

Dance at Peabody

In 2009-2010, Peabody Dance’s 95th year, the time-honored Dance Department of the Peabody Preparatory, led by Artistic Director Carol Bartlett, continues to offer a vital, diverse, strongly-grounded curriculum taught by an outstanding faculty. Productive revisions over the past several years placed particular emphasis on a restructured ballet curriculum based on a fusion of training approaches that typifies the vibrant physicality of American classicism. Artistic Director Bartlett was joined in this effort by Barbara Weisberger, who was appointed artistic advisor to Peabody Dance in 2001. The curriculum in Contemporary Dance continues to provide rigorous training and exposure to the full range of traditional and postmodern approaches to technique and composition.

This season will inaugurate the Estelle Dennis Dance Scholarship Program for Boys, a full scholarship opportunity for boys aged nine to fifteen, who may have a keen but unfulfilled interest in dancing.

The Peabody Dance 32-week Fall/Spring season offers three main curricula: the Pre-Professional Program; the Young Children’s Program; and the Open Program. In all cases, the heart of Peabody Dance’s philosophy is the expectation that all students, whether they are professional aspirants, or children and mature adults exploring the joys of dancing, will have the opportunity to reach their own desired level of achievement. In return, an internationally respected faculty and artistic staff are dedicated to meeting the needs of their students on an individual basis and to offering them exemplary training, inspiration and encouragement.

While Peabody Dance strives to attain its primary artistic goals, it also acknowledges its dual mission by serving and enriching the cultural life of Baltimore and the extended community.

Artistic Staff

Carol Bartlett, *Artistic Director*, has shaped and developed the dance program at Peabody for 20 years. During her tenure she has established and teaches an outstanding core training program in contemporary dance. A diverse and prolific choreographer, Bartlett has worked with prominent composers, both established and burgeoning in this country and abroad, spearheading collaborative projects with musicians and dancers which have been performed in theaters and festivals in Europe and the U.S.

Barbara Weisberger, *Artistic Advisor*, founded and was Artistic Director of the internationally renowned Pennsylvania Ballet and Carlisle Project. A protégée and long-time colleague of George Balanchine, Weisberger is nationally recognized for her major contributions to the development of American classical ballet and for her pre-eminent leadership role in the performing arts in the U.S.

Faculty

Creative Dance, Introduction to Ballet: Lisa Green-Cudek, Holly Mora

Ballet: Laura Dolid, Katrina Hein, Adrienne Leone, Holly Mora, Meredith Rainey, Timothy Rinko-Gay, Debra Robinson

Contemporary Dance: Carol Bartlett

Visiting Guest Faculty: Laszlo Berdo, Rafael Grigorian, Rhodie Jorgensen, Norma Pera, Marcia Dale Weary

Pre-Professional Training Program

The Pre-Professional Program, Peabody Dance’s core training curriculum for students ages seven to young adult, is an intensive, graded course of study in Ballet and Contemporary Dance. The program is designed to help motivated and eventually, career-minded students meet the dance arena’s highest standards. The path to that goal is based on the Dance Department’s collective belief in the proven results of sound, concentrated training: the more classes, diligently applied, the faster the student’s growth and progress. Therefore, students with special potential and commitment are urged to take as many classes as they can, and artistic as well as financial incentives are in place to enable that possibility (See Pre-Professional Program Policies and Procedures). Most importantly, the mode of procedure for the entire Pre-Professional Program is designed to encourage and enable students to advance at a pace that matches their abilities, interests and time commitments.

The following Curriculum, Class Levels and related Policies and Procedures affirm the Department’s convictions and have been carefully designed to encourage and facilitate student and parent understanding and participation.

Curriculum and Class Levels

The Pre-Professional Program in Ballet and Contemporary Dance is organized in “packages” which provide the recommended minimum number of classes per week for each level: from the entry Level 1 (ages seven and up) to the most advanced Level 6. Contemporary Dance is introduced at Level 3, and from Levels 4X and upwards, students may build a focus in either discipline, according to teacher recommendation, aptitude and interest.

