



2024-2025

20th Anniversary Season

*Hill Dance Academy Theatre (HDAT)
Handbook
For
Parents and Students*

2900 Bedford Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Studio Contact: *HDAT App*

dance@5678hdat.org

Administrative Office Contact: 412.925.3695

Are you on Social Media?



Friend us: www.facebook.com/5678hdat

Follow us: www.twitter.com/5678hdat

Watch us: www.youtube.com/5678hdat

To stay up on the latest from *HDAT*

Mission

Hill Dance Academy Theatre (HDAT) provides professional level training in Black dance traditions, history, culture, and aesthetics that engages and empowers students to pursue careers in Black dance.

History

Hill Dance Academy Theatre (HDAT), Home of Ju.B.Lation Spirit Filled Feet, developed out of Ayisha Morgan-Lee's passion to ensure that children, ages 3 to 18 years old, who wanted to dance, but who would not otherwise have an opportunity to dance that they would be able to with *HDAT*. Upon completing her BFA degree in Dance at Howard University, and in October 2005, while in her first year in graduate school at Carnegie University, students and parents, that she had previously taught asked her to start classes again so that they could dance. How and where were the key questions. Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church, a Black church in the Hill community offered Ayisha space to hold classes for the next nine months, for twenty children ages, 3 to 6. In 2007, armed with her Masters in Arts Management (MAM) degree, and with the support of Pittsburgh City Parks and Recreation, *HDAT* had a new home with mirrors and barrés in West Penn Recreation Center. In 2007, *HDAT* established, *Ju.B.Lation: Spirit Filled Feet*, a Liturgical, pre-professional dance company that uses dance as the artistic voice to celebrate the Cultural, Spiritual and Sacred traditions of the Black Church experience. Beginning in 2008, *HDAT* created an eight-week summer intensive and coupled with enrollment growth, classes expanded from all day Saturday to include three evenings a week for advance students. In April 2010, *HDAT* became a 501 c3 nonprofit organization and began to rent St. Benedict the Moor Center for the artistry of Black dance.

With growth, the mission to develop and train dancers in Black dance traditions, expanded Black dance knowledge, contributions, and the creation of emerging artists to sustain Black dance in the Black community and beyond. *HDAT's* mission has continued to remain the core focus for the curriculum, programs, performances, development of students and faculty. *HDAT's* culturally responsive arts ecology, and its holistic approach to the arts has engaged, served, and provided opportunities to students who aspire to dance careers on the concert stage.

HDAT students receive training from faculty artists who are professional experts in diverse genres of dance, and professions that support dance. Master guest dance artists, from national and international companies, annually set choreographic works on dancers. *HDAT* dancers have exceptional performance opportunities such as the annual Spring Dance Concert at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture, and the University of Pittsburgh where they present season performances and other cultural venues throughout Greater Pittsburgh.

Since 2005, *HDAT* has grown as a leader in dance education, with faculty artists who have tenure with the organization of over 11 years or more, annual engagements of 5,000 students in public, private and youth serving organizations, 780 classes annually, and a sustained location for nearly 18 years, in the historic Hill District arts community, home of August Wilson and many great Black Jazz and music artists.

In July 2021, *HDAT* purchased their rental home, St. Benedict the Moor Centre, a 29,000 square foot campus for a permanent home for Black dance. In January 2022, *HDAT* was named, one of sixteen arts organization, by The Heinz Endowments and The Ford Foundation as a, *A Pittsburgh Cultural Treasurer*, a national designation for cultural organizations whose programs consistently support Black communities through the arts.

Vision

- To develop and sustain historical significance of Black dance as an art form
- To create arts educational programs that utilizes artistic, aesthetic, cultural pedagogy and performance to transform stereotypes and barriers about Black dance as a career and resource in Black communities
- To provide children & youth access to Black dance

Values

Respect & care for self & others

Equity & Social Justice

Creativity

Leadership

Discipline Education

Community Service

Pride in Black Art, Culture, and Scholarship

Traditions

Our vision is to meet the needs of Black students who are aspiring to careers in concert dance by providing intense training, and collaboration with master dance artists and sustaining excellence in the dance education curriculum.

