

Spotlight News



Teachers' Training School

Miss Adonica traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana in August and actively participated in the Musicworks Teachers' Training School. MTTS is a four-day training event for dance instructors held inside the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. Darryl Retter, renowned dancer educator and choreographer, organized the conference for over 100 participants.

Dance instructors participated in dance and choreography courses. Classes were organized to guide dance teachers through their seasonal curriculum, but more importantly inspire their creative thinking. Miss Adonica received further education in the three core dance styles of ballet, tap, and jazz and elective styles including: hip hop, modern, lyrical, and contemporary.

Courses on business and marketing were also offered, as well as round table discussions among educators.

Tuition Collection

A tuition collection box rests inside each studio. Please feel free to leave monthly tuition payments inside this box. For cash payments, ask a faculty member to write a receipt.

Our Business is SHOW BUSINESS!

We are currently planning a most entertaining Production as our Season Finale. At the conclusion of this dance year, our dancers will showcase their progress in cost-friendly uniforms. We have scheduled our show to stage on the final weekend in April, at the SWCC Performing Arts Hall. We are still in our pre-planning stages, and we are thrilled to use this venue to give our dancers rewarding, life-lasting memories.

Here's Looking at You, Kid

At The Spotlight, we take pride in our professional Season Finale of Student Works. The 2009-10 season will conclude with a showcase performed in cost-friendly uniforms. Uniforms are at the expense of the student and must be ordered and pre-paid during the winter months to ensure their arrival for class pictures and our Season Finale. The uniform is purchased in pieces, such as: leotard, ballet skirt, jazz pant, etc. This enables students to utilize the uniform again for instructional purposes throughout future dance seasons. To aid in the expense of uniforms, we invoice the Recital Uniform at \$10 monthly installments during the months of September through February. A final balance is due March 1, 2010. In the event uniform payments exceed their expense, the difference is applied to the student's tuition account. Final payment must be paid by March 1 in order for the student to dress in uniform and participate in the Season Finale.

Iowa State Fair Tumbling Meet

Fourteen Spotlight tumblers participated in the Iowa State Fair Tumbling Meet: Halle Evans, Riley Fleharty, Caylee Flynn, Harlee Flynn, Shyanne Grace, Aunica Harvey, Jurnee Harvey, Cecily Lumbard, Norah Lund, Bryce Newton, Kya Newton, Trent Newton, Kiara Roberts, and Maya Struhar. Each tumbler memorized a ten-element compulsory and performed before a panel of judges. The tumbling meet was held on the last Saturday of the fair inside the Youth Inn. Each tumbler received a medal of achievement.

What time is it?

The class schedule is posted both on the website and on student schedule reminders. Notice some class times have been altered to better accommodate student development. Mark these changes on your personal schedule.

Twitter, Twitter, Tweet

For your convenience we have established a Twitter account. Stay current with announcements and weather cancellations. Simply register at twitter.com and follow spotlightx2 to receive the latest tweets, or follow our feed on our website.

What NOT to Wear...

The Dress Code reads as follows: Female dancers wear **leotards and tights**. Hot shorts or ballet skirts are allowed. Solid colored leotards are strongly recommended. Male participants should wear white t-shirts and solid colored gym shorts or jazz pants. No street clothes or cover-ups! No extraneous jewelry. Belly-button rings and tattoos must be covered. Hair must be properly contained for dancing: buns, braids, or pony tails. Dancers participating in hip hop classes may wear athletic apparel.

Encore. Encore.

Capture the memories of our last Season Finale, 24-7. Jerry Hartman of Action Photo, uptown Creston, has collected hundreds of images of our 2009 Spring Finale. Stop by Action Photo to purchase your favorite photographs. To order your very own copy of the performance on DVD, contact Miss Adonica.

Bring-A-Buddy Week

Dancers are encouraged to share their dance experience with a friend during the week of September 21-24. Invite a buddy you think would enjoy dance lessons, and have her join you during this week of classes. If your friend decides to register for classes, both you and your friend receive 50% off your October tuition. Sharing friendships, sharing dreams!

