



## **Pre Professional Handbook**

We believe that our success comes as a result of providing solid training and quality service, along with an underlying belief in the strength of our organization. We have created this handbook to offer our students and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the dancers in the Preprofessional program.

### **Why an adjudication?**

An adjudication is performance of ballet exercises on stage that is reviewed by a panel of judges. It is not an exam or competition but a performance opportunity with feedback given from the judges. Every student learns and performs choreographed exercises as well as a variation. All students receive a certificate celebrating their performance. An adjudication is held for accountability and to maintain a high standard of technique and commitment.

### **What is Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP)?**

The YAGP supports and develops world-class dancers, ages 9-19, of all economic, ethnic, and geographic backgrounds by providing scholarship auditions, performance and education opportunities, and by serving as the global network of dance, connecting students, teachers, schools, dance companies, dancers, and audiences. It is a ballet competition.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **Pre Professional 3**

- By teacher recommendation only.
- Must have 6+ years of ballet training.
- Must have 3+ years of pointe training.
- Must enroll in Dance Conditioning
- Recommended to enroll in Open Ballet.
- There will be up to 5 master classes required.
- Adjudication and competition will incur fees.
- Will perform in community events.
- Must attend Summer Intensive at DIO
- Must maintain a "C" or above average.

#### **Pre Professional 2**

- By teacher recommendation only.
- Must have 4+ years of ballet training.
- Must have 1+ years of pointe training.
- Must be enrolled in Open Ballet or Dance Conditioning

- Adjudication and competition will incur fees.
- Will perform in community events.
- Must attend Summer Intensive at DIO.
- There will be up to 5 master classes required.
- Must maintain a “C” or above average.

### **Pre Professional 1 and Minis**

- By teacher recommendation only.
- Adjudication and competition will incur fees.
- Will perform in community events.
- There will be up to 5 master classes required.
- Must enroll in Summer Intensive

### **FOR OUR DANCERS:**

Congratulations! You joined the Pre Professional Program. The first step to becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals, and performances. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal, or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full-out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

Being a member of the Pre Professional Program is a privilege that dancers and their parents must appreciate and respect. Participation in the program is restricted to dancers who are ready to make achieving their personal best a priority.

### **FOR THE PARENTS: *“WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER”:***

We believe that children’s success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be a part of your child’s dance education.

Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty and students and their parents. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect—for other parents, the students, and the faculty—makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child about how to interact with others in a professional setting.

Your child’s presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our school’s educational process.

Parents and teachers may look at a child’s learning from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: to ensure that every child receives the best

possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect among our faculty and our students' parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

**Understanding Dance Education:**

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your child financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be regardless of what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form and children need to be allowed to achieve at a pace that's comfortable. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It's important to encourage children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Dance education encompasses far more than technique and the steps your children learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment through learning, experiencing the spirit of teamwork, and discovering what they can accomplish through hard work. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, teaching them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

**Dos and Don'ts:**

Some parents may compare their child's progress or class placement to another child's. Watch for this behavior in your children as well and encourage them to focus instead on their own accomplishments.

Looking to other students for inspiration is good; however, making negative comparisons distracts children from focusing on becoming stronger dancers. In addition, speaking negatively about your child's teachers, fellow students, or other parents in front of your child—or other students—could result in problems far beyond your original concerns. Often children will imitate a parent's behavior with other adults or authority figures.

Children learn important lessons from their teachers and parents, acquiring behavior patterns through their example. Our school's faculty takes that responsibility seriously. It's our philosophy to encourage our students to feel, think, and act respectfully toward their peers, the adults in their lives, and themselves.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's dance education (such as progress or class placement), please discuss them with your child's teacher or the director. Talking only to other parents can lead to misinformation and confusion. Please contact the school office to set up an appointment; do not approach your child's teacher or the director between or during classes or make contact outside of the school.

If you do request a conference, please listen carefully to what your child's teachers have to say. They spend a significant amount of time with your child and offer expertise in the field of dance education.