HDAT's classes, activities and performances are designed to accomplish the following goals:

- Develop artistic both technical and theoretical dance classes
- Provide performance opportunities at the appropriate level
- Increase an appreciation of dance as an art form
- Broaden an understanding of other art forms and their relationship to dance
- Develop an understanding of physiologically sound movement principles
- Maintain a high standard of discipline and excellence
- Initiate community involvement through volunteer service and performances
- Instill a sense of ethics and professionalism, by fostering a sense of responsibility to others, the teaching artist, and the art form

HDAT Administration/Staff

Ayisha Morgan-Lee, EdD
Founder, CEO & Artistic Director
412.925.3695 amorganlee@5678hdat.org

Veronica Morgan-Lee, Ph.D.
Director of Fund Development
412.925.3695 vmorganlee@5678hdat.org

Michia Carmack
Associate Artistic Director
412.925.3695 mcarmack@5678hdat.org

Eric A. Smith
Director of Media, Productions & Marketing
412.925.3695 eamsmith@5678hdat.org

Jennifer Phillip, M.Th.
Director of Operations
412.925.3695 jphillip@5678hdat.org

Dan Rice
Director of Maintenance

David Moore
Director of Security

HDAT Faculty

Leslie Anderson Braswell ... Ballet, *Pointe*
Chrisala Brown... West African
Michia Carmack... Ballet, Horton, Creative Movement
Kaila Carter... Ballet, Pointe & Contemporary
Indira Cunningham... Contemporary, Jazz & Fitness
Joni Carroll...Luigi Jazz
Bria Goldsmith... Rehearsal Director
Akin Loman... Capoeira, African Drumming
Antonia Long...Pianist
Veronica Morgan-Lee, Ph.D. ... Student Career Development...Leadership, Black History/
Culture & Etiquette/Networking
Ayisha Morgan-Lee, EdD... Dance Transition, Ballet, Horton, Creative Movement
Eric A. Smith...Creative Discipline, Performance Creative Discipline, Media & Dance
Demaskus Theater Collective - <https://www.demaskus.com>

2024-2025 Academy Important Dates

August 2024

- **August 24:** 2024-25 Parent Only Orientation

September 2024

- **September 2:** Closed - Labor Day
- **September 7:** **Company Performance** - Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Gala
- **September 14:** **IABD Parent Meeting 9:30-10:30am**
- **September 9:** 2024-25 Season Academy Classes Begin
- **September 9-14:** Student Orientation and Auditions Week
- **September 27:** Jazz on WBW

October 2024

- **October 8:** **Company Performance** – Macedonia FACE
- **October 17-18:** Point Park University Workshop High School Dancers Only
- **October 25:** Jazz on WBW
- **October 26:** Hallows in Hill Event
- **October 31:** Closed - Halloween

November 2024

- **November 27-December 2:** Thanksgiving Break/ No Classes
- **November 29:** Jazz on WBW

December 2024

- **December 8:** Holiday Bazaar
- **December 14:** Live Nativity Performance partnership with Demaskus Theater Collective
- **December 16:** **Outside Performance Hip Hop Nutcracker** (\$30.00 for students and \$44.00 for the adults/ Monies Due November 1/ Only 20 students and 10 adult tickets available)
- **December 23-26 and December 30-January 3:** Offices Closed for Holiday Break
- **December 27:** Jazz on WBW Southern Style; Kwanzaa Celebration

January 2025

- **January 6:** **All Classes Resume**
- **January 6-19:** IABD Prep & Rehearsals
- **January 22-26:** IABD 2025 Conference/ No Classes
- **January 27:** **HDAT** Closed
- **January 31:** Jazz on WBW

February 2025

- **February 14:** Closed - Valentine's Day
- **February 28:** Jazz on WBW

March 2025

- **March 15:** Spring Arts Fashion Show Fundraiser
- **March 28:** Jazz on WBW

April 2025

- **April 5-19 – Ronald K. Brown Residency/ Auditions SDC**
- **April 21-27:** Spring Dance Concert Tech and Performance Week

May 2025

- **May 30:** Jazz on WBW

June 2025

- **June 23:** SMB Intensive Begins
- **June 27:** Jazz on WBW

July 2025

- **July 4:** Closed
- **July 25:** Jazz on WBW

August 2025

- **August 1-3:** 20th Anniversary Dance Festival
- **August 23:** 2025-26 Parent Orientation
- **August 29:** Jazz on WBW

September 2025

- **September 8:** 2025-26 Season Academy Classes Begin / Student Orientation
- **September 26:** Jazz on WBW

October 2025

- **October 4:** Anniversary Gala

Academy Calendar is subject to change

For HDAT Dancers...

