# The Academy of International Ballet

Dear Parent or Guardian,

On behalf of The Academy of Int'l Ballet we would like to thank you for the trust you have placed in us by selecting our pre-professional ballet program for your child.

At the Academy, we are committed to providing the best ballet training in the most supportive and caring way. Our Academy is supported by a welcoming community of parents who value the qualities ballet provides—commitment, discipline, perseverance, respect, and rigor— and who appreciate the way the Academy leads students to develop these qualities in a warm and nurturing environment.

While these qualities tend to inspire many parents, they also come with responsibilities and expectations that must be evenly shared between the Academy, the teachers, and the home.

The enclosed Parents' Handbook outlines the partnership, opportunities, and responsibilities you accept when selecting our Academy for the growth of your child.

We ask you to please read this information carefully before signing the Academy Commitment Form at the end of this booklet.

We look forward to including you as members of the Academy of Int'l Ballet Community.

Warm Regards, Anastasia and Denis

Contact Information

Phone number: 866-908-5666 Email address: gronballet@gmail.com

Website: www.academyballetru.com

MEDIA ACADEMY: 75 W. Baltimore Pike, Media PA 19063

HORSHAM ACADEMY: 405 Caredean Drive, Horsham PA 19044

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# 1. Brief History of Ballet

Ballet is a formalized type of dance that originated in the Italian Renaissance courts of the 15th and 16th centuries. With the help of Catherine de' Medici, ballet spread from Italy to France, where it developed further under her influence. Aristocratic money was responsible for the initial stages of development in "court ballet," as royal money dictated the ideas, literature, and music for ballets created primarily to entertain the aristocrats of the time. Catherine de' Medici and Balthasar de Beaujoyeulx were responsible for presenting the first court ballet ever to apply the principles of Baif's Académie, by integrating poetry, dance, music, and set design to convey a unified dramatic storyline.

In the late 17th century Louis XIV founded the Académie Royale de Musique (the Paris Opera) within which emerged the first professional theatrical ballet company, the Paris Opera Ballet. The predominance of French in the vocabulary of ballet reflects this history. Theatrical ballet soon became an independent form of art, although still frequently maintaining a close association with opera, and spread from the heart of Europe to other nations. In the 20th century ballet spread around the world with the formation of new companies, including London's Royal Ballet (1931), The San Francisco Ballet (1933), American Ballet Theatre (1937), The Royal Winnipeg Ballet (1939), The Australian Ballet (1940), The New York City Ballet (1948), The National Ballet of Canada (1951), and The National Ballet Academy Trust of India, New Delhi (2002).

Source: wikipedia.org

2. The Academy's Commitment to Excellence

# a) The Academy Method

The Academy Method fosters an appreciation for ballet as an art form and provides superior classical ballet training. Our Academy's goal is to train dedicated young students seeking a career in dance. The Academy's teaching method is designed to encourage dancers to develop their individual strengths, help them build their technique, and inspire artistic interpretation. Graduating students of the Academy will be guided through the process of obtaining a career in dance. Our rigorous training program promises to produce dancers of the highest quality, both technically and artistically. We welcome students of all ages

and skill levels and seek to provide professional training in an enjoyable, nurturing environment.

# b) Class Setting

Classes at the Academy have a maximum number of students limited to 20. For certain classes and especially when choreographing a live performance, classes have to be combined to reflect the positioning and role of each student on stage.

# c) Variety of Classes

At the Academy, we believe in pushing our students' abilities and for this we recommend that children who wish to pursue dance as a career take **private Lessons** in addition to regular ballet and other classes. We also offer **contemporary**, **variation**, **jazz**, **musical theater**, **tap and character dance classes** so our dancers are well rounded and thus able to understand dance rather than follow its steps mechanically.

d) Trust: By choosing the Academy for your child, you have entered a world that is extremely technical and specific. As a pre-professional ballet Academy, we put great emphasis on hiring the most qualified teachers. These teachers have had rigorous training and experience as professional dancers. They have the ability to train and observe the growth and potential of each student. You may notice that even though students may enter the Academy at the same time and may be the same age, they may not progress at the same speed. When students enter our Academy, each child demonstrates a unique pace of growth, body strength, and stamina. The progress of each student is thus dependent on a multitude of factors that can be assessed only by professionals such as the ones the Academy hires to work with your child. We ask parents not to intervene in the decisions that are made by the Academy with regard to the progression of each student. Please be assured that those decisions have been carefully weighed and are always in favor of protecting the student.

