

western Arkansas BALLET

Brianna Mesa
Ballet Mistress
Wardrobe Mistress

Brianna Mesa is originally from Minot, North Dakota where she began her training at the age of 10 under the instruction of Rinat Mouzafarov. There she performed soloist roles in *The Nutcracker*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Paquita*, *Chopiniana*, and *Les Sylphides*. She was the lead in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Christmas Carol* and *The Anne Frank Ballet*.

Brianna was honored to perform for many years at the Norsk Høstfest, North America's Largest Scandinavian Festival. She has performed with the River Region Ballet, the Moscow Ballet and BalletRox's Urban Nutcracker as a guest artist.

She attended summer programs at The Kirov Ballet Academy, The Pilobolus Institute and received a full scholarship to Burklyn Ballet Theatre. Since then, Brianna has had the opportunity to work with artists such as Thom Clower, John Gardner, Amanda Mckerrow, Helen Starr, Alun Jones, Robert Mills, Dylan Crossman, and Peter Merz. At Burklyn Ballet Theatre, she performed solo roles in classical works such as *Giselle*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *Coppelia*, *Paquita*, *Graduation Ball*, *Harlequinade* and *La Bayadere Grande Pas de Deux*.

Brianna was the recipient of The Merit and Jan Veen Scholarships at The Boston Conservatory where she graduated Cum Laude with a BFA in Dance Pedagogy and Performance. While at the conservatory, Brianna had the fortune to perform works by Jose Limon (*The Winged*), Alwin Nikolais (*Pond*), and Ohad Naharin (*Three*). In addition, she also performed original works by Gianni Di Marco (*Munecos*), Daniel Pelzig (*Trio in A Minor*) and Danielle Agami (*Ema*).

In 2012, she joined Ballet Quad Cities as a full company member. For the 2013-2014 season, Brianna was a principal company member with Ruidoso Dance Ensemble, where she performed the Sugar Plum Fairy, The Lonely Cowgirl in *Rodeo* and Medora in the full length *Le Corsaire*.

Since working with Western Arkansas Ballet, Brianna has had the privilege to perform as Princess Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty* and as The White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland*. She also had the honor of performing as Giselle and Cinderella in their respective full length Ballets. She has choreographed many works at WAB and has had the honor of her choreography being chosen to be performed at Regional Dance America. As Ballet Mistress, she teaches Ballet, Pointe, Variations, Pas de Deux, Modern, and Improvisation. Mrs. Mesa is also certified to teach Progressing Ballet Technique. This is her third year to be the Director of the Intermediate Program for Burklyn Ballet Theatre.

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Melissa Schoenfeld
Executive Artistic Director

Mrs. Schoenfeld has been with Western Arkansas Ballet for 33 years. Previous to joining WAB she earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Fine Arts Ballet Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma, one of the top dance departments in the country.

While at the University of Oklahoma, she studied under Yvonne Chouteau, one of the five famous Indian Ballerinas from Oklahoma, Mary Margaret Holt and Miguel Terekhov, Professor Emeritus of Dance at OU. She was also afforded the opportunity in 1985 to travel to Russia and study ballet from Clara Nicolayevna, an instructor with the Byelorussian State Academy, USSR. During her tenure with Western Arkansas Ballet, Mrs. Schoenfeld has attended many continuing education workshops including a Russian Ballet Seminar in Denver Co., Teachers' Workshops in conjunction with the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, MS. ('90, '94, '98, '02, '06 and '14). Faculty for these workshops included David Howard, Finis Young and Roni Mahler. Mrs. Schoenfeld is certified to teach Progressing Ballet Technique.

Mrs. Schoenfeld has performed with Oklahoma Festival Ballet Company, Renaissance Festival Featured Presentation on PBS Television and with Western Arkansas Ballet.

Under her direction, Western Arkansas Ballet Company auditioned and was asked to become a performing member of Regional Dance America/Southwest. RDA/SW is a national organization of regional ballet companies. Membership in RDA helps WAB maintain their high level of dancing and prepare students to dance in college or in a professional company.