To become a successful dancer...

- You must make a commitment to each class. Developing the techniques in dance, theatre and all courses in the Academy is important to your success as a dancer. When you come to each class prepared to learn and you focus on the class without personal distractions you will be engaged in the learning process. Progress occurs when you look at each class as an opportunity to become a better dancer and you dance full out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.
- You are engaged, has respect for faculty, listens to each and all corrections, whether directed to you or another dancer, and values the feedback received. In the world of dance, a correction is an honor because it shows you how much faculty care about your progress as a dancer and developing artist.

Parents “We Are Working Together”

HDAT believes that a student’s success depends on the support of parents and/or guardians. Your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference; we welcome and encourage you to be a part of your child’s dance education & encourage completion of all learning activities.

Information for Parents of Dance Starts Here...Creative Movement

HDAT provides the highest quality artistic foundation for student’s ages 3 to 6 years old. *HDAT’s* age-appropriate curriculum addresses the physical, social-emotional, intellectual, and developmental needs of students with introductory dance experiences in areas of coordination, listening skills, musical awareness, and creative imagination while utilizing music, song, stretching exercises, and the disciplines of Ballet, Theater, Hip-Hop, Tap, West African, Musical Instruments, and Jazz. For the Creative Movement students’ repetition is a key element for learning and success. The more they practice, the more confidence they will feel and more permanent their learning will be.

For All Parents and Dancers...Dance Education

Dance is an individual art form and children need to achieve at a pace that they feel is comfortable and best for them. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It is important to encourage children to focus on themselves, to be engaged, and satisfied with their individual accomplishments. *HDAT’s* primary goals are to teach life lessons and skills that offer children the best chance for success and lifelong learning. Dance education encompasses far more than technique and the steps your children learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives students a better understanding of commitment through learning, experiencing the spirit of teamwork, and discovering what they can accomplish through consistent hard work. Our goal is to educate the Mind, Body, and Spirit of our students, teaching them skills needed for a successful and productive life on and/or off the stage.

Class Placement

Students will audition the first week of classes to determine their skills and class level. *HDAT’s* faculty evaluates students’ progress and placement level. It is *HDAT’s* policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every child. Placement decisions are determined based on technical development, movement execution, cognitive grasp, retention of sequences, musicality, and dance experiences. Consideration will also be given to grooming, attendance, tardiness, conduct/behavior, etiquette, and work ethic. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class to spark confidence and promote the development of self-esteem. Some students when placed in a higher level may become discouraged and lose their passion for dance while others respond to the challenge of being in a class with students who are more proficient by pushing themselves to work harder. All

placements are subject to change at the discretion of the Executive/ Artistic Director, Ayisha Morgan-Lee, EdD or the Associate Artistic Director, Ms. Michia Carmack.

Cell Phone, Electronic Devices & Technology Usage Policies

HDAT will provide any electronic device needed for class work. Dancers are expected to follow the technology guidelines in their studio classes. Please note that *HDAT* will not be responsible for any personal lost electronic items. If a student must have a cell phone or any other electronic devices, they must be turned in at the beginning of the day and secured until lunch time and at the end of the day. Phones and iPods used in dance studios will be confiscated by faculty. First offense: returned at the end of the day; second offense: the item(s) will be held until parent/guardian personally retrieves them and student(s) will lose further phone access to electronic devices on the campus and in studios.

Medical Information, Medications, & Allergies

- Parents must notify the Executive Director in writing of the names of children who use an inhaler or require medications during the day
- All medication needs must be in writing on the release form explaining all existing medical conditions, allergies (food & other) and social, emotional, and mental challenges and learning at the time of registration and throughout the year
- Faculty are trained professionals who want to work with all students and personalities; the more we know about your child's needs, then we can provide the best dance experience for each and all students
- *HDAT* maintains a policy of confidentiality for all information regarding students and families...