**Dress Code:**

	<b>Dance Attire</b>
<b>Ballet</b>	<p><b>Girls</b> – Preprofessional Minis are required to wear a <b>teal/marine leotard</b>, ballet pink tights, and pink leather full sole ballet slipper. Pre Professional 1 are required to wear a red leotard, ballet pink tights, and pink full sole ballet slippers. Pre Professional 2 are required to wear <b>burgundy leotard</b>, ballet pink tights, and pink split sole ballet slippers. Pre Professional 3 are required to wear <b>plum leotard</b> ballet pink tights, and pink leather split sole ballet slippers. Leotards will be ordered from Dance It Out. All dancers are required to have a skirt of the color as their leotard. Pre Professional 3 is required to have a white platter tutu. This will be ordered from Dance It Out.</p> <p><b>Boys</b> – Boys are expected to wear black shorts or pants, white socks, black leather ballet shoes, white tank top or short sleeve shirt.</p>

**Staying Informed:**

We work hard to make the dance experience organized and fun. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please read all newsletters and other school information.

The newsletters and updates are emailed to you and posted on the Dance It Out website, Facebook page, and the Pre Pro Facebook page.

If you have any questions regarding the information distributed, we encourage you to contact the office at 434-757-1029.

We answer email on a daily basis, except on weekends. Feel free to email questions to the office at [danceitoutstudios@gmail.com](mailto:danceitoutstudios@gmail.com)

**Website**

[www.danceitoutva.com](http://www.danceitoutva.com)

We are constantly updating our website. News, important parent and student information, contact information, and more are available online 24 hours a day.

**Facebook Page**

“Like” the Dance It Out page on Facebook to receive daily updates on school events. Please invite your family and friends to “like” the school. Parents will also be invited into a PreProfessional private Facebook page to keep current with events.

Please do not post questions on the school’s Facebook page. Instead, please email them directly to [danceitoutstudios@gmail.com](mailto:danceitoutstudios@gmail.com).

**Cost of Adjudication:**

The cost of the adjudication covers the cost of the judge's travel, time, and other expenses. This is due by March 1, 2024.

Minis and Pre Pro 1 \$100

Pre Pro 2 \$150

## Pre Pro 3 \$150

### **Appreciate the Critique:**

Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed to you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience. Personal assessments will be given in December, March, and May.

### **Master Classes:**

Students in the preprofessional program are required to take up to five master classes. Cost of master classes range from \$30 to \$75 per class. Attendance of these classes is mandatory. Dancers will be charged the Master Class fee regardless of attendance.

### **Community Event Performances:**

Our Pre Professional students will be performing during community events throughout the year. On your performance schedule, there will be an arrival time listed and an estimated performance time. Dancers must be at the performance by the ARRIVAL TIME! Dancers must arrive dressed in full uniform, hair, and makeup complete as specified by the Director and ready to perform. If the Dancer fails to show up "performance ready" at the arrival time, the dancer WILL NOT PERFORM.

Dancers must give notice of missing a performance at least 4 weeks in advance. Dancers will be dismissed from the program if performances are missed. The objective of this program is to perform so dancers must be present. Dancers are expected to arrive prepared!

### **Performance Schedule**

- o Taste of Brunswick (October)
- o Boynton Day & Spooktoberfest (October)
- o Pine View/Hundley Center performance (December)
- o Christmas Show (December)
- o SHJWC Pageants (April)
- o Pine View/Hundley Center performance (May)

*Performance venues, dates, and times will be announced as we get closer to the events.*

### **Other Mandatory Dates:**

- Summer Intensive Dates (July 17 - 21 and August 7 - 11, 2023)
- Spring Ballet Intensive (February 2024)

- Adjudication (May 2024)

**Respect:**

Respect for the school, its teachers, and its choreographers is essential. The teachers and choreographers selected to work with our Pre Professional dancers are among the finest and most experienced available. They are selected because of their professionalism and knowledge of what is technically and emotionally right for the dancers.

**Academic Performance Requirement:**

As members of the PreProfessional program, we require that our dancers maintain a C or above average in all of their academic classes. Your dedication to academic pursuits is of utmost importance, so we will require that you turn in your progress reports each grading period.

