



**SCHOOL OF MISSOURI CONTEMPORARY BALLET  
YOUTH ENSEMBLE CONTRACT**

THIS CONTRACT is entered into on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, by and between the **School of Missouri Contemporary Ballet**, a not for profit organization, and \_\_\_\_\_ an individual, hereinafter referred to as the "Dancer".

Because you are being asked to commit a great deal of time and effort in being a member of the School of Missouri Contemporary Ballet Youth Ensemble, and because you already have large commitments at school and to your personal life, it is important that you understand what will be required of you as a dancer with the Youth Ensemble. The following contract is meant to help you understand your responsibilities as a Company or Apprentice Company member and the responsibilities of the Company to you.

Being a dancer with any company requires that you put forth unusual mental and physical effort. You have to be mentally alert and physically responsive when most people are taking a break. Your reward is no more and no less than the exhilaration of dancing and the fulfillment that comes from expressing yourself in terms of movement. Being a member of the Ensemble takes a lot of energy and you have to know how to pace yourself, when you have time to rest and when you have to work a bit harder. Knowing what your responsibilities are should help you to organize your time effectively.

It is important to understand that your commitment to the Ensemble is matched by a commitment from the School of Missouri Contemporary Ballet, and its Artistic Staff to provide you with the opportunity to develop technically and artistically as a dancer and to gain performing experience in an atmosphere of professional quality. The Board of Directors, the Volunteers and Supporters of the School of Missouri Contemporary Ballet Youth Ensemble, who donate their time and money to make performances possible, make this opportunity possible. In short, the dancers are the performing members of an organization in which everyone has a job to do and responsibilities to meet, an organization that strives to enhance the quality of life in our community.

**CLASSES**

All company and apprentice company dancers are expected to participate in at least two ballet classes per week (Ballet III), or two ballet classes & two pointe classes per week (Ballet IV & up) not including performance company class and additional rehearsals. Dancers must appear in traditional practice clothes (black leotard, pink tights, pink shoes for females, white tee shirt, black or gray tights, black shoes for males) without additional cover-ups, with hair appropriately arranged and with jewelry removed. Dancers must also attend all company warm-up classes that may precede additional rehearsals or performances.

Dancers are encouraged to take additional ballet classes as well as classes in modern, jazz & Pilates. Dancers who are considering a career in dance should definitely be taking more than the minimum number of required classes each week. Dancers who do not attend the minimum number of classes required will be dropped from the Ensemble.

As a member of the Youth Ensemble, Dancers are making a commitment to train exclusively at the School of Missouri Contemporary Ballet. Dancers in the Youth Ensemble may not take classes at any other school of dance without written permission from the School Director. Any dancer who is found to be taking classes elsewhere without permission will be dropped from the company.

### **CASTING**

Casting is the responsibility of the School Director who must consider the specific needs of an entire production. Dancers are required to accept the roles for which they are cast and are encouraged to think in terms of dancing as part of a complete production rather than dancing an isolated piece of the production that may or may not fit what they had in mind for themselves. Every member of the Company or Apprentice Company may not be cast in every performance, but are still expected to serve as understudies. Casting as an understudy should be considered as an opportunity to learn and dance a role, not as an unnecessary or unimportant task. Understudies are essential in every production and are often required to perform a role. Dancers not cast in a production are still expected to be present at all rehearsals and performances as understudies and in support of their fellow dancers.

### **REHEARSALS**

Company class and rehearsals for the 2018-2019 season will be held:

**Thursdays 7:15-9:00p**

**Saturdays times TBA**

Rehearsals may be called on Sunday when no other time can be arranged. Rehearsals may be called at other times when dancers are free. Dancers must attend all rehearsals for ballets in which they have been cast or cast as understudies. Additional rehearsal times will be announced at least 24 hours before any rehearsal. Dancers must attend all technical and dress rehearsals for any ballet in which they have been cast or cast as understudies. Any dancer who may be unable to attend a rehearsal for any reason should notify the Artistic Director at the earliest possible date. Absences from rehearsals will only be excused for a required school function with a teacher's note or for illness with a doctor's note.

### **PHOTO CALLS AND FITTINGS**

Dancers must attend all photo calls and fittings required for the roles for which they have been cast. Female dancers should be prepared to appear in a black leotard, pink tights and pink ballet shoes. Male dancers should be prepared to appear in a white tee shirt, black or gray tights, white ankle length socks and white shoes.

### **COMPANY FUNCTIONS**

Dancers may from time to time be asked to appear as a group in special workshop classes, lecture demonstrations, publicity functions or company fundraisers. At such functions dancers should be prepared to appear in the dress outlined above and should conduct themselves as representatives of the company at all times.

### **COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP**

Dancers must provide their own rehearsal and performance tights, shoes and leotards. All costumes will be provided by the company and must be handled with care by the dancers. Make-up is the responsibility of each individual dancer. Drinking, eating, chewing gum or sitting is not permitted while in costume. No dancer will leave the back stage area while in costume or stage make-up. The costumer, wardrobe mistress and their assistants must be treated with the utmost respect at all times. Dancers must always leave dressing rooms clean and neat.

### **STAGE SAFETY**

The Stage Manager is responsible for the smooth running of an entire production and for safety on stage. Because the stage is complex and requires cooperation for a large number of people in varying capacities, the Stage Manager must

be given full attention at all times. Like a sergeant in the army he or she must be obeyed instantly for the show to run properly and safely. Courtesy, common sense and respect for the theater are the best guides for your own safety on stage. The Stage Manager is responsible for making sure everyone is at the theater for rehearsals and performances. A sign-in sheet will be posted and dancers must sign-in upon arrival. Dancers are expected to show the utmost respect for all stage personnel at all times.

### **RULES OF CONDUCT**

Dancers, while involved in company functions, must conduct themselves as representatives of the School of Missouri Contemporary Ballet and in a manner that reflects the highest standards inherent to ballet training. The use of drugs or alcohol by any dancer while involved in company activities will result in immediate dismissal from the company. Company dancers are expected to understand that they are viewed as role models by younger dancers and students in the school and must strive to achieve the highest standards of personal conduct for themselves at all times. When traveling with the company, dancers will be expected to observe special rules and regulations that may be established for their safety and protection.

### **ACADEMIC STANDING**

Dancers who are students in an academic school must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5. Failure to maintain a 2.5 average will result in probation until the end of the next grading period. Failure to maintain a 2.5 average during the period of probation will result in dismissal from the company until a 2.5 average can be maintained.

### **TERM OF CONTRACT AND EARLY TERMINATION**

This contract is intended to extend the entire period of the School of Missouri Contemporary Ballet Performance Company season, from August 27, 2018 through June 2, 2019. Any dancer wishing to terminate the contract during the season must give at least four weeks' notice to the Artistic Director and must agree to teach his or her roles to another dancer or dancers to be specified by the Artistic Director. The Artistic Director may terminate the contract at any time a dancer fails to meet the terms of the contract or fails to meet the technical standards of the Company. Performance company fees are non-refundable, including termination of contract by either party.

### **PERFORMANCE COMPANY FEES**

Each company member will be required to pay a performance company fee of **\$300** upon signing this contract. The fee is non-refundable and is assessed to help defray the costs of costume maintenance, company class and rehearsal instruction. Company members are still responsible for paying normal tuition fees for all other classes outside of company class and rehearsal (including all required and optional courses registered student is registered for).

### **PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the responsibility of the parent to stay informed regarding all Performance Company activities. Please check your email regularly as this is the primary method of communication. Transportation must be arranged for dancers for all classes, rehearsals and company events. Every company dancer must have one parent/guardian represented in the 'Parent Guild'. This guild is formed for the purpose of assisting the performance company with fundraising and volunteering at events as well as costuming, props, etc. Each parent will be required to contribute to the Performance Company in at least one of these areas throughout the season.

## SCHOOL OF MCB PERFORMANCE COMPANY-DANCER AGREEMENT

In return for the School of Missouri Contemporary Ballet offering me a position in the Student Performance Company, I promise:

1. I will attend all rehearsals. Excused absence from rehearsal may be granted by the School Director in the event of a required school activity, illness, or family emergency. I will inform the School Director of any conflict and provide proper documentation (i.e. Teacher's/Doctor's note)
2. I will maintain my dance class schedule at the School of Missouri Contemporary Ballet. I understand that Youth Ensemble work is in addition to my regular class schedule-not in place of.
3. I will be at every class/rehearsal 10 minutes early and stay until it ends. I will arrive properly warmed up, dressed, fed & ready to work.
4. I accept responsibility for knowing my rehearsal schedule and choreography, including any changes that may occur. I will check my email regularly so I will be able to keep track of any rehearsal changes. I will make sure my parents have arranged transportation for me.
5. I will not bring food or beverage into the dance studio at any time. Only a water bottle is allowed.
6. I am responsible for getting to every rehearsal and performance for which I am scheduled on time regardless of weather.
7. I will bring with me to each rehearsal a pleasant disposition. I will take direction and follow rules cheerfully. I understand that I am one of a large cast and will not expect special treatment.
8. I understand that School of Missouri Contemporary Ballet may take and use photos of me for promotional materials
9. I understand that if I violate this agreement, I can be removed from the Performance Company.

For parents: I understand that there is a \$300 Performance Company Fee. I will pay this amount on or before September 1, 2018. I commit to serving on the Parent Guild and assist the Youth Ensemble through one or more of the following: fundraising, volunteering at events, costumes and props. I will ensure my dancer is prepared, organized and on time for all classes, rehearsals, performances, and events.

Having read and understood the terms and conditions of this contract, the undersigned do hereby agree to these terms and conditions:

DANCER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ARTISTIC/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_