## e) Faculty

Please check our website at www.academyballetru.com to obtain the most updated information on Academy's teachers.

#### f) Observation Week

In order to ensure a quiet learning atmosphere and environment where the pupils can concentrate without distraction, observers are permitted only during announced observation weeks. We encourage you, your relatives and friends to become actively engaged by taking advantage of Parent Observation Weeks and thus witness your talented child working hard toward his or her goals. There will be one observation week each semester, which will be posted on the Academy

calendar. We do have a closed circuit TV in our waiting area, where parents can see the class.

# g) Register to classes

Each month of August, students receive an email from the Academy, recommending which classes students should take and that the student either move up to the next level or remain at the same one. Please note that in ballet it is not uncommon to remain at the same level for several years while the student develops the needed ability or strength.

Ballet is an individual art form. As aforementioned, each student progresses at his/her own pace. While it may sometimes be hard to accept the differences among students that the teachers see, we ask parents not to interfere with the decisions of the Academy. Please do not contact the teachers to request a reconsideration of any kind. Progress reports will be available online.

If you however have any questions or concerns about your child's training, your child's teacher, or the Academy, the director would be happy to meet with you at a mutually acceptable time.

- 1) Pre-Ballet must commit to a minimum number of classes for 3 months.
- 2) Ballet 1-2 must commit to one full year, a minimum of 4-5 months.
- 3) Ballet 3-5 must commit to the full year, 9-10 months.

## i) Pointe Shoes

Often parents and/or the student wonder when the student will start practicing on pointe shoes, if the dancer is too young to be on pointe shoes, or why the student is still not on pointe shoes. Those are indeed all relevant questions, and the answers are directly linked to the feet, ankle, and core strength of the student and to how often the student practices at our Academy. The more time invested in practicing, the stronger the student becomes. The decision to put a student on pointe shoes is thus an individual one and is made entirely at the discretion of the Academy.

## j) Extra Curricular Activities

Once a month, thanks to our creative parents' community, the Academy offers a group outing to its students.

# 3. Your Responsibilities as a Parent

# a) Embracing "The Academy Way"

At the Academy, we feel privileged to shape the future of so many young dancers. It is an honor to spend time with such disciplined young people, and our commitment to their success and their future in dance is palpable. Success, however, does not come only from great ballet technique. Success requires a mindset that includes humility, rigor, and respect. It is crafted on the fine balance that comes from constantly pushing one's limits while accepting one's own limitations. Being successful also means treating other dancers with respect while realizing that one's faltering affects the troupe as a whole.

As an AIB parent we expect you to embrace the principles of the Academy.

# b) Academy Protocol:

- 1) Students should arrive at the Academy 10 minutes early in appropriate attire. While waiting between classes or during rehearsals, students should wear warm ups and the Academy uniform jackets.
- 2) Students must remove their necklaces and bracelets for class. Small and discrete earrings are acceptable.
- 3) We encourage students and parents to greet any and all AIB staff when they arrive at the Academy.
- 4) When students enter their class they must always greet the teacher, and at the end of class, thank their teachers and tell them goodbye.
- 5) During class it is expected that the students listen to and are respectful of their teacher.
- 6) If a student needs to miss class, we request that the Academy be notified beforehand. Please contact our office via email at gronballet@gmail.com
- 7) If a student needs to leave class early, they need to ask for permission; if they have preauthorized permission to leave early, they need to thank their teacher and tell them goodbye.

8) The area in front of the studio can get congested with cars. While drop off is permitted for Ballet 3 and up, parents of Ballet 2 and younger should always park and walk the student inside the Academy.

# c) Communication:

If for any reason parents have questions or concerns and wish to speak with Anastasia or Denis, they should contact AIB's email gronballet@gmail.com to make an appointment. Please provide two convenient times for Anastasia and/or Denis to meet with you. A response to your request to meet will be sent within 24 hours.