**Attendance Policy:**

Pre Professional dancers are expected to attend all classes as this is necessary for progression within the program. A note or email to the studio is required when a student is absent. If the dancer has 5 absences, a parent-teacher conference is required.

**Guidelines for behavior:**

- Leave any personal negativity at the door when entering the studio.
- Arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of every class or rehearsal.
- Proper dancewear and shoes are a must in every class and rehearsal.
- Choreography must never be questioned.
- Never attempt to contact teachers or choreographers at home. All contact must be made through the school office.
- Finish every class or choreography session with a thank-you to the teacher or choreographer.
- When wearing your school jacket or other apparel to non-dance events, be sure that the activities and your behavior reflect positively on you and the school.

**Appreciate the Critique:**

Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed to you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience.

**Image:**

The children and parents involved in the Pre Professional program participate in many outside activities, all of which reflect Dance It Out's philosophy.

Please keep the following in mind:

- We never speak negatively about teachers, dancers, or parents from other schools.
- We never create conflict with the directors or judges of events in which we participate.
- We never recruit dancers from other schools.
- The school director handles all communication with the directors of our outside activities.
- No parent or dancer may call or question the directors of any event. If you have a concern, please contact the director of our school.
- Dancers and parents should be properly dressed for all events. Do not arrive at or leave any event in your dancewear; always wear a cover-up.
- Go out there and show the audience how much you love to dance!

### **Pre Professional “Pay It Forward” Mandatory Participation:**

Members of the Pre Professional Program are required to participate in the Pay It Forward Challenge. Each member is responsible for earning 150 service points. This year, we will be working together as a class rather than individual projects. We are excited to see our dancers work together to accomplish a common goal! **The service points of 150 must be earned by May 1<sup>st</sup> in order to participate in the revue or the program next year.** Please see the Pay It Forward Challenge packet for more info. **The points must be earned by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 or the student will not be allowed to perform in the revue or the program next year.**

**Youth America Grand Prix:** This event will be in mid-February. Costume fees, travel, hotel fees, and competition fees are costs of this event. The competition fee for the YAGP is \$200. Private sessions to practice competition variation will be available for \$25 per half hour.

### **Adjudication Event:**

**Date & Location:** The adjudication event will be May 2024. The time and exact date to be announced. The event venue will be announced closer to the event.

### **Audience Etiquette**

Enthusiastic applause is encouraged; however, it is never appropriate to scream out a child's name or yell in any way. Children should not bring handheld electronic games or other devices with sounds and/or lights that could be a distraction for other audience members. Because we present a professional performance, we ask that everyone remain seated during the entire performance. If you do leave the auditorium during the show, you will be allowed back into the auditorium only between dances. This rule is strictly enforced. Please do not create a disturbance with the auditorium ushers regarding this policy.

Children must remain seated for the entire performance. If you think they will have a hard time remaining seated during the performance, please do not bring them to the adjudication. Allowing children to run around or otherwise disrupt the performance

is not fair to other audience members or those performing. Parents who bring infants to the performance should quickly exit the auditorium if the infant begins to cry or create a distraction for the audience.

The use of video or flash photography is strictly prohibited during the adjudication. It is important that you pass this policy on to your guests.

### **Judge Process**

After all students have performed, we will line up in order. Each student will “ballet walk” to judge, curtsy to judge, thank the judge, walk in front of the awards table, stand in first or fifth position while holding the certificate in front of the body, and smile for a picture. After the picture, students will walk into a semicircle formation while everyone repeats the above process. We will take a group photo in the semi-circle formation. Please review this with your children.



## **A Final Note**

WELCOME TO THE PREPROFESSIONAL PROGRAM!  
We look forward to an exciting, rewarding season!

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS HANDBOOK FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the parent/guardian of the above named, have read the handbook and understand all of the requirements in order for my dancer to continue participation as well as the ramifications if this contract is broken. I fully comply with all rules and regulations within this handbook. I also realize this is a team effort and I will be called upon to help in some way throughout the year with things that are within my capacity to help. I will make every effort to do my share of assisting on behalf of my dancer. I understand I am required to be present for parent meetings or have someone present on my behalf.

Student's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_