COVID -19 Policy

Hill Dance Academy Theatre continues to modify, listen, and abide by the PA Department of Health and CDC Guidelines

- At this time, everyone who enters the facility, has the option to wear a mask, properly covering their mouth and nose
- *HDAT's* cleaning staff cleans and disinfects daily and throughout the day as needed.
- Before arriving for classes or any activities please make sure your child(ren) are feeling well and if they are showing signs of any symptoms but not limited to the following illnesses, fever, coughing, shortness of breath, or been in contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 **do not come to class**
- Whether travelling out of state or not, it is *HDAT's* expectation that all students and families will continue to practice appropriate public health measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 such as masking, physical distancing, and hand hygiene.
- While attending *Hill Dance Academy Theatre*, including participating in *HDAT's* classes and activities, you may have possible exposure to illness from infectious diseases, including but not limited to influenza and COVID-19 and the above measures are designed to mitigate exposure and spread of germs and disease.

Staying Informed & Communicating with Parents

One of *HDAT's* primary goals is to keep parents and students informed. *HDAT* communicates with parents through the *HDAT App*. All notices are posted on the *HDAT App*. Weekly Reviews will be sent out Friday via the app with a summary of the week's activities and upcoming activities during the Summer Intensive. If there are any problems or concerns with students and or questions notify the Executive/Artistic Director, Ayisha Morgan-Lee, EdD or Associate Artistic Director, Ms. Michia Carmack.

Studio Dress Code Requirements

Dance is a disciplined art form and must be respected as such; students will be held accountable and disciplined for not being in uniforms...

- **Dance uniforms**
 - *HDAT* has a mandatory dress code; the uniform allows faculty, while teaching, to see proper body alignment, and make necessary corrections
 - No outerwear will be allowed in class (example, t-shirts, tanks, leg warmers, sweatpants, or shorts unless otherwise stated by faculty)
 - All Dance Attire can be ordered and purchased via *HDAT's* store...**5678DANCE!**
 - All Dancers are required to wear class color leotards, flesh tone tights, *lapa* African skirt, flesh tone ballet shoes& tap shoes

During the academy, students are to dress for every class with the following...

- Class Color Leotard (see Dance Attire sheet for options) no underwear are worn under leotard and tights
- Flesh tone tights
- Ballet Skirt for Levels 1-4
- *Lapa* African Skirt for Levels 1-4
- Dance shoes...
 - Tap shoes
 - Flesh tone canvas or leather ballet shoes
 - *Pointe* shoes (Only required based on faculty recommendation and will be dyed to match skin color)

During the summer intensive...

- Any color leotard, no underwear are worn under leotards and tights
- *Lapa* African skirt, Flesh tone footless tights or biker shorts above the knee or to the knee, no leggings, and no short cut off tights
- Students must always wear top clothing over dance attire when entering and existing the building, at lunch/recess and traveling to and from field trips
- **Hairstyles**
 - ⊖ Hair, of any style, for all dancers, should be smoothed and secured up and away from the face at all times. Due to the aesthetic, quality, safety, discipline, and technical demands of dance, it is imperative for hairstyles to be in a secure structure and of a size that accommodates partnering, balance, all turns and jumps
- **Jewelry and Body Adornments**
 - No rings, nose rings, body adornments, watches, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, etc. (only small stud earrings allowed for girls and boys)
 - No nail or toe polish for performances
 - Fingernails and toenails must be no longer than fingertips for all classes and performances
 - Visible tattoos must be covered with make-up for all classes and performances
 - No make-up permitted for classes,
 - Students will wear makeup for performances only
- Students must carry their dancewear, shoes, and other belongings in a dance bag; print your name on bag as well as on all dance clothing & contents in the bag
- Each studio has cubby's where students can place their items during class a
- All items are removed from cubby when class is over
- Dancewear is to be kept in good repair and laundered daily
- Boys ages 10 and older must wear a dance belt

- All students must have a water bottle—*HDAT* does not provide cups...
- Dance shoes should never be worn outside
- Students are expected to observe good personal hygiene habits; deodorant is required for students ages 8 and older
- No flip flops, sandals or clogs are to be worn to *HDAT* or at any *HDAT* function; tennis shoes only for fitness and classes that require non dance footwear
- During performances and in preparation for performances, students are not permitted to wear nail or toenail polish, not even clear
- Students may not wear any jean material items of clothing of any type, jean material does not allow for flexible movement

The Dress Code Will Be Strictly Enforced in each class; do not buy additional tutus, leotards with skirts attached and accessories

Parents are asked to support *HDAT's* dress code and help dancers to understand the importance of the dress code

Failure to adhere to any of the above requirements will result in the students' non- participation in classes, performances *and* may result in removal from *HDAT*.