#### Thank You Notes:

Our teachers work hard to help each student reach his/her potential and care about each dancer's success. It is always meaningful to them when students express their gratitude, in writing. Thank you notes are an end-of-the-year highlight for our staff.

# · Saying Goodbye:

If a family decides to leave the Academy, we ask that the student and family take the time to say goodbye to the teachers and dancers at the student's level.

All these behaviors are expected when one is part of a Ballet Company. Embracing such behaviors at a young age makes the life of the dancer much easier later on.

# d) Tuition Policy

The Academy tuition is averaged into 11 monthly payments. Tuition rates are broken down by the hour. Additionally to monthly tuition, the following applies:

A \$25 per student or \$45 per family yearly registration fee is charged upon enrollment to AIB.

Automatic payment setup is preferred. Tuition payments accepted by cash, check or credit card. You can make a payment monthly, quarterly 2% off or for the entire year 5% off.

Failure to make payments in a timely manner may result in a late fee of \$10.

#### e) Refund Policy.

The Academy tuition and registration fees are non-refundable and non-

transferable.

Notification to withdraw from classes must be received in writing at least 30 days in advance in order to stop tuition payment for the following month.

The Academy observes holidays and breaks during which there are no classes. The total value of lost dance days due to holidays or holiday breaks has been considered and is reflected in the monthly tuition amount.

There are no additional refunds or credits for missed dance days due to holidays.

# f) Attendance

Attendance to all classes is expected. If a student must miss class, please notify us at gronballet@gmail.com 24 hours before class or, in case of illness, as soon as possible.

If a student must miss a class she/he can make it up in their level or a level lower. Monthly tuition is not prorated for missed classes.

# g) Uniform Policy.

The Academy requires and enforces a uniform dress code to create a strong sense of unity and discipline in the ballet studio. All of the uniforms should be ordered at the studio after the appropriate level is assigned to the student. If a student don't have a uniform for class they may be asked to observe the class.

Color-coded leotards are based on students' level of study:

Pre-Ballet: Pink
Ballet 1: Blue
Ballet 2: Purple
Ballet 3: Royal Blue
Ballet 4/5: Black

Ballet Shoes: TBA

• **Tights**: Pink

## **Boy's Uniform:**

· Black tights, white short sleeved dance shirt

The above items can be purchased at the AIB online shop <a href="https://www.shopnimbly.com/aibShop">https://www.shopnimbly.com/aibShop</a>. Sizing chart is available at the studio. Usually orders arrive in two to five days.

For pointe shoes we recommend that you use: Motions Dance and Fitness in Drexel Hill, PA; Brandywine Shop in DE; Swan Dance Wear in Norristown, PA or online at discountdance.com and allaboutdance.com

# h) Drop-Off/Pick-Up Policy.

Timely drop-off and pick-up is mandatory. While we do appreciate being notified of pending lateness, advance notice does not negate a student's tardiness. Please inform us via email or phone if you are running late to pick up your student. Excessive abuse (over 20 min.) of pick-up policy may incur a \$35 fee.

# 4. Responsibilities of the Student

At AIB we strive to create a learning environment that promotes learning through respect, understanding, and acceptance of each other. We ask our students to keep the following three questions in mind:

Is it safe?
Is it kind?
Is it responsible?

## a) Code of Conduct

Students should arrive at the Academy 10 minutes early and in appropriate attire. When waiting between classes or during rehearsals, students should wear warm ups and the Academy uniform jackets. Students must remove their necklaces and bracelets for class. Small and discrete earrings are acceptable. We encourage students to greet any AIB staff when they arrive at the Academy. When students enter their class they must always greet the teacher, and at the end of class, thank their teachers and tell them goodbye. During the class it is expected that the students listen to and are respectful of their teacher. If student needs to leave class early, they need to ask for permission; if they have preauthorized permission to leave early, they need to thank their teacher and tell them goodbye.

Any behavior that is linked to bullying or belittling of others at the Academy or online will not be tolerated.

Parents of students who do not abide by AIB's Code of Conduct will be asked to meet with Denis or/and Anastasia to discuss the behavior of the student.

