



MSSoD Co.

*The Melva Smith School of Dance Company*

# MSSoD PERFORMANCE COMPANY INFORMATION

## 2023-2024

- Auditions are open to all dancers going into first grade and up who have danced with our studio for at least one year.
- Our Company is a one-year commitment with all members auditioning again at the end of the season.
- We have a large group known as Production Company
- We have 5 smaller, more select companies: Premiere, Explosion, Starbound, Ultima, and Musical Theater
- Dancers are chosen by age and ability. Part of the audition process is the dancer's attendance, behavior and work ethic in the studio and in class during the current year.
- Dancers may be asked to join more than one group.
- Dancers are expected to make MSSoD Company their extracurricular priority during the year.

*Company is more than the competitions and the conventions we attend. MSSoD Company was born out of a dancer's desire to elevate their hours of study, for performance opportunities and to strengthen the dancer to her full potential.*

### REQUIREMENTS

- **SUMMER**
  - **June 20th:** The \$275.00 yearly company fee & signed contract due.
    - This fee is non refundable if a dancer decides to step out of company for any reason
  - **SUMMER HOURS:** Take at least 10 hours of documented summer study through MSSoD or other approved classes.
- **SCHOOL YEAR**
  - **2022-2023 Company Boot Camp** Cost is \$50 billed in August
    - 5:00 - 7:30 August 22rd-24th
  - Mandatory Parent Meeting Saturday, August 26th 11:00am
  - Photo Shoot during the parent meeting Saturday, August 26th
  - Monthly Tuition depending on amount of classes taking
  - Take two weekly ballet classes: One ballet/tap & one extra ballet technique class
  - Take a weekly jazz class
  - Take any choreography class(es) for their selected group(s)
  - Attend all extra rehearsals
  - Participate in all performances around the Metroplex (approx.2)
  - Attend two dance conventions, one will be out of town (Houston)
  - Compete in 3 competitions in the spring, all local
  - Perform in the Pre Competition Showcase
  - Perform in our studio recital
  - Costume fee for 2023 is \$90 per costume

## **AUDITION SCHEDULE**

- Monday, June 5th: Audition videos will be posted on [www.melvasmithdance.com](http://www.melvasmithdance.com) at noon. Dancers will learn either the younger (10 and under) or older (10 and up) dance from the videos on their own at home. If you are 10 years old you may choose which dance you would like to learn. Choosing to audition with the younger dancers will NOT affect team placement.
- Wednesday, June 7th: Dancers attend a workshop in studio to review the audition piece they have learned from the posted video at the following times:
  - 10 and under 5:30 -6:30 pm practice
  - 10 and up 6:30 - 7:30 pm practice

### **PARENT MEETING DURING YOUR DANCER'S PRACTICE TIME - NEW AND RETURNING PARENTS**

- Thursday, June 8th: Audition Day! - Bring a 3x5 photo headshot to turn in (does not have to be professional)
  - 5:00pm: Sign in and review combinations
  - 6:00pm: Auditions begin
    - Dancers may leave after dancing and turning in their number with their name written on the back of their number. The first set of directions to follow and very important!
- Friday, June 9th: The new 2023-2024 MSSoD Company list will be posted at 3:00 pm on [www.melvasmithdance.com](http://www.melvasmithdance.com)
  - Dancers who are selected must email Miss Jessica at [missjessica@melvasmithdance.com](mailto:missjessica@melvasmithdance.com) that they accept or decline their positions they have been chosen for by Monday, June 12th

The selection list is based on the judge's opinions and scores as well as multiple teacher evaluations during auditions and the current studio year. The selection list is FINAL. After the list is posted, questions about placement *may come from the dancer only*. We are happy to discuss *with the dancer* what could be done differently for future placement. We want our dancer's to be self advocates.