Class Placement

As we welcome everyone back to dance class, the director carefully observes all class work. The director has placed students at the appropriate levels in each dance form based on a combination of age, previous training, and skill; the faculty evaluates students throughout the first month of lessons to ensure proper placement. It may be necessary for some students to adjust their class schedules to better promote their goals.

Sewing Your Ballet Slippers

Beginner Ballet students through Senior Ballet students wear a split-sole ballet slipper. This slipper typically comes with a loose elastic strap that must be hand-sewn onto each slipper. To sew this loose strap to your shoes follow these simple instructions:

1. Fold the heel of the shoe flat against the insole, creating a triangle with the point of the heel as the apex.
2. Lay the elastic strap along the base of your created triangle.
3. Tack both ends of the elastic to the inside of your slipper in this position; being careful to keep the cut ends facing the sole.
4. Clip any excess elastic.

Tip: Use the factory stitching along the drawstring as a guide. This will help ensure your drawstring remains free. See the website for details: www.spotlightx2.com.

Put It in the Bag

As your dance shoes arrive, mark your name in each shoe and keep them in your dance bag. This will help Miss Adonica return lost-and-found items to their owners; plus, it will help you remember where they are! ☺

Hey Mom, Watch This!

At The Spotlight we believe in nurturing the performance attributes of our students. In late Autumn we execute an informal preview of our students' capabilities, to be enjoyed by parents and family members. This demonstration provides parents with an idea of where their children start the season, and it offers students a chance to discover the stage. New students become familiar with the performance stage, and returning students enjoy showcasing their years of dedication.

Parents' Night has been tentatively scheduled as follows: Corning studio - Wednesday, October 21 at 6:30p at the Corning High School Auditorium; Creston studio - Thursday, October 22 at 6:30p at the SWCC Performing Arts Theatre. Details to come.

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Calendar Check

October 21: Corning Parents' Night
Corning Studio Demonstrative at CHS
October 27: Creston Parents' Night
Creston Studio Demonstrative at SWCC
November 9: Fundraiser Begins
Fundraiser packets distributed.
November 24-29: Thanksgiving Break
Both studios CLOSED. Celebrate Thanks!
November 30: Classes resume, Fundraiser Ends
Return fundraiser packets to studio.
December 22, 2009 thru January 4, 2010:
Winter Break
View the calendar: www.spotlightx2.com

Pack the Pantry!

New this season! We ask that each family member joining us in the audience during our annual Parents' Night Demonstration bring a non-perishable food item to donate to our local food pantry. Help us fill the food bank by donating a food item.

I am thrilled to see the dancers so eager to participate in charity. What an honor to work with such motivated individuals. It is inspiring to see the students so jazzed about their valuable contribution during the holidays. Thank you in advance for participating.

Parents' Night

Parents' Night is tentatively scheduled and divided into two shows. The Corning Studio will demonstrate to their families on Wednesday, October 21 at 6:30p inside the Corning High School Auditorium and the Creston Studio will demonstrate on Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30p on the SWCC Performing Arts Center stage.

The Spotlight proudly presents, *Parents' Night*, a student demonstration of dance for parents and family members. This is an informal preview of our students, sharing where we start the season. New students discover and become familiar with the performance stage, and returning students enjoy showcasing their years of dedication.

This miniature presentation features our students performing combinations of essential skills. Various levels of abilities demonstrate selected styles for our guests. The show traditionally ends with a single tumbling pass executed by our AcroDance students.

Performers dress in various attires. Some students may wish to perform in a former costume, while others choose to dance in a favorite leotard.

Designated areas are marked for each dance class located backstage or inside dressing rooms. Dancers should arrive 30 minutes before showtime and locate their fellow classmates.

The Spotlight will not host classes on these two nights; however, Miss Amy will hold lessons on Wednesday, October 21. The studio is closed for each evening's demonstration.

If the Shoe Fits...