Jared Mesa
Associate Artistic Director

Jared Mesa, born in Yuma, began his formal dance training with Dancer's Workshop at the age of 17 in Yuma, AZ and joined YBT as a member in 2000. Professionally, he has danced with Ballet Quad Cities in Rock Island, IL, dancing roles as Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* and The Couple in *Tango*, as well as Harlequin Doll and Russian in *The Nutcracker*. He has studied on scholarship and danced with Burklyn Ballet Theatre for 16 summers dancing the *Le Corsaire Pas De Deux*, *Harlequinade Pas De Deux*, *Espada in Don Quixote*, *Drummer Boy in Graduation Ball* and *Peasant Pas in Giselle* as well as many contemporary works. Jared is now the ballet master and Choreographic Mentor for Burklyn Ballet Theatre. His guest work includes Ballet Yuma: Hilarion in *Giselle* and James in *La Sylphide*; New England Ballet: Prince Ivan in *Firebird* and Prince Desire in *Sleeping Beauty*. Jared has also guested with Gleich Dances, based in London, England, at the Rouses Point Fête de Danse, Ketchikan Theatre Ballet in Ketchikan, Alaska, and Abilene Ballet Theatre and Patty Harper Dance in Abilene, Texas. Jared has also worked with the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders and Sheryl Crow.

As an award winner for his 2003 choreography, "Lucha con el Toro", at Burklyn Ballet Theatre he has continued to choreograph for them from 2005 to Present. He has also been commissioned to choreograph for companies in Great Falls, MT, Orange, CT and Phoenix, AZ. Jared has been Ballet Master for Ruidoso Dance Ensemble in Ruidoso, NM as well as dancing lead roles in *The Nutcracker* and *Le Corsaire*. Jared has a strong creative talent in choreography. His focus on developing and growing within his dance career makes him an excellent candidate for teaching, performing, rehearsing and setting new works. Jared taught class at the 2017 Regional Dance America National Festival in Phoenix, AZ and his original choreography, "Pelagial" was performed at the festival by Western Arkansas Ballet Company.

Please visit our website at
www.waballet.org



CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND DRESS CODE

Creative Movement is a 45-minute class that meets once a week for ages 4 & up. It develops the musicality, motor skills, rhythm, and coordination of young dancers. Required attire for girls is pink leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes and for boys black shorts or tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes.

Ballet I is a 60-minute class that meets once a week for ages 6 & up. Beginning Ballet Technique is taught, as well as the development of coordination. Required attire for girls is a light blue leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes and for boys black shorts or tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes.

Ballet II is a 75-minute class that meets once a week for ages 8 & up. Basic Ballet Technique is taught as well as self-discipline. A second ballet class is recommended. Required attire for girls is a lavender leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes and for boys black shorts or tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes.

Ballet III is a 90-minute class for ages 10 & up. Basic Ballet Technique and the ability to take correction are the main focuses of this level. A second ballet class is highly recommended. Required attire for girls is a red leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes and for boys black shorts or tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes.

Ballet IV is a 90-minute class for ages 11 & up. Ballet Technique and the ability to take correction are the main focuses of this level. A second ballet class is strongly suggested. Pointe Technique is offered for those given permission by the faculty. The faculty will place dancers in this level. Required attire for girls is a black leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes and for boys black shorts or tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes.

Ballet V is a 90-minute class for ages 12 & up. Intermediate Ballet Technique along with the ability to dance in a group are the focuses of this level. Pointe Technique is offered for those given permission by the faculty. Three classes a week are strongly suggested. The faculty will place dancers in this level. Required attire for girls is a black leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes and for boys black shorts or tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes.

Intro to Ballet III is a 60-minute class for beginning students ages 10-16 with little or no ballet experience. Required attire for girls is any solid color leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes, and for boys black shorts or tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes.

Adult Ballet is a 60-minute class that meets weekly for 10-week sessions (Wednesdays 7:45-8:45, Sep. 15 - Nov. 17, 2021, and Jan. 5 - March 16, 2022). No previous dance training is necessary. Required attire is exercise pants and fitted t-shirt or leotard and tights, pink ballet shoes for women and black ballet shoes for men.

Progressing Ballet Technique is a 60-minute class. Progressing Ballet Technique is the brainchild of Marie Walton-Mahon. Melissa Schoenfeld and Brianna Hagar have been certified by Ms. Walton-Mahon to teach this cross-training for dance class. It is a creative way to use exercise balls and Thera-bands to access muscles in the core and legs to enhance dance training and performance. This class is for ages 10 and up and there will be \$15 equipment fee.

Adult Progressing Ballet Technique is a 60-minute class that meets weekly for 10-week sessions (Thursdays 6:15-7:15, Sep. 16 - Nov. 18, 2021 and Jan. 6 - Mar. 17, 2022). Required attire is exercise pants and fitted t-shirt

Pre-Pointe is a 30-minute strengthening class for ages 11 & up, designed as a preparation for Pointe Technique. Prerequisite to Beginning Pointe. Required attire is the same as you wear in your ballet class.

Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Pointe classes are by invitation only, and require enrollment in at least two ballet classes per week in addition to Pointe class. Required attire is the same dress as you wear in your ballet class with the addition of pointe shoes. Pointe shoes must be checked by faculty before sewing on elastic and ribbon. Co-requisite is two ballet classes.

Tap Classes require the same color leotard and tights as your ballet class (if not enrolled in ballet a solid color leotard is acceptable) and black tap shoes. Tap shoe elastics are strongly recommended. Black jazz pants (hemmed to the appropriate length) or shorts are optional.

Tap I (6-8 yrs old) is a 30-minute class that meets once a week for ages 6 and up. Basic Tap Technique is taught as well as sound recognition. The faculty recommends Ballet I immediately before or after to assist in the connection between ballet and tap.

Tap II (9-12 yrs old) is a 45-minute class that meets once a week for ages 9 and up. Builds upon basic Tap Technique, sound recognition, and the ability to tap in unison are the main focuses. The faculty recommends Ballet II immediately before or after to assist in the connection between ballet and tap.

Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Jazz require a solid color leotard (preferably the same color as your ballet level), pink tights, and black jazz shoes. Black jazz pants (hemmed to the appropriate length) or shorts are optional.

Beginning Jazz is a 60-minute class that meets once a week for ages 8-9. Basic Jazz Technique, as well as basic routine choreography, are taught at this level. The faculty strongly recommends dancers in this level take at least one ballet class (Ballet II) in addition.

Intermediate Jazz is a 60-minute class that meets once a week for ages 10 & up. Jazz Technique and routine choreography are the main focuses. The faculty strongly recommends a prerequisite of at least one year of ballet class, in addition to current ballet class (Ballet III or IV) enrollment.

Advanced Jazz is a 60-minute class that meets once a week for ages 12 & up. Advanced Jazz Technique are the main goals. The faculty strongly recommends a prerequisite of at least three years of ballet class, in addition to current ballet (Ballet V or VI) enrollment. The faculty will place dancers in this level.

Hip Hop I (8-10 yrs old) is a 45-minute class that meets once a week for ages 8 & up. Basic Hip Hop elements are introduced. A ballet and/or jazz class is strongly recommended in addition to Hip Hop. Required attire is appropriate fitted dancewear that you are able to move easily in and jazz shoes or dance sneakers.

Hip Hop II (ages 11 & up) is a 60-minute class that meets once a week for ages 11 & up with previous experience. Expands upon the original Hip Hop elements. A ballet and/or jazz class is strongly recommended in addition to Hip Hop. Required attire is appropriate fitted dancewear that you are able to move easily in and jazz shoes or dance sneakers.

All Modern Classes require a leotard, convertible or footless tights or jazz pants, and bare feet.

Intro to Modern is a 45-minute class that meets weekly for ages 9 & up. This class is designed to introduce a new style of movement to dancers who have had only ballet training.

Beginning Modern is a 45-minute class that meets weekly for ages 10 & up. Principles of contemporary movement technique will be the main focus as well as improvisational skills to strengthen their movement vocabulary. The faculty strongly suggests one year of ballet training as a prerequisite.

Intermediate Modern is a 60-minute class that meets weekly for ages 12 & up. Principles of contemporary movement technique will be the main focus as well as improvisational skills to strengthen their movement vocabulary. The faculty strongly suggests two years of ballet training as a prerequisite.

Advanced Modern is a 60-minute class that meets weekly for ages 14 & up. Principles of contemporary movement technique will be the main focus as well as improvisational skills to strengthen their movement vocabulary. The faculty strongly suggests two years of ballet training as a prerequisite.

2021-2022 ACADEMY TUITION

**Registration Fee:
\$30 per family**

Online Registration is available at
www.waballet.org beginning June 16, 2021

Fall Registration Day (in person) is August
11, 2021 from 4:30 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Registration will be accepted on a first come,
first served basis through Feb. 15, 2022.

To calculate tuition:

1. Choose the classes you are enrolled in and add the number of minutes for each class from the Class List Chart
2. Based on the number of class minutes per week, look at the tuition chart to determine your tuition based upon how you will pay: annually, by semester, or monthly.