The levels fall into two divisions:

Division One includes the beginner and elementary levels 1, 1X and 2, in which students ages seven to thirteen acquire the initial layers of knowledge that form the foundation of ballet technique; beginner students above age thirteen may enroll in Open Program Ballet for Teens and Adults. These primary levels are considered the most important of all, because the student’s development from this point on depends greatly on the strength of his or her early base.

Division Two includes the upper elementary to advanced levels: 3, 3X, 4, 4X, 5, 5X and 6, where students hone their skills by building on their basic foundation. Also at these levels, class schedules intensify with the addition of pointe work for the female dancer (which eventually involves Variations and Partnering), class work addressing the special technical requirements of the male dancer, classes in Contemporary Dance, as well as increased participation in rehearsals, performances and special events.

Students may be allowed to start pointe work at Level 4, but the student’s readiness is individually assessed by ballet faculty. Other factors may prohibit progress on pointe, and regular ballet training does not necessarily enable a student to perform on pointe. Pointe work is an integral part of the ballet class and is not scheduled separately. At the teacher’s discretion, pointe may be included for the whole class, and for other instances, just a few minutes.

The Contemporary Dance focus, which can start at Level 4X, provides carefully graded classes, compatible with the ballet program but at the same time adding principles of major modern techniques to develop strength, versatility, command of the floor, and spatial dynamics. Improvisation, composition and repertory classes are built into the upper level schedules, and continued training in ballet is required. Whether the focus is Ballet or Contemporary Dance, following the dedicated, often difficult path to the advanced levels of training is the way students can

become technically articulate, expressive, mature performers.

It is extremely important to note that a level is merely an indication of a student’s current stage of accomplishing the required skills. Placement in levels is neither arbitrary nor is it based entirely on years of study or age. The exception is the seven-year old entry-level minimum in Ballet and nine-year old entry-level minimum in Contemporary Dance. Since the teaching content of the classes at any particular level is guided more by the student’s physical facility and quickness in digesting information than by the demands of a pre-ordered syllabus, they will be placed where the artistic director and faculty feel they will learn the most and where gaps in training can be addressed. At the same time, students will be allowed and encouraged to advance through the level system according to their own talents, hard work, and dedicated attendance. Furthermore, the technical attainment of the school’s overall student body often fluctuates from year to year, and the numbers or letters attached to class levels may have little meaning compared to those same numbers or letters in previous years.

Package Requirements:

Division One

Level 1

Two 60-minute Ballet Classes

Level 1X *

Two 75-minute Ballet Classes

Level 2

One 90-minute Ballet Classes. Two 75-minute Ballet Classes.

Division Two

Level 3

Three 90-minute Ballet Classes. One 75-minute Contemporary Dance Class

Level 3X

Three 90-minute Ballet Classes. One 90-minute Contemporary Dance Class

Level 4 ***

Two 90-minute Ballet Classes. One 90-minute Ballet/Pointe Class.

One 60-minute Ballet Class. Two 90-minute Contemporary Dance Classes

Level 4X *

Ballet Focus (*minimum requirements*)

One 120-minute Ballet/Pointe Class. One 90-minute Ballet/Pointe Class.

One 90-minute Ballet Class. One 60-minute Ballet Class. Two 90-minute Contemporary Dance Classes.

Contemporary Dance Focus (*minimum requirements*)

Three 90-minute Contemporary Dance Classes. One 60-minute Improvisation/Composition Class. One 120-minute Ballet Class. One 90-minute Ballet Class**

Level 5/5X*/6

Ballet Focus (*minimum requirements*)

One 120-minute Ballet/Pointe Class. Four 90-minute Ballet/Pointe Classes. One 60-minute Variations Class (*bi-weekly*). Two 90-minute Contemporary Dance Classes.

Contemporary Dance Focus (*minimum requirements*)

Three 90-minute Contemporary Dance Classes. One 90-minute Improvisation/Composition Class. One 90-minute Repertory Class. Two 120-minute Ballet Classes**

* “X” denotes the next higher class in that same level.