## AUDITION FAQs

- **What happens at the auditions?** At check in dancers will receive a number and will be placed in small groups according to number. Auditions will begin at 5:30pm with a short review of the combinations. Dancers will then perform the combination for outside judges in their small groups as well as being asked to perform any skill off the technical expectations sheet (see below) for their appropriate age & ability level. The youngest dancers will audition first. Dancers will also be asked to perform elements selected by teachers off of the attached technical elements sheet. This gives judges and teachers and broader idea of a dancer's abilities beyond the set combination.
- **What are the judges and teachers looking for?** Beginning for the minute you walk into learn the audition dance we are assessing you! Are you prepared, quiet, kind and hard working? Or are you being rude to other dances, marking the dance instead of doing it full out? Are you talking or being quiet and listening to everything being said? At auditions, the judges are looking for dancers who love to dance and share that joy! They are also looking for dancers who are well rehearsed, know their steps, can stay with the music all while being technically correct and looking like they are having fun! After auditions, we speak with your teachers to find out how you behaved in class during the year. Were you hard working, kind, respectful, on time and prepared each week? That's what we are looking for! We also look at the parent's behavior. We do not do dance mom type drama at MSSoD.
- **"What do I wear?"** Put thought into choosing your attire for your audition. A leotard is a must! You do not need a new outfit; pink tights and a black leotard are fine as long as it's clean and neat. It is primarily a jazz company so leggings and a clean cami over your leotard are fine also. Remember the judges need to see that your bodyline is correct and baggy clothes do not allow for that. Make sure you look good and feel good in your attire. They want to watch you dance not make adjustments to your leotard! Hair should be securely pulled up and away from your face. Shoes may be jazz, ballet or any contemporary shoe.
- **Why do we audition so soon after we learn the dance?** One very important skill company dancers must have is the ability to pick up choreography, changes and corrections quickly. We quite often do not get a chance to rehearse on the stage on which we are performing. Changes are often made at the last minute and dancers must be able to remember them. Auditioning soon after learning the combination shows us that!
- **"What should I do as I dance, and what they are looking for"** To every audition you should bring the sum total of all the work you have been doing in class and in performance. Your technique isn't suddenly going to change during the audition, so all you can do is your very best. The first rule is to pay close attention to what is being shown and what is being asked for. This is not the moment to be a choreographer; do the combination as it is given. But dance it as fully as you possibly can! You are demonstrating your discipline, your ability to take direction,

and, most of all, your joy in moving. If you make a mistake, keep going or try again; certainly don't give up and go to the corner to sulk. Keep your face alive but don't paste on a smile. The facial expression usually takes care of itself if you concentrate on performing fully.

- **I was hoping to make company or a certain group and I didn't...what did I do wrong?** Sometimes the people holding the audition have a particular "look" in mind or how a group will look together & there isn't much you can do about it except smile and be a good sport. Don't take it as a personal insult, and remember that at a later date, you may be exactly the type that is being sought! Sometimes your technique or ability to pick up quickly needs improvement and that comes from working hard and focusing in your weekly technique classes, most especially ballet! Sometimes it's purely numbers. In the select groups we can only take a small amount or it becomes another production group per competition rules. If you would like to know what you need to work on please ask us, we would love to help you improve!
- **"How do I find out if I'm cast in Company?"** The Company list will be posted online at [www.melvasmithdance.com](http://www.melvasmithdance.com). If you accept your spots you MUST email Miss Jessica only at [missjessiva@melvamithdance.com](mailto:missjessiva@melvamithdance.com) by Monday, July 13..
- **"What happens next?"** Company dancers are required to attend the 8 hours of summer study as well as the weekly walk in summer classes when they are in town. A schedule will be emailed to all company dancers after the list has been posted. Parents will also be required to pay the \$200.00 yearly company fee, the Dance Revolution workshop fee and Boot Camp fee over the summer. A yearly billing schedule will be emailed after the list has been posted and reminders will be sent out during the summer. **All fees must be paid by the due date or dancers will not be eligible for those items or events.**

**BEST OF LUCK AND REMEMBER THAT A BIG  
SMILE AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE GOES A LONG  
WAY!!**