Example: Sally is enrolled in the following classes: **Ballet III**, two classes per week (90 min. x 2 days = **180 min.**), **Pre-Pointe**, one class per week (**30 min.**), **Jazz II**, one class per week (**60 min.**), and **Beginning Modern**, one class per week (**45 min.**). Add the minutes per class for each class to find the total minutes per week as below:

180
30
60
+45

315 TOTAL Minutes per week

**315 min. per week = \$1,814.00 Annually
\$ 851.00 Fall Sem.
\$1,064.00 Spring Sem.
\$ 224.00 Monthly**

Class List	Minutes Per Class
Creative Movement	45
Ballet I	60
Ballet II	75
Intro to Ballet III	60
Ballet III	90
Ballet IV	90
Ballet V	90
Progressing Ballet Technique	60
Pre-Pointe	30
Beginning Pointe	90
Intermediate Pointe	90
Advanced Pointe	90
Intro to Modern	45
Beginning Modern	45
Intermediate Modern	60
Advanced Modern	60
Tap I (6-8 years old)	30
Tap II (9-12 years old)	45
Beginning Jazz	60
Intermediate Jazz	60
Advanced Jazz 4	60
Open Hip Hop I (8-10 years old)	45
Open Hip Hop II (11 years and up)	60
Adult Ballet (10 week sessions - 9/15-11/17/21 and 1/5-3/16/21)	10-wk session \$150
Adult Progressive Ballet Technique (ball class) (10 week sessions - 9/16-11/18/21 and 1/6-3/17/21)	10-wk session \$150

Minutes of Class per Week	Monthly Tuition	Fall Semester Tuition with 5% Discount	Spring Semester Tuition with 5% Discount	Annual Tuition with 10% Discount
30	\$55.00	\$209.00	\$261.00	\$446.00
45	\$61.00	\$232.00	\$290.00	\$494.00
60	\$71.00	\$270.00	\$337.00	\$575.00
75	\$82.00	\$312.00	\$390.00	\$664.00
90	\$94.00	\$357.00	\$447.00	\$761.00
105	\$104.00	\$395.00	\$494.00	\$842.00
120	\$116.00	\$441.00	\$551.00	\$940.00
135	\$120.00	\$456.00	\$570.00	\$972.00
150	\$128.00	\$486.00	\$608.00	\$1,037.00
165	\$134.00	\$509.00	\$637.00	\$1,085.00
180	\$135.00	\$513.00	\$641.00	\$1,094.00
195	\$144.00	\$547.00	\$684.00	\$1,166.00
210	\$153.00	\$581.00	\$727.00	\$1,239.00
225	\$164.00	\$623.00	\$779.00	\$1,328.00
240	\$170.00	\$646.00	\$808.00	\$1,377.00
255	\$181.00	\$688.00	\$860.00	\$1,466.00
270	\$192.00	\$730.00	\$912.00	\$1,555.00
285	\$202.00	\$768.00	\$960.00	\$1,636.00
300	\$213.00	\$878.00	\$1,012.00	\$1,725.00
315	\$224.00	\$851.00	\$1,064.00	\$1,814.00
330	\$234.00	\$889.00	\$1,112.00	\$1,895.00
345	\$245.00	\$931.00	\$1,164.00	\$1,985.00
360	\$256.00	\$973.00	\$1,216.00	\$2,074.00
390	\$277.00	\$1,053.00	\$1,316.00	\$2,244.00
405	\$288.00	\$1,094.00	\$1,368.00	\$2,333.00
420	\$298.00	\$1,132.00	\$1,416.00	\$2,414.00
435	\$305.00	\$1,159.00	\$1,449.00	\$2,471.00
450	\$311.00	\$1,182.00	\$1,477.00	\$2,519.00
495	\$332.00	\$1,262.00	\$1,577.00	\$2,689.00
510	\$342.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,625.00	\$2,770.00
525	\$352.00	\$1,338.00	\$1,672.00	\$2,851.00
540	\$356.00	\$1,353.00	\$1,691.00	\$2,884.00
555	\$366.00	\$1,391.00	\$1,739.00	\$2,965.00
585	\$386.00	\$1,467.00	\$1,834.00	\$3,127.00

The Academy is in session for nine months (4 Fall months & 5 Spring months) and all tuition is based on the total annual cost of the program. Payments may be made annually, by semester, or by month. There is a discount for payments made annually or by semester. Discounts are not provided for absences, vacations, academy holidays or snow/inclement weather closures.

