

# Ballet Arts Ensemble: Frequently Asked Questions

*This has been prepared to assist you in deciding if you wish to audition for Ballet Arts Ensemble. Additional questions can be directed to Mrs. Cathleen Huling, Artistic Director, 269.345.3433.*

**1. WHAT IS BALLETS ARTS ENSEMBLE?** *Ballet Arts Ensemble is a nonprofit youth ballet company, established in 1982.*

**2. WHO CAN AUDITION AND HOW OFTEN?** *Anyone 12 years or older may audition; girls must be on pointe. Dancers may audition as often as they like.*

**3. WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT THE AUDITION PROCESS?**

*Auditions are held yearly at the Ballet Arts studio. A panel of professional judges will adjudicate and determine BAE membership. All current and prospective members must audition each year. **There is a \$15 class fee that must be paid at the time of the audition – OR online on the Ballet Arts Ensemble website.** 2022-23 auditions will be held on Sunday, May 22nd at 2PM. The President of the Board of Directors will electronically mail acceptance or rejection notification immediately following the auditions.*

**4. ARE ALL DANCERS SELECTED CONSIDERED FULL COMPANY MEMBERS?**

*No. Some dancers may be selected as apprentices with the company. Apprentices are PERFORMING members of the company, but they are also novices and trainees and will be carefully monitored throughout the season. Depending on the progress of their training and improvement in technique, their status may or may not change. Apprentices are expected to comply with all aspects of the CONTRACT as well as the RULES and REGULATIONS pertaining to company class, rehearsals, and weekly required classes.*

**5. IS THERE AN ENSEMBLE MEMBERSHIP FEE?** *Yes. There is an annual fee determined by the Board of Directors. A company leotard is also required. **The membership fee for the 2022-2023 contract year is \$300. Company leotards cost \$35.***

**6. ARE THERE ANY OTHER FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OR FEES?** *Yes. To ensure that fundraiser income matches budget needs, each BAE member will be asked to raise and/or donate an amount set by the board based on the season budget for spring fundraisers. **The fundraising fee for the 2022-2023 contract year is \$100.***

**7. IF I AM SELECTED, DO I HAVE TO TAKE ANY CLASSES BESIDES THE COMPANY CLASS?** *Yes. All Ensemble members must take a minimum of 2 classical ballet classes per week in addition to the BAE company class.*

**8. WHEN DOES THE COMPANY CLASS MEET?** *The company class meets each Saturday from 1- 5pm.*

**9. WHAT ARE MY REHEARSAL OBLIGATIONS?** *Regular attendance is expected at all rehearsals as part of the company class on Saturdays unless it is cancelled by the Artistic Director. Four weeks before any major production, extra Sunday rehearsals will be held from 1:00-4:00pm. In addition, extra rehearsals may also be scheduled for some dancers, but every effort will be made to coordinate a mutually agreed- upon time. Performance tech and dress rehearsals are always mandatory.*

**10. BESIDES COMPANY CLASS, HOW WILL BAE MEMBERSHIP HELP ME BECOME A BETTER DANCER?** *The Artistic Director meets yearly with each dancer individually to assess progress. Strengths are noted and suggestions are given to address specific problems and how to improve overall technique.*

**11. WHAT KINDS OF PERFORMANCES DOES BAE DO?** *BAE performs two major productions each season. Smaller concerts, virtual concerts and community performances may also occur in a variety of venues in and around the Kalamazoo area.*

**12. HOW ARE ROLES ASSIGNED FOR PERFORMANCES AND PRODUCTIONS?** *The Artistic Director assigns all roles at her discretion.*

**13. CAN I BE REMOVED FROM A ROLE ONCE IT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME?** *Yes. The Artistic Director may replace dancers for any reason at her sole discretion. In addition, the Artistic Director has total authority at any time to dismiss a member from either a performance or an individual piece.*

**14. DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR MY OWN COSTUMES FOR PERFORMANCES AND PRODUCTIONS?** *No. Costumes used by BAE are provided by and become the property of BAE.*

**15. CAN I BE DISMISSED FROM THE ENSEMBLE DURING THE SEASON?** *Yes. Dismissal from the Ensemble may occur for any of the following reasons: excessive absence, missed mandatory rehearsals, violation of any of the terms of the written contract, and failure to observe the codes of behavior and ethics outlined in the handouts received.*

**16. WHAT IS THE CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENT?** *BAE members sign a contract that commits them to participate for an entire season from June 2022- May 2023.*

**17. WHY SHOULD I WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF BAE?** *Membership in BAE develops dancers technically. It also helps dancers to build discipline, confidence, and poise.*