To start changing polices for the sake of the individual will begin to erode our standards, traditions and the aesthetics of dance and the uniformity of class.

Where to Purchase Dance Attire and Accessories

All dance attire items can be purchased in *HDAT's* store, *5678 Dance!* All leotards, ballet skirts, *lapa*, flesh tone tights must be purchased in the store. We also have flesh tone Ballet shoes and tap shoes for sale in the store. All Pointe shoes will be purchased per recommendations by the faculty.

Everything in the Universe has rhythm. Everything Dances.
 Maya Angelo

Fees...Registration/Material, Uniform, Tuition & Concert

Tuition and Fees – Automatically taken out of parents account every month

Fees...Registration/Material & Tuition

Tuition Payment Policy...

Payments are automatically deducted each month based on your tuition payment plan. It is important to adhere to the tuition payment schedule so **HDAT** can continue to pay faculty, staff, and operate daily...

If tuition is paid in full and the dancer is unable to attend, or decides to withdraw from classes, refunds of tuition will be made based on schedule detailed below...

- Before the First Day of Class: 100% of total tuition amount
- Within First Week of Classes: 50% of total tuition amount
- After the First Week of Classes: NO REFUND

If tuition is not paid in full and the dancer decides to withdraw from classes, parents are still responsible for the tuition in accordance with the schedule detailed below...

- Withdrawal Before the First Day of Class: no tuition payment due
- Withdrawal After the First Week of Classes: 50% of total tuition payment is due

Student Materials...

- Each student will receive a **HDAT** Dance Journal they should always bring with them to class along with a writing utensil.
- Each student, must purchase The Technical Manual & Dictionary of Classical Ballet by Gail Grant

HDAT Successful Behaviors...

HDAT considers the studios the dancers' home away from home, and a safe and secure place for dancers to learn and use. All dancers should feel comfortable and safe at **HDAT**. In the study of dance, students are not merely learning a technique, they are learning an art form. The art form of dance has a rich cultural history and a set of established traditions. It is most important that students are aware of these traditions, and protocols, since most faculty artists universally will assume that they have an understanding of them. Failure to comply with the established policies and successful behaviors is unacceptable and will result in removal from the dance academy.

All faculty expect all students to maintain proper dress and behavior in all classes. While at **HDAT** the following expectations, standards and proper studio decorum should be followed by all students ...

- Dancers are not permitted in the costume room, storage rooms, 1st floor and the basement unless given permission to be in those areas
- Be properly dressed for class and well-groomed in appearance
- Be on time for all classes
- Do not hang out in the bathrooms and hallways

- When the faculty enters the studio, all students must stand, stop talking and acknowledge the faculty entrance into the studio
- If you are late, you must ask the faculty artist for permission to take class; if the faculty does not give permission, you must sit outside the studio door and observe and complete any given written assignment(s)
- Do not enter or leave the class without permission from the faculty. Inform faculty if you feel you are unable to finish class due to illness or any other reason.
- Never sit down in class. Muscles relax and cool down too quickly, causing the body to be susceptible to injuries. Do not use ballet barres and or piano as a resting place for your bodies, miscellaneous clothing, and jewelry.
- Students must develop the discipline and understanding of how to use your mental capabilities to work out individual problems. One of the most important facets of technique class is concentration. Pay attention to the total movement, focusing on sequence and quality.
- Corrections are essential to improvement in all dance classes. Acknowledge the correction with a positive response. Even if you are not the one receiving the correction, apply the information given. Often the situation will call for you to repeat the movement attempting to put the correction into effect. If you do not understand the correction, ask for further clarification.
- The student is in class to learn discipline as well as technique.
- It is an expected courtesy in the arts that students applaud the faculty and accompanist at the end of each class to show reverence and appreciation.
- No food, gum, candy, juice, or soda will be allowed in the studio or in the student's lockers
- Do not wear street shoes in the dance studio
- Use your voice for positive interactions; faculty are always available to support and advance positive student behaviors.

