

# western Arkansas **BALLET**

4701 Grand Avenue  
Fort Smith, AR 72904-7141  
(479) 785-0152  
[www.waballet.org](http://www.waballet.org)



## **Faculty & Staff**

### **Melissa Schoenfeld, Executive Artistic Director**

Mrs. Schoenfeld has been with Western Arkansas Ballet for over three decades. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Fine Arts Ballet Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma. In addition to teaching ballet at all levels, Mrs. Schoenfeld oversees all artistic operation of Western Arkansas Ballet including directing our annual performance of *The Nutcracker* and teaching dance through Community Outreach programs such as the one with Bost, Inc. working with children with developmental and related disabilities.

### **Jared Mesa, Associate Artistic Director**

Mr. Mesa has been with WAB since 2014. He was born in Yuma, Arizona, began his formal dance training with Dancer's Workshop at the age of 17 in Yuma and joined Yuma Ballet Theatre as a member in 2000. Mr. Mesa teaches Ballet III and above as well as Jazz at all levels. Mr. Mesa is oversees all technical theatre related aspects of WAB.

### **Brianna Mesa, Ballet Mistress & Costume Mistress**

Mrs. Mesa has been with WAB since 2014. Mrs. Mesa graduated from The Boston Conservatory Cum Laude with a BFA in dance. Mrs. Mesa teaches all levels of ballet from 3 year olds to adults as well as all levels of modern dance. As costume mistress, Mrs. Mesa oversees all costume fittings, alterations, and designs for performances.

### **Allison Strasser, Dance Instructor**

Allison join WAB in 2021 as a dance instructor in tap and hip hop. She began dancing at age three and continued training into her junior high and high school years in the studio and on school dance teams, UAFS Poms, and served within the Miss Arkansas Organization. She teaches English and Journalism at Southside High School. Miss Allison is very excited to join the faculty at Western Arkansas Ballet to combine her love of teaching and dance in a professional and positive environment!

### **Amy Willadsen, Administrator**

Amy join WAB in 2021. As Administrator Amy oversees the administrative and financial duties of Western Arkansas Ballet. She can answer your questions about tuition, scholarships, and performance ticket sales.

### **Kortney Marsden, Administrative Assistant.**

Kortney joined the Western Arkansas Ballet staff as the Administrative Assistant in 2017. She plays an important role at WAB. She greets you at the front desk or when she answers the phone. She assists in a wide range of office administration tasks and Academy communications including social media activity.

Visit our website [www.waballet.org](http://www.waballet.org) for more detailed biographical information on all of our faculty and staff.



Photo credit: Kim Singer Photography

# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND DRESS CODE

**Pre-Dance** is a 30-minute class that meets once a week for 3 year olds (must be 3 at time of enrollment). Pre-dance introduces young children movement through music building motor skills, coordination and confidence. 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.

**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.

**Beginning Adult Ballet** is a 60-minute class for ages 15 & up that meets weekly for sessions (Mondays 7:45-8:45). **Fall Session** is Sept. 11 – Nov. 13, 2023. **Spring Session** Jan 8 – Mar.11, 2024. No previous dance training is necessary.

**Adult Ballet** is a 60-minute class that meets weekly for sessions (Wednesdays 7:45-8:45). **Fall Session** is Sept. 13 - Nov. 15, 2023. **Spring Session** is Jan. 10 – Mar. 13, 2024. Dancers with training experience or by permission from our Artistic Staff.

**To the Core** is a 45-minute class. Is a cross-training class to build strength specifically for dancers. 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 is a \$15 equipment fee. Required attire is exercise pants and a fitted t-shirt.

**Adult To the Core** is a 60-minute class that meets weekly for sessions (Thursdays 6:15-7:15) **Fall Session** is Sep. 14 – Nov. 16, 2023. **Spring Session** is Jan. 11 – Mar. 14, 2024). No previous dance training is necessary. Required attire is exercise pants and fitted t-shirt.