** Individual placement at appropriate level.

*** Pointe work is introduced at Level 4. Students may begin pointe when the teacher has determined they are ready.

Policies and Procedures

All students enrolled in a full level package are entitled to take any scheduled classes at or below their own level at no additional cost. Some students who are enrolled in a full level package, who attend all required

classes and are doing exceptional work, may be invited by faculty panel to take scheduled classes in a level above their own at no additional cost. Additional classes may be taken at the Peabody (downtown) or Towson campuses, and those students who find it difficult to travel to the studios on extra days may take other classes on the days that their own class is already scheduled. Classes missed due to short-term illness, injury or vacation can and should be made up by taking extra classes at the student’s own or lower level, or a higher level with the permission of the Artistic Director.

Student attendance records include absences and make-up classes and are reviewed mid-semester. Students are required to email anticipated absences to dance@peabody.jhu.edu as far in advance as possible. Placements in levels may be reassessed after long absences (one semester or more). Due to the risk of injury, students arriving more than ten minutes late for class may be asked by the teacher to observe rather than participate.

There will be no required formal academic grading or certification at the end of the school year. Evaluation and student-parent-teacher communication will be ongoing. The student’s progress will be a true measure of their accomplishment.

Young Children's Program

The Young Children’s Program for three to six year olds is designed to spark their innate creativity and begin to build a foundation for more in-depth technical training. This program offers two levels of training for children: Creative Dance for three and four year olds begins to set a strong foundation for more formal dance study by strengthening movement/locomotive skills and flexibility and by stimulating rhythmic awareness and expressiveness; Introduction to Ballet 1 and 2 for five and six year olds approach basic fundamentals of ballet (placement, port de bras, footwork and simple vocabulary).

Curriculum

Creative Dance for Three and Four Year Olds

Introduction to Ballet 1 for Five and Six Year Olds

Introduction to Ballet 2 for Five and Six Year Olds

Open Program

The Open Program offers classes in Ballet and Contemporary Dance for students of all ages and abilities who love to dance but wish to undertake a less intensive schedule. Technical work is presented in a sequential, graded format to meet the needs of students who seek quality training, enrichment, and physical fitness; the number of classes may be fewer but the quality of training is not diminished. As with the Pre-Professional Program, students may remain at the same level for more than one season, until they have accomplished the required skills to progress to the next level. Enrollees in the Open Program are required to register for no less than one class per week for the training season. Open Program students wishing to participate in the year-end Peabody Dance performance should note that additional time commitment is required, as rehearsals will be conducted separately from scheduled classes.

Curriculum

Ballet: Ages Seven to Teens

Beginners, Elementary 1, Elementary 2, Intermediate

Contemporary Dance: Ages Nine to Teens

Beginners, Elementary, Intermediate (*continued over*)

Ballet for Teens and Adults

Introductory Ballet, Levels 1, Level 2 and Level 3

Contemporary Dance for Teens and Adults

Fundamentals

Summer Program

Multi-week intensive programs from late June to mid-August, taught by Peabody Dance faculty and notable guest artists, consist of concentrated courses of study for students ranging from four years old with little or no previous dance experience to teens and young adults with several years of pre-professional training.

A six-week Open Program for Teens and Adults offers evening classes in Ballet and Contemporary Dance. A specific schedule will be detailed in the separate Peabody Summer Dance brochure.

Performances

Upper level students in the Pre-Professional Program have the opportunity to perform new and traditional choreography in the annual Spring Dance Showcase usually held in March or April. Peabody Dance produces a full-length story ballet in May in which students from various programs and levels, who have been enrolled at Peabody Dance for at least the existing, full Fall/Spring season, may participate. This professional-level production requires additional commitment, as outlined in the school's Performance Guidelines. Groups of students also may be invited to participate in outreach programs and joint music/dance projects. Studio presentations and open rehearsals provide a more informal setting for students to perform.