# MSSoD 2022-2023 Company FALL/WINTER Schedule SAMPLE SCHEDULE

## August

**Company Boot Camp** 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm 8/23-25

**Mandatory Parent Meeting and C7 photoshoot** Studio 8/27

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## September *Dance starts Tuesday, Sept. 6th*

**Production Day/Reveal** 11-3:00 \*LONG DAY 9/17

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## October *Columbus Day: NO - CISD school on Monday, Oct. 10th, YES - Dance is in session*

**PERFORMANCE: Dance of Hope (Let It Be Foundation)** 10/23

**#MSSoDHalloweek!** Wear your costume to class 10/24-28

**TRUNK OR TREAT** 10/29

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## November *Thanksgiving Break: NO classes Monday, Nov. 21 - Sunday, Nov. 27*

**CONVENTION: Dance Revolution** 11/4-6

- Hyatt Regency DFW (Adjacent to Terminal C)
  - Friday Night theme - "Neon Color Bash"

**Performance: St. Ann Craft Bazaar** 11/12

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## December *Winter Break: NO classes Dec. 18 - Jan. 3, classes resume Wednesday, Jan. 4th*

**Coppell Holiday Parade** 12/3

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## January

**Company Lock-in (overnight)** 1/14

**Convention: JUMP** 1/27 - 29

- THE WESTIN GALLERIA HOUSTON

# MSSoD 2022-2023 Company SPRING Schedule SAMPLE SCHEDULE

**February** *Presidents Day: NO - CISD school February 20th YES - Dance in session*

**PERFORMANCE: Showcase/Dessert Reception** 2/4

- MCL Grand Theater, Lewisville noon - 6:00

**COMPETITION: Dancearchy (Grapevine)** 2/25-26

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**March** *Spring Break: NO - Dance Sunday, March 12--19 YES classes on Saturday, March 11th*

**PERFORMANCE: Mavs Pre Game** 3/13

**COMPETITION: VIP Dance (Fort Worth)** 3/24-26

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**April** *No classes April 7th through Sunday, April 10th*

**COMPETITION: Primetime (Arlington)** 4/21-23

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**May**

**Banquet tentative date** May 7

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**June**

**Recital & Dress Rehearsal** 6/3

The Majestic Theater in Dallas

Company Auditions for 2023/24 will be held the week following the recital

## **SAMPLE**

### **BILLING SCHEDULE 2022-2023**

MSSoD CO. Monthly tuition will be \$250.00 depending on the dancer's placement.  
This includes all core classes of ballet, tap, jazz, technique and choreo classes.  
Additional classes are \$25.00 per month

June 20	\$275.00 Annual Company Membership fee
July 20	Dance Revolution Convention fee approximately \$245
August 20	1st costume fee of \$85 and \$50 boot camp totals \$135 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This covers costume, not including shoes, tights or props</li></ul>
September 20	2nd costume fee \$90 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This covers costume, not including shoes, tights or props</li></ul>
October 20	JUMP Convention Fee \$345
November 20	3rd costume fee of \$90 if applicable to your dancer <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This covers costume, not including shoes, tights or props</li><li>• Studio recital costumes are billed this month</li></ul>
December 20	1st competition fees
January 20	2nd competition fees
February 20	3rd competition fees
March 20	Remainder costume fees if applicable and Showcase fee
April 20	Banquet tickets
May 20	Misc fees including props

***ALL COMPANY FEES will be billed via parent portal.  
You will receive an email when your fees are posted.***



**Miss Jessica**  
972-351-4462  
missjessica@melvasmithdance.com

**Miss Rachel**  
214-543-6989  
missrachel@melvasmithdance.com

**Miss Meredith**  
214-558-8180  
missmeredith@melvasmithdance.com

Our absence policy will continue to be 3 excused absences per class per semester. For every absence over 3 per class there will be 1 demerit given.

1 demerit is a reminder that you have missed 4 classes - make up the classes missed

2 demerits (5 absences in one class) - 30 minute conditioning/make up class. 2 demerits or 5 absences in any class will result in the dancers company commitment to be reevaluated.