Individual faculty may impose additional studio rules or rules of decorum

Parents support successful behaviors in the following ways...

- Get students to classes on time; regular attendance is necessary for good training
- Label all dance shoes and clothes & provide a dance bag to carry all clothes
- Make sure students are properly attired for all classes
- Hair balls and beads are dangerous in the studios, please do not use in hair
- Flip flops, clogs in rubber or leather are dangerous and cannot be worn by students
- Encourage practice of techniques and readings at home
- Provide healthy lunches and snacks
- Do not enter dance studios during classes
- Make sure jewelry is not worn in/to classes
- Pay tuition/fees on time
- Notify appropriate staff of any changes to contact information
- Review all policies with students to support **HDAT's** success for all
- Contact Executive Director in a timely manner with any concerns
- We realize that emergencies happen but try not to take students out of class early
- Remind students to be on their best behavior during classes

Selection Process for Choreographic Works and Spring Dance Concert...

The selection process is decided by choreographers, Artistic Director, or Rehearsal Director. The audition process for selection depends upon the complexity of the work, technical skill of the student, ability to perform as an ensemble member, attendance, participation and behavior. Because a choreographer or rehearsal director has no control over illness, injury or other obstacles that prevent students from dancing in a performance; however, we strongly encourage all students placed as understudies or in a secondary role that they are required to attend every rehearsal and to work diligently because understudies have been called upon to perform on numerous occasions. We encourage all students to learn any and all choreography. This will add to their general dance knowledge and dance vocabulary. All students selected to participate in the Dance Concert will be required to sign a contract along with their parents.

Non-Participation Policy...

All students will be responsible for any choreographic and/or studio (technical) work missed. Should a student NOT be able to fulfill her/his commitment to performing in a choreographic work due to any of the reasons listed (including but not limited to the reasons listed below), she/he will be replaced.

Some reasons for replacement include...

- Consistent Tardiness
- Excessive Absences
- Disruption of class, rehearsal and performance resulting in dismissal
- Failure to learn assigned roles
- Failure to be productive with faculty artists, students, guest, choreographers and administration
- Physical injuries
- Negative attitude and work ethics

Injury Policy...

All injuries require a note verifying the injury by a physician with a written; notes must be submitted to the office; students diagnosed as unable to participate in classes, for any amount of time, will sit out of class and rehearsals. Faculty will help student(s) maintain class engagement from the sidelines.

Arrival and Departure...

- **Students may be** dropped off as early as 15 minutes before class starts at the main door entrance
- All parents of Creative Movement students ages 3-6 must sign in and out in the lobby area
- All students ages 7 and Up must sign in and out at the lobby desk
- If you are late or going to be absent, please send a message in the **HDAT** App
- If someone else is picking up your child, please contact us on the **HDAT** App or send a note with the name designated person picking your child up

Attendance/Tardiness...

It is important for students to attend classes regularly and on time. When students are absent or tardy, they miss learning techniques, choreography, and the warmup and preparation for upcoming performances. **HDAT** does not give refunds for absences for vacations or prorated tuition and fees. **Please note...Send a message on the HDAT App if your child will be absent**

Class Visitors...

Safety issues and legal responsibilities make it impossible for us to allow students to bring visitors into the studios. Students should not invite siblings, relatives, or friends to studio classes.

Lost and Found...

Please mark all dancewear, shoes, and personal items with student's name. **HDAT** is not responsible for any items that your child brings to class that may be lost or stolen. Electronic items may be stored, prior to the start of each class, with staff in a secure area until needed for studio classes. There is a clothing lost and found blue bin located in the corner of the hallway outside Studio A. Dancers should be aware that all items brought on and into **HDAT** property is subject to random search at any time; therefore, all dancers privacy bags, purses, or other belongings are randomly searched when on **HDAT** property.

Please note... **HDAT** is not responsible for any items lost or taken during the year. It is our hope that all students will care for each other and each other's property; however, there is no guarantee that this will always be the norm.

Lunches & Snacks...