Selected dance shoes are required and are important for technique. Students should purchase dance shoes through the school, not from discount stores. The director has carefully selected appropriate footwear for each level and discipline. The following shoes are required for training and performances: PreBallet, KinderBallet, and Beginner Ballet:

Bloch, full-sole pink slipper
Intermediate, Junior, and Senior Ballet:
Bloch, split-sole pink slipper
PreTap, KinderTap, and Beginner Tap:
Capezio, Mary Jane tan tapper
Intermediate through Senior Tap:
Bloch, split-sole black slip-on or full-sole black oxford
Beginner Jazz, Mini Hip Hop, and Mini Pom:
Bloch, split-sole black jazz shoe
Intermediate through Senior Jazz and Pom:
Bloch, split-sole tan jazz shoe
Pointe:
Individually sized and fitted pointe shoe
Lyrical and Modern:
bare feet or Dance Paws/Foot Undeez
Senior Hip Hop:
Converse, black sneaker
AcroDance and Creative Movement:
bare feet

Here's How It Works

On Wednesday, October 21 and Tuesday, October 27, our students will present a dance demonstration for parents and family members. Miss Adonica will need help from parents or relatives to keep the evening running smoothly.

Upon arriving to the performance hall, dancers will need to locate their classmates in various locations backstage and dress into their appropriate dance shoes. Students performing in more than one routine should locate the group they perform with first. Parents may then be seated in the auditorium. Dancers will be escorted to the stage by Miss Tina or faculty member. After presenting their dance routine, dancers will then be released directly from the stage to their parents or relatives. Please note the order of performance below.

Students participating in a separate AcroDance course will be marked with the letter "T" on their hand. This denotes that they will be invited back onto the stage at the end of the demonstration to perform one tumbling pass across the stage. Miss Adonica will call for these individuals at the appropriate time.

We look forward to a successful and enjoyable Parents' Night. We hope all parents and family members take the opportunity to assist in making it a smooth and delightful occasion for all, and we appreciate student encouragement and support.

Parents' Night - Order of Performance

Below is the order of our Parents' Night Demonstrations. Please note the style of shoes needed for each dance routine. Each showing will last approximately forty-five minutes. Dancers report to assigned stations backstage 30 minutes before showtime on their night of dancing. Students are dismissed to their parents immediately following their stage time.

Corning Parents' Night: Wednesday, October 21 at 6:30pm

Corning High School

Class

1. PreDance (Wednesday 2:45pm)
2. PreDance (Wednesday 3:30pm)
3. Kinder Combo (Wednesday 4:15pm)
4. Beginner Dance (Wednesday 5:15pm)
5. Mini Hip Hop (Thursday 5:30pm)
6. Intermediate/Junior Dance (Wednesday 6:45pm)
7. Junior/Senior Hip Hop (Wednesday 8:30pm)

Creston Parents' Night: Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30pm

Southwestern Community College Performing Arts Hall

1. PreDance (Monday 3:00pm)
2. PreDance (Tuesday 3:15pm)
3. PreDance (Wednesday 11:15am)
4. Kinder Combo (Tuesday 4:00pm)
5. Mini Dance (Thursday 4:00pm)
6. Beginner Dance (Tuesday 5:00pm)
7. Intermediate Dance (Thursday 5:15pm)
8. Junior/Senior Jazz (Monday 8:15pm)
9. Boyz Hip Hop (Wednesday 5:00pm)
10. Mini Hip Hop (Wednesday 4:00pm)
11. Intermediate/Senior Pom (Thursday 7:30pm)
12. Junior/Senior Hip Hop (Tuesday 7:30pm)

Shoe Style

Ballet Slipper
Tap Shoe
Tap Shoe
Ballet Slipper
Black Jazz Shoe
Black Tap Shoe
Black All Star Sneaker
Tap Shoe
Ballet Slipper
Tap Shoe
Tap Shoe
Ballet Slipper
Black Jazz Shoe
Black Tap Shoe
Tan Jazz Shoe
Black Jazz Shoe
Black Jazz Shoe
Black Jazz Shoe
Tan Jazz Shoe
Black All Star Sneaker