



To The Pointe

September/October 2016

WELCOME TO THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Ms. Jennifer and the faculty of Ballet Arts Worcester, Inc. warmly welcome returning and new students to the new school year. If you have not registered your child for classes, please do so immediately. Registration is once a year. There is a yearly registration fee of \$30.00 and tuition payments can be made in full at the beginning of the year or in two installments (first was due September 6, 2016 and second due January 17, 2017.)

Tuition payments for the first semester are past due now. If you failed to make the payment deadline you will be assessed a late fee of \$50.00 per month for each month you are late submitting your payment. **Students not registered will not be allowed to participate in class.** To simplify the process, you may also register online at the BAW website. If you have any trouble with the online registration, please see Ms. Charlotte or Ms. Jen for a hard copy to fill out.

Please familiarize yourself with BAW policies as we do not want any miscommunication or oversights to be had. You can find the policy page on the website or on this link to the website:

<http://balletartsworcester.com/register-for-classes>.

MASTER CLASS

Our Master Class series started early this year. We were honored to welcome Ashley Ellis, Principal Dancer with Boston Ballet to teach a Master Class on September 24.

Ashley received her dance training at the South Bay Ballet under the direction of Diane Lauridsen. Other instruction included Alicia Head, Mario Nugara, Charles Maple, and Kimberly Olmos. She began her professional career with American Ballet Theatre's studio company and later joined American Ballet Theatre as a company dancer. In 2011, Ms. Ellis joined Boston Ballet as a second soloist. She was promoted to soloist in 2012 and was appointed Principal dancer in 2013.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

Summer 2016 was an exciting time for BAW. Many of our students went to some prestigious summer intensives including Chautauqua, Bossov, Boston Ballet Master Class Series, Joffrey Ballet, Festival Ballet Providence, Urbanity, MetroWest Ball, Generation 4, Acton School of Ballet and Brookline Ballet Academy.

Art Krauss, the artist we collaborated with last summer with "Paint Dance," asked BAW to collaborate again. We reprised solos from last year and featured one other dance with an ensemble of BAW students. The performance took place at Olde Sturbridge Village on the last weekend in June.

Talin Avakian, a former student, is now a film maker and she contacted BAW to make a short movie exploring identity and coming of age in adolescent dancers. She selected BAW because it filled her ideas for location, dancers, and space. She chose 10 dances from Levels Primary 3 and up and casted the film. This film will potentially go to The Boston International Film Festival. BAW is honored to have been a part of Ms. Avakian's vision for her project and honored to have had the opportunity.

On a sad note, BAW said good-bye to Mr. Andrew Parker but we all wish him well in his new adventure as Artistic Director of the Chattanooga Ballet in Tennessee. Thank you, Mr. Parker for all you gave to us at BAW. We will miss you.

To end on a happy note, BAW would like to welcome back Mark Harootian from his world travels and Ms. Katrina McCormick from maternity leave. We are excited to have them back as valued members of our faculty.

UPCOMING NEWS

All announcements, schedules and news can now be found on the balletartsworcester.com website at: <http://balletartsworcester.com/parents-corner> as well as our newsletters on the newsletter page: <http://balletartsworcester.com/calendar>

NEW CLASS OFFERINGS

BAW is excited to announce several new classes. For those interested in Contemporary Dance, we are offering a Mini-Master Series with guest teachers every few weeks. Our first guest teacher is Sarah Kay "Skoj." Future teachers will include Brenna Robinson from Urbanity, Carolyn Paine from CoNNetic Dance, Brittany Belanger of the Boston Community Dance Project, and Emily Jerant-Hendrickson of the Lorraine Chapman Company and Amy Burns, Fusion Works.

We have two offerings for those dancers interested in competitions. The first is a special class to prepare to compete at the Youth America Grand Prix. The YAGP is an elite ballet competition for serious and pre-professional ballet students. This special rehearsal class requires approval from the Director and a regularly scheduled private sessions with the choreographer. Approval is required from the Director; sadly we cannot accommodate too many dancers. The second class is for the competitive dancer who just wants to improve their ballet training. We created this supplemental ballet class to pay special attention to the issues needed to do well at competitions.

COSTUME FEE

The due date for the Spring Gala costume fee is January 17, 2017 and **will be strictly held**. The fee is \$75.00 per costume. There will be a \$5.00 late fee per costume for any payment made after this date. You can beat the rush this year by paying early. We are working on giving you the ability to pay this online and that will be available very soon.

DRESS CODE

Please be sure that your child comes to class wearing the correct color leotard, tights with no runs or holes (as tights are part of her dress code) and neat hair. Boys should wear a plain white t-shirt, black tights, leggings, or shorts, white socks, and black ballet shoes. Students have until the end of October to purchase the necessary items. Once the grace period ends, students not adhering to the dress code will not be allowed to take class and must observe class. **The accepted brands are Capezio dance line and Motionwear only.** Please check tags for the dance line. If you are not sure, Ms. Charlotte or Ms. Jen can check for you. For more information, please see:

<http://balletartsworcester.com/parents-corner/dress-code>

PARENT/SCHOOL LIASON

If you have any questions regarding uniforms, class times, dates, or anything else relating to the School, please contact Ms Charlotte first. If there is any question that she does not immediately know the answer, she will then ask the appropriate person and get back to you as quickly as she can. This process will help streamline the administration of the school. Email is the quickest and most efficient way to contact Ms. Charlotte. You can reach her at charmcnutt@gmail.com.

NUTCRACKER NEWS

Auditions for the 2016 Nutcracker were on September 10, 2016 at the Hanover Theater for the Performing Arts. Over 180 students attended this year's audition.

We are adding another show this year. There will now be two shows on Sunday at 1:00pm and 5:00pm. We will not be presenting the school show on Monday.

SPRING GALA VIDEOS

You can purchase a copy of the Spring Gala at the BAW studio for \$10 cash.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ballet Arts Worcester also offers classes in jazz, modern, and pre-pointe. Please feel free to give one or all of these classes a try.

Many of the teachers at BAW also offer private classes for those interested in progressing more quickly in their technique.

TRIVIA CORNER

"If you don't feel challenged, it's because you're not doing enough. Ballet should never feel comfortable. Comfortable is lazy! If you're comfortable when you dance, you're not pushing yourself hard enough; 100% is not enough. You have to give 200%. One tendu takes years of hard work and will never be perfect. Everything in ballet is a challenge." - George Balanchine

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Youth Ballet of Worcester Company Placement Auditions - All Divisions will be notified of their company standings by:

Date: October 22, 2016

Mini-Master Series Continues
with Brenna Robinson from Urbanity

Columbus Day

Date: October 10, 2016

Ballet Arts Worcester's studios are closed.

Halloween

Date: October 31, 2016

Ballet Arts Worcester's studios are closed.

Cookies & Tea with Clara

Date: November 13, 2016

Time: 12:00; 1:30; 3:00

Place: Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts