

BNE2 Company Auditions

Auditions for this season's Youth Company, BNE2, will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 7-9 pm at the BNE studios, Portsmouth. Dancers should arrive in black leotard, pink tights, pink slippers, and have pointe shoes with them. Hair should be secured in a bun.

Below is the contract that dancers will have to sign if accepted into the Company. Please read thoroughly before auditioning as eligibility requirements, dancer expectations, and family obligations are explained.

After reading the contract, if you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Ballet New England, 603/430-9309.

BNE2 Dancer Contract September 2008 - June 2009

MEMBERSHIP

- All company dancers must be twelve years of age or older. Exceptions may be made for a ballet that requires a younger child for a specific role.
- Dancers are accepted into the company only after an audition for the Artistic Director.
- There are two levels of membership in the Company. A *Full Company* Member is committed to supporting BNE in all ways and will make the company's schedule a top priority in their lives. An *Apprentice* Member is recognized as being very focused, but is given leeway in response to youth and inexperience. It is expected that the dancer will advance from an Apprentice level to Full Company level the following year. If a dancer is not promoted to a Full Company member after two years, then the dancer will not be offered a position in the third year.
- Dancer must be a student at Ballet New England Center for Dance Education.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

- The Artistic Director makes all casting decisions and is responsible for all production matters.
- The Artistic Director may require a performing member to re-audition at any time it is deemed necessary.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PERFORMING MEMBERS

- Dancers may attend any ballet school they desire. They must attend at least 4 ballet classes a week.
- Dancers are **required** to attend a company class on Saturdays from 11:30 – 1pm.
- Dancers are **required** to be available for rehearsal at these times: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7 – 9 pm, Friday from 5:45 – 7:00 and Saturdays and Sundays from 2 – 6 pm. The Friday and Sunday rehearsals will only be called in an emergency, during guest rehearsals, or Nutcracker periods.
- Dancers who do not attend a scheduled class before rehearsal may not rehearse. This means, that if you are enrolled for a class and you do not attend, you may not dance in rehearsal that evening or afternoon.
- Dancers who miss 2 rehearsals will be replaced in the ballet.
- Dancers must be on time for all rehearsals and performances as scheduled by the director, unless previously excused. Any unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the company. Special consideration may be given to important personal, religious, or school events, providing notice is given at least TWO WEEKS in advance of such an event and depending upon BNE2's own time restrictions. Illness or a death in the family is considered a permissible absence.
- Dancers are responsible for informing themselves of the time and place of classes, rehearsals and performances. Fines for tardiness are listed below.
- Should a dancer find it necessary to withdraw from the company or miss a performance, he/she must immediately advise the director. The dancer further agrees to teach his/her roles to an understudy and to leave comprehensive notes for roles in which he/she has been cast.

- The dancer understands that the company will take part in performances or special rehearsals that occur during school time. Dancers must agree to take part in at least four (4) such rehearsals or performances a season.
- All Company members are responsible for a \$250 company fee to be given in two checks, \$150 and \$100. The \$150 check will be used to pay the instruction of company class for the entire season. The \$100 check will be held in a separate account and if the dancer raises \$100 or more in fundraising activities during the season, the check will be returned. This does not include the \$100 required Nutcracker fundraising obligation. If the goal is not met, the amount returned will be reduced by the amount of the shortfall.

CASTING

- Dancers must accept the roles assigned to them since they are assigned with consideration for their level of development, their specific capabilities and the requirements of the overall production.
- Any Choreographer chosen by the company to create a ballet upon the company will cast their own ballets.
- The Artistic Director will be responsible for casting ballets in case of the choreographer's absence or an emergency.
- **Any discussion between dancers or their parents, and the director or choreographer about casting will result in the immediate dismissal of the dancer.**

FINANCES

- No fee shall be paid to any company member for rehearsals or performance unless authorized by the director.
- All expenses of costumes, accessories and properties will be defrayed by the company and will remain the property of BNE. However, culmination costume expenses will be the responsibility of the dancer. Shoes and tights will be furnished by the dancer for both rehearsals and performances.
- Dancer will be fined the following amounts for the following violations:
 - a. Runs in performance tights - \$.50
 - b. Pointe shoe ribbons out in performance - \$5.00
 - c. Hair falling out of bun in performance - \$2.50
 - d. Tardiness for studio rehearsal - \$.05 per minute
 - e. Tardiness for stage rehearsal - \$.10 per minute
 - f. Tardiness for performance one half hour (30 minute) call - \$1.00 per minute

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Parents of dancers under age 18 must be willing to work for BNE2 at least 20 hours over the course of the season. This work may consist of volunteering at performances, organizing fundraising events, assisting backstage, or sewing. The Director or a representative of the Director will make every effort to accommodate a parent's schedule but failure of the parent to help at all may result in the dancer's dismissal from the Company.
- The Company requires parents to supply a front and back copy of their insurance card and a detailed list of preferred procedure in case of injury or sudden sickness of the dancer. Company will make continuous attempts to reach the parent, but if the Company cannot reach the parent, the Company will follow the given instructions of the parent.

COMPANY CONTRACTS AND LEGAL PAPERS

If the dancer is under eighteen (18) years of age, a parent or guardian is required to sign the company contract and/or any legal papers. These are signed with full understanding of the obligations necessary for the development of the dancer and company.