Checks should be made payable to Western Arkansas Ballet or WAB. Monthly payments are due on the **first day of the month**. A \$25 late fee is charged after the 5th of the month. **A student whose account is 30 days past due will be asked to observe rather than participate. RETURNED CHECK CHARGE is \$25. Enrollment in auto-pay will be required if tuition is paid after the 5th of the month for two consecutive months.**

It is understood that a student who is admitted to the Academy is to be enrolled for the entire 9-month-term. If it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw, **communication or written notice from an adult/guardian to the Administrator is required**. If the written notification of withdrawal is submitted by the 15th of the month (without class attendance), there will be no charge for the month. Above policies are explained in your Academy Handbook.

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2021-2022 Calendar

June

6-11 Lorraine Cranford Summer Dance Workshop
14-18 Pre-Company Camp
14-18 Summer Ballet Camps
16 Online Registration for 2021-2022
21-25 Hip Hop Camps

July

5-9 Summer Ballet Camp
Open Company Classes TBA

August

2-6 WAB Company Classes Begin (schedule TBA)
9-13 WAB Company Choreography
11 Academy Registration
12 ALL Company Dancers/Parents Meeting
16-20 WAB Company Choreography
20-22 Adult Tennis Tournament
23-27 WAB Company Choreography
23-27 WAB II Classes including Makeup and Hair class

September

8/30-3 WAB II and WAB Company Classes
4-5 6th Annual Junior Tennis Tournament
7 Academy classes begin
24 Pre-Nutcracker Audition Workshop 4:30-6:00
25 The Nutcracker & Peter Pan Auditions

October

4-8 Bring a Friend to Class week
9 Nutcracker rehearsals begin
Fall Ballet Fundraiser TBD

November

Parent Observation Month (**reserve a spot!**)
1-15 Company Poinsettia Sales
20 Sugar Plum Fairy Tea setup/decorate
21 Sugar Plum Fairy Tea
22-26 Closed for Thanksgiving Break

December

14-15 The Nutcracker Rehearsals ArcBest PAC
16-17 The Nutcracker Dress Rehearsals ArcBest PAC*
17 The Nutcracker School Performances at ArcBest PAC
18 The Nutcracker Performance 7:00 p.m. ArcBest PAC
19 The Nutcracker Performance 2:00 p.m. ArcBest PAC
20-Jan 3 Closed for Christmas Break

January

3 Academy classes resume
15 Tutu Run
Possible RDA Adjudication

February

Possible RDA Adjudication

March

9-13 RDSSW Festival in Richardson, TX
21-25 Closed for Spring Break

April

25 Theatre move-in date
26-28 Peter Pan Ballet Rehearsal
29-30 Peter Pan Ballet Performance

May

12 Last day of Academy classes
13 Spring Dance Concert Rehearsal
14 Spring Dance Concert – 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

16 WAB II Company Auditions
17 WAB Company Auditions

June

2 WAB & WAB II Company Meeting 6:00 p.m.
5-10 Lorraine Cranford Summer Dance Workshop
Summer Camps TBA



Contact us:

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Phone: 479-785-0152

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Website: www.waballet.org

*Please note that some classes may be rescheduled or cancelled the week of Dec. 13-17, 2021 and April 25-29, 2022 due to production rehearsals at the theatre.

Holidays

The Academy of Western Arkansas Ballet will observe the Fort Smith Public Schools calendar for **Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break schedules ONLY**. Notification of weather-related closures will be posted on our voicemail, website, Facebook, Channel 5 and Channel 40/29. Make-ups are available during other class times of the same level (Example: Ballet III Monday class may be made up during the Ballet III class offered on Wednesdays). If another class is not available for the level, a make-up will be scheduled with notification provided at the next class.

Western Arkansas Ballet is a non-profit organization. This program is supported, in part, by the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Western Arkansas Ballet is a performing company member in Regional Dance America/Southwest, an association of regional ballet companies.

The Board of Directors has set forth the following mission for the organization: **To create a community dedicated to the Fine Arts through quality dance education, training, and performance.**

Chris Hedrick, President
Ashley Ellis, Vice President
Brandy Jones, Secretary

Melissa Schoenfeld, Executive Artistic Director
Jared Mesa, Associate Artistic Director
Brianna Mesa, Ballet Mistress and Costume Mistress
Allison Thompson, Instructor
Amy Willadsen, Administrator
Kortney Marsden, Administrative Assistant

