

At some point all young people must start to make choices as they become more committed to their various after-school activities. We do not necessarily ascribe to that philosophy and encourage our dancers to be well-rounded and involved with activities outside of dance. We do say this with an ounce of caution as we do not like to see dancers over-extended or under committed as this is about the Company/team not just the individual. When deciding if Company is right for you, please look at our Calendar and be realistic about your ability to commit to all necessary dates. We do mean mandatory when it is stated and the spirit of the group requires all members to participate when called upon.

Our program is VERY different than school dance teams. Our mission and focus are fundamentally different along with the cost and commitment. Both are great programs, but one may suit your young dancer better than another. OR, you may opt to do both! Please feel free to contact us if you have questions. We also have several mothers who have had daughters do both programs and that can offer some insight. Unfortunately, Markettes/Cheer is not complimentary with our program at this time.

What we expect from our Company Members: Focus, Commitment, Respect, Strong Technique, Enthusiasm, Showmanship, Creativity, Teamwork, and DEDICATION!

Cost

\$400 Annual Company Fee	
Includes	Does Not Include following REQUIREMENTS
Weekly Company repertory class (company rehearsal)	Weekly Technique and ballet class – see schedule NOTE - 2x per week ballet price reduction PLUS additional Company discount \$25 And AXIS extra class Discount \$25
Additional rehearsals (if necessary)	Tickets to shows and recitals- Configuration/End of year recital are \$15 gen
Basic costs for Configuration: Theater Rental, Floor Fees, personnel, & programs.	Required Apparel: black jazz pants/ tan and black jazz shoes/ nude leotard/ black Spaghetti strap leotard (often used for costumes), nude tights, ballet shoes, knee pads (recommended)
Costumes and company top and pants	Private Lessons – if necessary
Access to group discounts to various events, conventions, performances	Fees: for conventions – NOT REQUIRED *Note: Because of the SUCCESS of the student choreography showcase convention fees went from \$500 down to \$375. 2011 pricing TBD. Price included hotel, convention, 2 meals, and transportation via airbus.
FREE Rehearsal space and time for Individual pieces for Configuration	Audition Prep classes and master classes – NOT REQUIRED (between \$50-\$60 per week offered for 4 weeks prior to auditions)
Guaranteed space in appropriate technique class Company Party and Company picnic	NOT REQUIRED - Company year book or photos

Checks are due at orientation along with a deposit for Convention. Please make them payable to the Arts Mentorship Program. There are NO scholarships available for company dues or convention; however there are limited funds available for classes. Please pick up a scholarship application from the office.

Audition Components

Warm ups, orientation/meetings & breaks/lunch will be given throughout the audition process.

Auditions will be judged on a point system based on: technique, performance skills, behavior/attitude, ability to pick up new material and interviews/packets will be rated on a point system as well. Final results are determined by point totals over the entire audition experience. Behavior will affect placement!

Note: Company members from previous years will have a set of bonus points based on their performance and behavior the prior. (This is usually a plus factor, but can be a minus factor)

AUDITION DAY 1

Submit Completed Audition Packet (SEE ABOVE) - Must be submitted at the beginning of the audition. STUDENTS WITHOUT PACKET WILL HAVE POINT DEDUCTIONS!

Time		Events
4:30	5:00	Check in, submit packets, Introduction, warm up
5:00	6:00	Learn X Flr Combos
6:30	7:30	Split into groups and learn combinations

AUDITION DAY 2 - 9am is a mandatory Parent Meeting (see attached calendar for dates)

Time		Events
9:00	12:00	Check in , warm up, review X flr combos & perform
12:00	12:45	LUNCH
12:45	1:45	Improv
1:45	4:00	Regroup, Group Interviews, optional rehearsal time/space
4:00	5:00	Final Performance of combination

Giving Back and Company Sisters

This year we are asking that our company members 'give back' to the Arts Mentorship Program by volunteering for various events throughout the year. This last year, we added our Sisters program where each of our Company members was assigned a Sister. This helped newer company members be paired with our seasoned veterans and feel welcomed into the program.

Contract & Points

At the orientation, company members and parents sign a contract for the year. We use points to track attendance, and behavior and maintain accountability to their team and help re-enforce responsibility.

GUIDELINES - ALL COMPANY MEMBERS START WITH 100 POINTS

- 1 All attendance points apply to COMPANY CLASS, TECHNIQUE CLASS, and BALLET/LYRICAL CLASS for the ENTIRE YEAR!
- 2 -10 points per absence & -5 points per tardy (No points are given for illness, religious holiday or MANDATORY school events.)
- 3 All behavior points apply to ANY DANCE ARTS class, Performance, event!
- 4 If any company member gets -80 points, they are put on warning (parents and student will be notified).
- 5 If any company member gets -100 points, they will be expelled from the company and replaced by an alternate.
- 6 Company members that are expelled **may** audition the following year.
- 7 Any infractions (including expulsions) will be taken into consideration for auditions the following year.