

## ACADEMY PROGRAM AGREEMENT

*Please initial each of the following understanding and agreements and have your parent or legal guardian sign as witness to the agreement.*

The Academy Program is a scholarship program for our most committed pre-professional students focused on our core techniques of Ballet and Modern. The program is by invitation only to Level 4, 5, 6 dancers who have demonstrated their commitment to pre-professional study through a minimum of one year of excellent attendance, participation, attitude and effort in Level 4 Ballet and Modern classes.

As a member of the Hunter Dance Center Academy Program,

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that Hunter Dance Center is committed to excellence, not perfection, and that the study of dance is a never ending process of learning and growing with no "arrival point" or "finish line."

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I have been invited to join the Academy Program because I have demonstrated my own commitment to excellence through my exemplary attendance, participation, attitude and effort in my dance classes.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that striving for excellence means giving my best effort from the moment I walk into the dance center, being not only physically present, but mentally, emotionally, and spiritually present.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that when I walk into the dance center, I am there to learn, and I am there to dance and so are my fellow dancers. I understand that actions and behaviors that compromise or distract from the study of dance for me or others do not belong at Hunter Dance Center.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that striving for excellence begins with how I nurture and prepare my body and my mind outside of the studio and away from the dance center.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand I will not always be the best dancer, or the best technician, or the best performer, or have the highest extension, or complete the most turns, or feel completely successful at what I am doing in class on a given day. I understand that professional dancers feel this way, too, and that developing resilience by learning how to work through days when I am feeling insecure or "less than" in a dance class is part of the journey of becoming a mature dancer.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that even on days when I am feeling "less than," I am capable of showing up and working hard. I understand that I will get out of class what I put into it. I understand if I put in energy, effort, attention, kindness, positivity and a "yes + and" attitude, I will receive these in turn.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that my teachers are artists who have dedicated their lives to the study and creation of dance and that they expect respectful and dedicated study of the art form from me as an Academy dancer.

As a member of the Hunter Dance Center Academy Program,

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to attend 90% of all dance classes in which I am enrolled. I understand that means I will have to make hard choices to prioritize my dance training over other extra-curricular activities to ensure that my attendance does not fall below that 90% mark, and that if it does I will be ineligible for the Academy Program scholarship tuition next session.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to makeup any classes I do miss within a two week period in a lower level class. I will sign in with the front desk for these "makeups" to receive credit.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to show up to class consistently prepared, on time, in dress code, and with a positive attitude. I will make an effort to demonstrate that I am ready to dance and ready to learn through my posture, my body language, my eye contact, and my listening skills.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to being attentive, respectful, and accountable to the dress code by wearing my appropriate leotard or t-shirt and tights or leggings, no jewelry or watches, and having my hair pulled back tightly and securely (so that I can dance fully with my head without distraction), out of my face (so my expressive eyes are easily visible), and off of my neck (so that I can train to use my neck and back as an expressive gestural instrument and key point of skeletal alignment).

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to paying attention when the teacher is demonstrating and teaching by both watching and listening, by marking through the exercises with the teacher (unless they have specifically asked me to watch and not do in that moment), and by actively working out the notes and feedback that the teacher is giving (whether to me or another student) in my own body, and by making every effort to answer their questions or prompts with thoughtful, thorough responses.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to taking notes and corrections from my teachers as constructive coaching coming from love - and to understanding that they wouldn't give me notes and feedback if they didn't think I had the potential to grow and improve.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to practicing self-reflection, self-correction, and self-awareness.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to being a team player at all times by participating, collaborating, engaging in classroom discussions, and supporting my fellow dancers and my teacher in any way I can. I understand this means abstaining from side-chats with my classmates in the studio, keeping distracting conversations that are not a part of the classroom learning experience and dialogue out of the classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the Academy Program offers deeply subsidized tuition for dancers who demonstrate a love of dance, a passion for the hard work, effort, and direct feedback, and the maturity and responsibility necessary to meet the physical, emotional, and intellectual demands of pre-professional dance training. I am ready to take responsibility for my own learning of the craft at this higher level.

**I have read and agree with each of the statements outlined above. I understand that if I do not agree with any of the statements above, I should not accept the invitation to join the Academy Program. I understand that I am accountable to practicing each of these understandings and agreements throughout my tenure as an Academy Dancer at Hunter Dance Center and that failing to do so will result in my becoming ineligible for the Academy Program.**

DANCER SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_