Please turn in a note from parent, doctor's note, school program or schedule to Miss Jessica so we can keep track in our absence records.



## ESSENTIALS LIST

**Choreography Class Attire** - Blue (Bluebonnet at Suffolk or discount dance) leo, black booty shorts or black leggings and tan tights with tan jazz shoes. Shoe color may differ for competition and will be determined by the choreographer at performance time.

**Nude colored leotard or dance bra (may be needed)** - with interchangeable straps. can be purchased at suffolk or online at [www.dancewearsolutions.com](http://www.dancewearsolutions.com)

### **Make Up Kit**

Order from JAM Cosmetics - Prima Diva Essentials Cosmetic kit or Prima Diva Palette

<https://jamcosmetics.net/products/prima-diva-stage-makeup-palette>

Choose the NO SPARKLE option

Lips - Lipstick from Lipsense in the color Flygirl - Will order as a group in October.

Eyes - we use false lashes - any brand works!

**Earrings and Choker** [www.dancewearsolutions.com](http://www.dancewearsolutions.com)

**Clip ons - Rhinestone Clip-On Dance Costume Earrings |Balera™:**

<https://www.dancewearsolutions.com/accessories/jewelry/ep8a-c.aspx>

**Pierced - Rhinestone Button Post Dance Earrings | Balera™:**

<https://www.dancewearsolutions.com/pdp1/recommendations/ep8a-s.aspx>

Choker- **Crystal Rhinestone Dance Choker | Balera™:**

<https://www.dancewearsolutions.com/accessories/jewelry/rucc11.aspx>

### **Dance Costume Garment Bags**

<http://www.dreamduffle.com>

Choose Gusseted Garment Bag - 3-Pack

Order 1 bag per costume

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## ORDER AT PARENT MEETING

**Company Jacket** - New members required approx \$160

**Company warm up joggers**- New members required approx \$110

**Tank top OMBRE** - required approx \$52 total

**Halter B&W**- required approx \$52 total

**Black and White Chevron Headband with MSSoD** - order through Sew Much Fun - All dancers need approx \$12 or 2 for \$20

**SPIRIT WEAR FOR PARENTS AND DANCERS** optional

## **LEVEL I TECHNICAL EXPECTATIONS**

### **BASIC THEORY**

- **GENERAL TECHNIQUE**
  - Placement / alignment
  - Turnout
  - Line of positions
  - Port de bras (carriage of the arms) and ballet or jazz hands
  - Movement quality
  - Rhythm
- **Positions of the feet**
- First position, second position, third position, fourth position, fifth position
- **Arm positions**
- Preparation (en bas), first position, second position, third position, fourth position, fifth position
- **Arabesque positions in Cecchetti**
- First arabesque

### **TOURS (TURNS) on right and left**

- Is mastering spotting in a single direction
- Three Step Turns
- Pivot Turns
- Châiné
- Soutenu en tournant
- Piqué turns
- Single pencil en de hors from 4<sup>th</sup> turned out
- Single pirouette en de hors from 4<sup>th</sup> in parallel

### **ALLEGRO (LEAPS) on right and left**

- Sauté in 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5th
- Changement de pieds in fifth
- Échappé sauté from 5th to 2nd and back
- Pas de chat from fifth
- Glissade from 5<sup>th</sup>
- Assemblé
- Jeté Petit [en avant](#)
- Pas de chat
- tuck jump
- Grand Jeté
- Grand Sauté de chat
- Sauté arabesque

### **OTHER VOCABULARY**

- Ballet Chassé
- Jazz Chasse with opposition arms to the front right and left
- Jazz Chasse with arms in second to the right and left
- Ballet pas de bourrée
- Jazz pas de bourrée (also called “back-side-front”)
- Tombé pas de bourrée
- Grand battement en croix at 90 degrees
- Grand battement travelling across the floor at 90 degrees
- Développé à la seconde: Right and Left at least 90 degrees
- Heel stretch on right and left
- Splits: is working on or has right, left and center