**Pre-Pointe** is a 30-minute strengthening class for ages 10 & 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 (6-9 yrs old)** is a 30-minute class that meets once a week for ages 6-9. 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 (10 & up)** is a 45-minute class that meets once a week for ages 10 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.

**Adult Tap** is a 45-minute class that meets weekly for 10-week sessions (Tuesdays 7:30-8:15). **Fall Session** is Sept. 12 - Nov. 14, 2023. **Spring Session** is Jan. 9 – Mar. 12, 2024. No previous dance training is necessary. Black jazz pants (hemmed to the appropriate length) or shorts are optional.

**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 8-10. 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, jazz pants or leggings, and bare feet.

**Intro/Beginning Modern** is a 60-minute class that meets weekly for ages 9 & up. Designed to introduce a new style of movement to dancers also, the principles of contemporary movement technique will be the 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.

# 2023-2024 ACADEMY TUITION

**Registration Fee:  
\$50 per family**

Online Registration is available at  
www.waballet.org beginning June 15, 2023

Registration will be accepted on a first  
come, first served basis through March. 1,  
2024.

**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 =**     **\$1874.00**     **Annually**  
                                         **\$879.00**     **Fall Sem.**  
                                         **\$1,099.00**     **Spring Sem.**  
                                         **\$231.00**     **Monthly**

Class List	Minutes Per Class
Pre-Dance	30
Creative Movement	45
Ballet I	60
Ballet II	75
Ballet III	90
Ballet IV	90
Ballet V	90
To the Core	45
Pre-Pointe	30
Beginning Pointe	90
Intermediate Pointe	90
Advanced Pointe	90
Intro/Beginning Modern	60
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	60
Hip Hop I (8-10 years old)	45
Hip Hop II (11 years and up)	60
Beginning Adult Ballet (Fall Session- 9/11-11/13/23) (Spring Session 1/8-3/11/24)	10-wk Session \$175
Adult Ballet (Fall session - 9/13-11/15/23) (Spring Session - 1/10-3/13/24)	10-wk Session \$175
Adult Tap (Fall Session - 9/12-11/14/23) (Spring Session- 1/9-3/12/24)	10-wk session \$150
Adult To the Core Fall session -9/14-11/16/23) (spring session (1/11-3/14/24)	10-wk Session \$175

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	\$57	\$217	\$272	\$463
45	\$63	\$241	\$301	\$513
60	\$74	\$281	\$352	\$600
75	\$86	\$326	\$407	\$694
90	\$98	\$373	\$467	\$796
105	\$108	\$411	\$514	\$876
120	\$121	\$460	\$576	\$982
135	\$125	\$476	\$595	\$1,015
150	\$133	\$506	\$632	\$1,078
165	\$140	\$531	\$664	\$1,131
180	\$141	\$537	\$672	\$1,145
195	\$149	\$567	\$709	\$1,208
210	\$159	\$602	\$753	\$1,284
225	\$170	\$645	\$807	\$1,376
240	\$176	\$670	\$837	\$1,428
255	\$187	\$712	\$890	\$1,517
270	\$198	\$753	\$942	\$1,606
285	\$209	\$795	\$994	\$1,695
300	\$220	\$837	\$1,047	\$1,785
315	\$231	\$879	\$1,099	\$1,874
330	\$242	\$921	\$1,151	\$1,963
345	\$253	\$963	\$1,203	\$2,052
360	\$264	\$1,005	\$1,256	\$2,142
375	\$275	\$1,047	\$1,308	\$2,231
390	\$286	\$1,088	\$1,360	\$2,320
405	\$297	\$1,130	\$1,413	\$2,409
420	\$304	\$1,156	\$1,445	\$2,464
435	\$313	\$1,190	\$1,488	\$2,537
450	\$321	\$1,221	\$1,526	\$2,603
495	\$343	\$1,305	\$1,631	\$2,781
510	\$352	\$1,337	\$1,672	\$2,850
525	\$362	\$1,377	\$1,721	\$2,934
540	\$367	\$1,395	\$1,744	\$2,974
555	\$377	\$1,434	\$1,793	\$3,057
570	\$388	\$1,473	\$1,841	\$3,140
585	\$394	\$1,496	\$1,870	\$3,189

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month (without class attendance), there will be no charge for the month. Above policies are explained in your Academy Handbook.