5. Live Performances

To prepare students for the stage, AIB puts together two performances a year: one in early June (Showcase) and one in December (the Nutcracker). While these performances are optional, they are critical components of the

development of any dancer. Stage fright must be overcome, and stage presence must be developed. Only dancers who take part in the performances have a fair chance to grow as potential professional dancers.

In order to participate in our live performances, students must be formally registered at our Academy.

All performers must return a signed commitment form and a non-refundable performance fee.

The Academy has the following commitment requirements:

# a) Managing Expectations

Because ballet is an individual art form that relies on the strength of the group to create a beautifully orchestrated experience, it is essential that every student understand that while their opportunities are equal during class, when casting productions the artistic director must entrust the major roles to a selected handful of students. Every student must learn to deal with disappointment so expectations can be managed realistically. To this end, we recommend that families expose students to professional ballet performances. In a professional setting, students will observe and realize that principal dancers and soloists are few, while the corps de ballet is made of numerous talented dancers who meaningfully support the story being told through classical dancing.

# b) Training Commitment Requirements

To minimize disturbance within the class and maximize the learning ability of the group, AIB accepts students at the beginning of the school year (September) However, acceptance into the program at times outside of the registration period is at the discretion of the Director. Interested students must take a placement class to be considered.

## c) Audition

To be considered for our Nutcracker performances, a student will have to attend the Academy's scheduled audition. If a student is unable to attend the scheduled audition, please contact our Academy to schedule a separate audition. Please note that special auditions are considered extraordinary and will be accorded only when convenient and considered truly necessary.

# d) Casting

Casting for any performance is complex and based on many different factors, from a student's age and skills to the choreographic needs of each part. Students

may be cast separately from classmates in order to provide an appropriate balance of technique and experience. Other students may be chosen as understudies in addition to performing their given part(s). While we cannot offer each student his or her choice of parts, every dancer who is able to meet the rehearsal schedule will receive a role. Every role, big or small, contributes to the success of the performance as well as to the growth of the dancer.

# e) Role Acceptance

By signing up for the audition, dancers agree that the role they are assigned by AIB is non-negotiable, and they will accept it in a graceful fashion. It must be understood that in a pre-professional ballet academy, only hard work and dedication will prepare the student for better roles. Any conversations regarding casting decisions are to be conducted between the student and the artistic director. Director welcomes the opportunity to explain to the student the rationale behind casting decisions and what the student needs to work on in order to be considered for certain roles in future performances. If a student has a concern regarding casting, we encourage him/her to speak with Denis or Anastasia directly.

#### f) Rehearsals

The live performance rehearsal schedule requires a serious commitment of time from each dancer and the dancer's family. Weekly scheduled rehearsals are the norm, with varied hours according to part. Rehearsals cannot be rescheduled to accommodate a single student's needs. Students who participate in the live performances must be prepared to set aside conflicting activities during the rehearsal season, and families must be ready to support their dancer's rehearsal needs. Please consider your family's plans carefully prior to signing on. Note that schedules for all dancers are subject to change. Advanced students and featured roles will have additional rehearsals after their regular classes; these times will be announced.

#### g) Performance Fees

The non-refundable performance fee helps offset the cost of putting on a production which includes extra rehearsal time outside of class, theater rental, costumes, programs, lighting and sound manager, etc.

# h) Costumes for performances

Though costume use is included in the performance fee, please note that there will be an additional charge if a costume is lost or damaged. Students are responsible for providing their own tights, shoes, and other personal accessories. Costumes remain the property of the Academy.

# i) Attendance

Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and regularly enrolled ballet class sessions. More than two missed rehearsals or three missed classes may result in dismissal from the performance. Absence not only affects the missing student's ability to learn his or her part (and, through weekly classes, to acquire the skills and strength to support a role), it also impacts other students, who must adjust choreography and spacing to work around the absent student. If you know in advance that your child must miss a scheduled rehearsal or class session, please notify us immediately. Tardiness is not acceptable; students should arrive 10 minutes prior to a rehearsal. Rehearsals are closed to parents and siblings. Parents are not to arrive to the Academy for pickup more than 5 minutes before the end of rehearsal or class. Please keep the noise level to a minimum while classes and/or rehearsals are in session. If you need to talk or have small children with you, please wait outside to avoid distractions to our dancers and teachers.