HDAT does not provide lunches. Students must bring a healthy lunch on Saturday.

- **HDAT** is a nut free environment---no nuts of any kind...
- Lunches should include fruit, sandwich, juice and chips—not hot fries---
- Lunches must be packed in an insulated lunch box for food safety, **HDAT** does not provide microwave, toaster or toaster oven...
- **HDAT** does not provide napkins, plastic spoons, or forks...please include these in each day's lunch...
- All students must have a water bottle—**HDAT** does not provide cups...
- If a student forgets her/his lunch, **HDAT** is unable to provide lunch, and the Village will be asked to share food...
- Students must pack a snack everyday—fruit, crackers, yogurt, chips etc. ...no nuts of any kind...
- When in doubt about a beverage---water is the best drink, no crystal light packages or sodas
- Lunch boxes should be wiped out each day and washed weekly to remove germs and food bacteria...
- All food items that do not comply with the above will be taken from the student at lunch check...
- Any lunches boxes or items left in the lunch box overnight are subject to throw away

Illness...

Colds, flu, and other contagious diseases occur frequently and spread easily among children. To help protect your own child's health please keep your child home if you observe any of the following symptoms...

- Fever
- Nasal discharge that is green or yellow
- Complaints of ear pain
- Consistent cough
- Severe sore throat
- Ringworms,
- Eyes that are pink, burning, itching, or producing discharge
- Diarrhea or vomiting

If these symptoms or other conditions, deemed contagious, are observed in your child during a class, you will be called to immediately pick up your child.

When your child has a fever, please keep her/him at home until the temperature returns to normal. If there are any lingering signs of illness, such as glassy or watery eyes, listlessness, and drowsiness please keep your child at home. This will help to ensure that the illness has passed and that your child is well enough to resume class the following week.

Please note... Parents, please make sure that ***HDAT*** has a number that you or your designated contact can be reached at all times. This is critical when an emergency contact is needed.

Emergency Evacuation...

HDAT's Emergency Evacuation routes are posted in all studios and in the lobby. Students are to evacuate quietly and walk in single file as quickly as possible to designated areas. Students and instructors are to return to the studios and buildings when the all-clear signal is given. Random and unannounced evacuation drills will be held throughout the year.

Parking Lot Safety...

Parking is available in the parking lot for staff, faculty & tenants only. Please Park on the street on Bedford Ave or Wandless Street. Never Park your vehicle in front of the garages or any area that is not a designated parking space. Please do not allow siblings to play in the parking lot or leave them unattended in the car.

Student and Parent Use of *HDAT* Social Media...

Use of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, blogging, and other online social-media vehicles are the norm. ***HDAT's*** Technology Policy provides students and parents with guidelines to insure safe use of social media.

- Students and parents **do not** have permission to reveal any ***HDAT*** information. You are not to share personal information about ***HDAT*** staff, faculty artists, students, families, board, or anything that is proprietary and/or confidential to them or ***HDAT***
- Students and parents may not claim nor imply that they are speaking on behalf of ***HDAT***
- Never post anything that could compromise the self-esteem of students who attend ***HDAT***
- If you post videos of class, rehearsals, or performances, remember that all choreography taught in the school is the property of and copyrighted to ***HDAT***
- Respect the law, including laws governing defamation, discrimination, harassment, copyright, and fair use of property

- Parents and students should not post negative comments about other dance academies or teaching artists
- Do not post negative comments about *HDAT* activities such as master classes, workshops, and performances
- Ensure that your social networking conduct is consistent with all the policies contained in *HDAT's* handbook
- If you post pictures of your child, please keep in mind, if there are other dancers in the pictures, you must have the consent of their parents before posting

General Policies...

Parent and students should not enter the office spaces of *HDAT*

Parents should never interrupt a class in session

Only water is allowed in studios--no food, drink, or gum, and students can only eat in designated areas and downstairs in the events center.

We love babies and young children and appreciate the chance to meet siblings; however, while on *HDAT's* premises children must be supervised at all times and they are not free to run in the lobby, hallways, or enter the studio areas

Please do not dispose of food, drinks, or dirty diapers inside the building; large trashcans outside the building are better suited for such disposals

No cell phones or computers may be used during class unless it is a class that requires the use of electronic aids; (This means no emailing, internet use, or text messaging; all student electronic items, not in use in class, are strongly encouraged to be stored in the office when not in use...