# western Arkansas BALLET

## 2023-2024 Calendar

<b>June</b>		<b>December</b>	
1	Online registration for 2023-2024 (current students)	2	Poinsettia Delivery
6-7	Joffrey Workshop	12-13	The Nutcracker Rehearsals ArcBest PAC
10-11	Adult Tennis Tournament	14-15	The Nutcracker Dress Rehearsals ArcBest PAC*
12-16	Elevé Dance Workshop	15	The Nutcracker School Performances ArcBest PAC
12-16	Summer Ballet Camps Ages 4-7	16	The Nutcracker Performance 7:00 ArcBest PAC
13,15	Open Company Classes	17	The Nutcracker Performance 2:00 ArcBest PAC
15	Online Registration for 2023-2024	18-Jan 2	Closed for Christmas Break
15	WAB & WAB II Company Meeting-6:00		
19-22	Giselle Ballet Camp Ages 8-9		
20,22	Open Company Classes		
<b>July</b>		<b>January</b>	
11,13	Open Company Classes	3	Academy Classes resume
18,20	Open Company Classes	20	Tutu Run Spring Ballet Rehearsals begin
25,27	Open Company Classes		
<b>August</b>		<b>February</b>	
1-4	WAB Company Classes Begin (schedule TBA)		RDA Adjudication Guild RDA Meeting-TBD February 17-24
3	ALL Company Dancers/Parents Meeting-5:30		
5-6	8 <sup>th</sup> Junior Tennis Tournament		
9-18	WAB Company Choreography		
21-25	WAB Company Choreography		
21-25	WAB II Choreography		
<b>September</b>		<b>March</b>	
8/28-1	WAB Company Choreography	18-22	Closed for Spring Break
8/28-1	WAB II Choreography		
5	Academy Classes begin		
15	Pre-Nutcracker Audition Workshop 4:30-6:00		
16	The Nutcracker & Spring Ballet Auditions		
<b>October</b>		<b>April</b>	
2-5	Bring a Friend to Class week	1-4	The Wizard of Oz Ballet Rehearsals ArcBest PAC*
7	The Art of Dance-An Off the Wall Fundraiser	6	The Wizard of Oz Ballet 7:00 p.m. ArcBest PAC
7	Nutcracker rehearsals begin	7	The Wizard of Oz Ballet 2:00 p.m. ArcBest PAC
12	Company Parent Meeting-Poinsettia & RDA	13/14	Spring Pictures (All Academy)
12	Company Poinsettia Sales Begin	23-28	RDASW Festival Daytona Beach, FL
<b>November - Parent Observation Month</b>		<b>May</b>	
7	Company Poinsettia/Mum Sales end	16	Last day of Academy classes
12	Nutcracker Pictures	19	WAB II Company Auditions
19	Sugar Plum Fairy Tea (setup and event)	19	WAB Company Auditions
20-24	Closed for Thanksgiving Break	20	Spring Dance Concert Rehearsal
		21,22,23	Spring Dance Concert
<b>June</b>		<b>June</b>	
		13	WAB & WAB II Company Meeting 6:00 Lorraine Cranford Summer Dance Series and/or Joffrey Workshop TBA Levitt AMP Fort Smith Performance TBA Summer Camps TBA



**Contact us:**

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\*Please note that some classes may be rescheduled or cancelled the week of Dec. 11-14, 2023, April 1-4, 2024 and April 23-26, 2024 due to productions and festivals.

### **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 and Facebook. 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 Parks, Heritage, Tourism, 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  
Marie Holland, Treasurer

Melissa Schoenfeld, Executive Artistic Director  
Jared Mesa, Associate Artistic Director  
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