## **LEVEL II (EXPLOSION) TECHNICAL EXPECTATIONS**

### **ALL OF LEVEL I EXPECTATIONS PLUS...**

#### **BASIC THEORY**

- **Arabesque positions in Cecchetti**
- second arabesque
- **Body positions (see enclosed diagram)**
- Croisé devant, à la quatrième devant, effacé devant, écarté, à la seconde, épaulé, à la quatrième derrière, croisé derrière, effacé derrière

#### **TOURS (TURNS) on right and left**

- Has mastered spotting in a single direction
- Pas de bourrée en tournant en de hors and en de dans
- Single coupé turn en de hors from 4th
- Single low arabesque turns en dedans
- Double pencil en de hors from 4<sup>th</sup>
- Pirouette: double from 4th en de hors in parallel
- Pirouette: single from 4<sup>th</sup> en dedans in parallel

#### **ALLEGRO (LEAPS) on right and left**

- Jeté petit en arrière
- Second leap
- Sissonne
- Cabriole devant
- Grand jeté dessus en tournant (tour jeté )
- Fouetté sauté (brush to devant, sauté as you turn to a la second finishing in arabesque)

#### **OTHER VOCABULARY**

- Grand rond de jambe en l'air
- Attitude en croix
- Grand battement en balançoire (or cloche) right and Left above 90 degrees
- Développé and enveloppé en croix right and left above 90 degrees
- Fan kick right and left at 90 degrees
- Leg tilt in battement and développé right and left at 90 degrees
- Splits: has right and left and is working on center

**LEVEL III (STARBOUND / INTERMEDIATE CO.) TECHNICAL EXPECTATIONS**  
**ALL OF LEVEL I & II EXPECTATIONS PLUS...**

**BASIC THEORY**

- Arabesque positions in Cecchetti
- third arabesque

**TOURS (TURNS) on right and left**

- Has mastered spotting, and is mastering spotting with direction changes
- Double piqué turns
- Saut de basque
- Double coupé turns en de hors, multiple preparations
- Single arabesque turn at 90 degrees en dedans
- Attitude turns en dedans
- Inside leg hold
- Pirouette: double en de hors and en dedans from 4<sup>th</sup> in parallel and turned out
- Seconds: from pirouette and from 4th

**ALLEGRO (LEAPS) on right and left**

- Switch leap
- Calypso
- Turning Jete
- Axle
- Sissonne
- Fouetté relevé (brush to devant, relevé as you turn to a la second finishing in arabesque)
- Cabriole derrière,

**OTHER VOCABULARY**

- Fan kick : Right and Left above 90 degrees
- Leg tilt in battement and développé above 90 degrees
- Small penché arabesque
- Has splits right, left and center

**LEVEL IV (ULTIMA) OF TECHNICAL EXPECTATIONS**  
**ALL OF LEVEL I, II AND III EXPECTATIONS PLUS...**

**BASIC THEORY**

- Arabesque positions in Cecchetti
- Fourth arabesque and fifth arabesque

**TOURS (TURNS) on right and left**

- Lame duck turns
- Emboîté en tournant
- Multiple pencil turns from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>
- Multiple coupe turns from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>
- Double arabesque turns at or above 90 degrees en dedans
- Multiple attitude turns en dedans and en de hors
- Pirouette: triple en de hors from 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> in parallel and turned out
- Pirouette: double en dedans from 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> in parallel and turned out
- Fouettés: multiple from 4<sup>th</sup>, pirouette and pas de bourrée en tournant en dedans
- Seconds: multiple from 4<sup>th</sup>, pirouette and pas de bourrée en tournant en dedans
- Outside pencil leg hold turn: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRlxi63lqcs>
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**ALLEGRO (LEAPS) on right and left**

- Grand Jeté with cambre
- Grand Sauté de chat with cambre
- Switch to second leap
- Calypso with release & to the floor
- Cabriole derrière,
- Turning Jeté
- Turning disc
- Double axel

**OTHER VOCABULARY**

- Penché arabesque