# j) Student and Parents' Commitment:

If a commitment to take part in a show has been declared, it is the responsibility of the parents to reinforce the fact that the commitment must be fulfilled before any other option is considered. Quitting mid-performance not only affects the ability of the group, but it also conveys the message that respecting others is not important. Such action will result in immediate dismissal from regular classes.

# 6. Private Lessons

# a) Attendance:

Punctuality in ballet is very important and even more important in the context of private lessons, as the teacher comes to class only for the sole student. To maximize practice time, students are expected to arrive 10-15 minutes early so they can warm up.

#### b) Attire:

All students should arrive at their lesson dressed to dance and with their hair done and their jewelry removed.

# c) Faculty

All our teachers are trained to conduct private lessons with the students. The decision about who will instruct the student is based on the age of the student and his/her ballet ability, stamina, and strength. This decision relies entirely on the expertise of AIB. You will know who your teacher is before the class. Please refrain from asking the Academy to have your child assigned to another teacher.

#### d) Conflict:

Hiring a private teacher means devoting time to that weekly lesson and keeping absenteeism to a bare minimum. If you know you have a conflict with a specific lesson date coming up, please let us know via email or phone as soon as possible. The time the notice is given and the reason for missing the lesson will play a role in whether or not you are charged for that lesson. If the Academy is not notified 24 hours in advance about a lesson to be missed, the student will be charged for the lesson, and the teacher will not be obligated to make-up the lesson.

# e) Make-Up Lessons

The teacher is not obligated to make up a lesson for an unexcused absence. If the teacher must miss a lesson, a make-up lesson will automatically be reassigned.

# f) Payment

Private lessons are priced by the hour or per half-hour. Although the lessons will take place weekly, they must be committed to on a monthly basis, and payment will be expected in full at the first lesson of each new month. Lessons must be paid for in a timely manner. If the balance is not paid by the time agreed upon, lessons will stop.

Payment is accepted by cash or check.

## g) Contract

All private lessons are endorsed by a contract indicating that the student and the parents have read and are in agreement with the conditions of AIB Private Lessons. Contracts must be signed and returned to AIB with payment for the first month of classes before private lessons begin.

# 7. Summer Intensive

Each year, AIB organizes a five to seven week program with daily classes for its junior and senior dancers. Summer Intensive is an extremely valuable component of a ballet dancer's growth because the instruction during that time period is daily (Monday through Friday) and sustained.

Students who attend the AIB's Summer Intensive usually grow rapidly as dancers. The large amount of time spent in the classroom allows the teachers to better identify the challenges of each student and cater to those needs in a manner that cannot be done during the regular Academy schedule.

#### **Outside Auditions**

All AIB students study exclusively with the Academy throughout the year, summer included. At the age of 15, with the Artistic Director's permission, students may audition for summer intensives outside of the Academy. The reason for this age requirement is that, in general, it takes nine to ten years for a ballet dancer to develop the level of technique and stage presence required to be noticed by a ballet company. AIB brings in world-renowned, exceptional teachers to its summer intensive so our students can pursue their development without further living costs and travel expenses to their families. Once our students have reached a level where we are convinced they will be able to demonstrate their skills and potential to the outside world, not only will we help them audition for summer intensives outside of AIB, but we will also recommend them to the vast network of professionals that Denis and Anastasia and AIB's teachers have acquired throughout their professional careers as ballet dancers. (Please visit our website to find a list of past Summer Intensive teachers.)

If a dancer is deemed ready to audition for an outside summer intensive at an age younger than 15, parents will be notified by AIB.

At the end of each Summer Intensive, students are invited to start preparation for the Youth American Grand Prix or other Ballet Competitions (see below). Because of the intensive instruction received during those summer weeks, the chances of being selected to represent the Academy improve considerably. Audition announcements for competition groups will be posted in middle of July.

During the course of the Summer Intensive, the Academy also organizes bonus activities for the students so they can bond and have fun together. Previous activities have included movie night, pool party, birthday celebrations, and park outings.