Volunteer Opportunities...

Volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year, including but not limited to administrative work, *Spring Dance Concert, Showcase*, Performances, National Dance Week, and fundraiser events, etc. By volunteering parents help to create, brand, and advocate for *Hill Dance Academy Theatre's* mission, vision, and values.

Parent Advisory Council and Parent Support...

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) consists of parent volunteers who meet once a month. *PAC* is responsible for planning outside activities for parents and students, coordinating fundraisers, and assisting with the Showcase and performances. These are not mandatory fundraisers, but we encourage all parents to participate in the fundraiser as it helps to offset cost for student performances, travel, master classes, costumes, and other outside activities. We need parents to help with publicity, programs, ticket sales, fundraising as well as being audience members for all performances.

HDAT Dance and Performance Programs...

Academy...

HDAT develops and trains students' physicality, creativity, and performance skills, offering training in African, Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Hip-Hop, Theater, Tap, Liturgical Movement, Dance

Composition, and other dance genres during its 14 weeks fall and spring seasons. During the seasons **HDAT** offers students a number of opportunities to attend outside performances, travel and perform locally and nationally.

Spring Dance Concert...

HDAT produces an annual *Spring Dance Concert (SDC)* in April. The Concert provides students in the Pre-Professional Academy who are aspiring to careers in dance to begin their journeys of becoming professional dancers by auditioning for each piece. Each year master choreographers and the next generation choreographers locally and nationally set their works on **HDAT** students, the next generation of dancers. The concert focuses on themes that celebrate **HDAT's** mission. **HDAT** students will be expected to maintain a rigorous rehearsal schedule in the midst of their regular technique classes, school and personal life. All families enrolled in the Academy are required to purchase 4 tickets per family for the concert.

Summer Intensive...

HDAT offers a 6-Week Summer Dance Intensive, ***Spirit, Mind, and Body*** for students' ages 7 to 18 and Dance Starts Here for students ages 5-6 in the months of June-August. Students are not required to have previous dance training. Tuition plans and limited scholarships are available.

Summer Showcase...

At the end of the Summer Dance Intensive **HDAT** produces a ***Summer Showcase*** to highlight techniques and skills learned and the talents of dancers. Local and national master teachers set choreography on students for the Showcase. Tuition must be paid in full to participate in the Showcase.

Ju.B.Lation Spirit Filled Feet...

Established in 2007, ***Ju.B.Lation Spirit Filled Feet***, a multi-generational Liturgical dance company uses Sacred Dance as the artistic voice to celebrate the Cultural and Spiritual traditions of the Black Church experience. ***Ju.B.Lation Spirit Filled Feet***, comprised of students and professional dancers, provides performance experiences for dancers and greater exposure to Black Dance in Pittsburgh, the region and nation. The Company has performed at many local events, workshops, churches, arts organizations, and national conferences under the guidance of Artistic Director, Ayisha Morgan-Lee, EdD. ***Ju.B.Lation Spirit Filled Feet*** is available for bookings for performances, conferences, festivals, and liturgical dance workshops.

Tap Ensemble...

Established in 2010, Tap Ensemble savors Black traditional rhythms by transferring them to tapping and complex rhythmic footwork for intermediate and advanced students.

HDAT Ensemble...

HDAT Ensemble, established in 2011, is a company comprised of students ages 3 and up who perform at local community and festival events.

Studio Rentals...

HDAT's studios are available for rental for classes, meetings, rehearsals, and other activities. Tables, chairs, sound systems, and microphones are also available. For more information on rental spaces, contact **HDAT** at www.5678hdat.org or call 412.925.3692

I believe that Dance Came from the People and that it should Always Be Delivered Back to the People...

Alvin Ailey, Founder of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre

God Always Dances the Dance with You...

Veronica Morgan-Lee, Ph.D.

Dancing is being trusted with other people's guts; choreography is trusting other people with yours. When I choreograph, I'm giving a dancer something to do and trusting the dancer to do it and build on it.

***Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emeritus of
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre***

(c) Copyrighted and Published 2024

by

Hill Dance Academy Theatre, Home of Ju.B.Lation Spirit Filled Feet