Students selected to participate in Peabody Dance performances are required to attend all scheduled studio rehearsals and all staging, and dress rehearsals in the theater during the production period. Parents and students are notified about rehearsals at least six weeks prior to an event and must notify the Dance Office of any potential conflicts at least one month prior to the performance. The Artistic Director may replace a student who is absent more than twice for classes or is repeatedly late. All student performance participants are required to pay a modest production/ costume fee, and student participants enrolled in the Open Program also pay a rehearsal fee to cover the extra performance preparation time needed.

Special Events

Day of Master Classes and Ballet Teachers' Seminar

Visiting students and teachers from the Greater Baltimore area and Mid-Atlantic region are invited to join students from Peabody Dance for these annual full-day events. Nationally acclaimed artists are invited to teach the Master Class Days open to students ages 11 years to young adult designed to enrich the scope of the upper-level student's training. Special group rates are available for groups of five or more students from the same school. The Ballet Teacher's Seminar, led by the legendary Marcia Dale Weary and other renowned master teachers, includes observation and discussion on the ballet teaching process.

Guest Faculty/ Special Open Advanced Classes

Periodically throughout the Fall and Spring seasons, guest teachers are invited to teach regularly-scheduled upper level classes. These classes may also be open to visiting students for a modest fee.

General Information

Regulation Dance Attire

All students must furnish their own dance clothing and shoes; the faculty will advise the students about required attire and suggest where it may be purchased. Please refer to our website or attached insert for details.

Enrollment and Placement (Pre-Registration)

To ensure a place in class, new and continuing students planning to enroll in the 2009-2010 Fall/Spring season must contact the Peabody Dance office at 410-234-4626 to receive detailed information about the artistic program and placement prior to official registration through the Peabody Preparatory Office.

Peabody Dance requires a placement class for all new students with previous training in order to ascertain the student's proper class level in a particular program. Placement sessions for the Peabody Dance 2009-2010 Fall/Spring season may be arranged on an individual basis by calling the Peabody Dance office at 410-234-4626, to arrange a convenient time, or to sign up for one of the scheduled placement sessions listed on the attached insert. New children aged 4 will enter a Creative Dance class and do not need a placement. However, three year olds need a placement class to ascertain readiness for group instruction. Children ages 5-6 will enter the Young Children's Program and must take a placement. Students that require placement will receive a placement slip from the Dance Office that must be submitted with registration materials.

All current students of Peabody Dance will be advised of their placement for the 2009-2010 Fall/Spring season by the faculty and do **not** need to attend a placement session. Continuing students must register in accordance to the Peabody Preparatory registration deadlines.

Registration Guidelines

The Regular Session occurs over a 32-week period consisting of two 16-week terms: Fall and Spring. Summer Session may have courses ranging from two to six weeks. Students registering in the fall must pay for the fall term at the time of registration in ISIS, and **must reregister** and pay for the spring term. New students registering in ISIS for just the spring term must pay in full at the time of registration. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. New and returning students should register early to assure placement. Registration for summer programs requires a separate registration process which is detailed in the Summer Session catalog.

It is the responsibility of the student/parent to adhere to the withdrawal process as described in the Peabody Preparatory 2009-2010 Fall/Spring catalog and on the back of the registration form. Withdrawals must be made in writing and approved by the Administrative Manager. Please note that notifying the instructor does not constitute withdrawal. For all questions related to formal registration contact the registration office at 410-234-4630.

Scholarships

Some scholarship assistance, for both continuing and new enrollees with previous experience, may be available for ballet and contemporary dance students taking full schedules of classes. Current students, who are observed on an ongoing basis, need not audition, but must indicate the intent to apply for scholarship assistance by contacting the Artistic Director early in the previous season. Scholarship auditions for new enrollees will be announced or by scheduled appointment. All awards, either for full or (as in most cases) partial tuition, are based first on merit, but financial need is considered in terms of awarded amounts.

OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
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OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
21 EAST MOUNT VERNON PLACE
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

2009 - 2010 SEASON



Peabody Dance

Peabody Preparatory of the Johns Hopkins University
Peabody Campus studios (downtown)
Peabody Institute
21 East Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore, MD 21202
Towson Campus studios
949 Dulaney Valley Road, Towson, MD 21204

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