The Summer Intensive culminates every week with a small performance for parents.

To reserve a student's spot for AIB's Summer Intensive, parents must return a signed commitment form accompanied by a non- refundable deposit.

# 8. Competition Team

At the Academy we do feel that it is important to offer competition experience to students who want and are ready to compete. The focus is on clean lines, strong footwork, artistic expression, and developing as a well rounded and versatile dancer.

The readiness of each student to compete is determined at the discretion of AIB's teachers after an audition. Please understand that if your child is ready to compete, it is in the best interest of AIB to have him/her represent our Academy. Please respect the decision of the teachers. Dancers accepted to the competition team don't need to take the Nutcracker audition.

Our students have placed in the Top 12 in classical and/or ensemble every year since 2004—the year we entered the competition for the first time. Many students hold the title of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2nd and 3rd place in the competitions. Students were also invited to compete in the finals held in NYC.

Please note that students who enter YAGP, ABC, WBAC or other competitions as an ensemble must be in accordance with the rules of engagement of the competition. By scoring enough points, the ensemble might be invited to compete in NY, FL, Canada, etc. While the invitation to compete in Finals is thrilling for our students, there is a travel cost and a time investment that we encourage families to discuss ahead of time to ensure alignment in case the students receive the invitation.

Students selected for competition team will receive invitations via email during the second week of August. Competition team will include group dance, trio's and solos.

All Competition Dancers must take at least 2 ballet classes and 1 contemporary/jazz/character dance class per week and attend all of the scheduled rehearsals throughout the dance season. During the summer Competition Dancers must take at least 3 weeks of AIB Summer Intensive.

Preparation for competitions and learning choreography will start in the middle of August.

Competitions will give great experience and many scholarship opportunities for the students. We have a plan for at least 2 competitions per year and numerous performances throughout the season in festivals, outreach performances and other.

Competition group fees are \$50 per month. If you are in trios or solos the fee will be higher based on the private lessons. All Competition Dancers must have AIB jacket and t-shirt, must attend all scheduled photoshoots. Other fees must be paid by the dancer are: all travel fees, all registration and entrance fee, choreography fee, costumes fee, private lesson fee. Remember that some of the competition finals based in other states like NY, FL, CT and some in other countries like Canada, etc. If the AIB will be selected to go to finals all dancers must attend the finals or would need to pay \$500 to find other dancer, replace choreography, etc.

Group choreography fee will be split equally between the group. If a dancer missed the rehearsal they must get a private lesson to catch up on choreography or changes.

All Competition Dancers will receive 50% discounts to all workshops and master classes organized by the AIB.

# 9. The Academy Needs You

Because AIB is a privately run pre-professional ballet academy, it does not qualify for City, State or Federal subsidies. The Academy thus relies heavily on the involvement of parents.

This involvement is important all year long as many tasks are supported by our community, but parents involvement is especially important to set up, structure, and run the two live performances the Academy offers each year.

As new families join our Academy, please let us know the special talents, interests and skills that you can do.

Support hours opportunities are filled on a first come, first served basis. When support hours skills are technical (i.e. costume design, costume creation,

newsletter, etc.), positions will be given to parents who are either professionally trained in those areas or who have demonstrated the ability to work on such demanding tasks without any supervision.

Some positions are extremely limited, while others must be filled in higher numbers. Please show flexibility when assigned a role that may correspond to your second or third choice or not on your list at all.

# a) Support Hours Opportunities

#### **Newsletter:**

A virtual newsletter informing the AIB Community of events, progress, Observation Weeks, Summer Intensive, Competitions, pictures taken in the classroom, etc. reaches our families once a month. For the newsletter to take place, we need the involvement of two parents:

**Newsletter Liaison** is the person between the Academy and the newsletter graphic designer. This person must have good communication skills, the ability to take pictures and to capture what represents the essence of the Academy each month. The newsletter liaison will interact on a weekly basis with AIB Directors and staff. *Time Commitment:* 5 hours a month.

**Newsletter Editor** is the graphic designer who will publish the actual newsletter. This person should have superior computer skills, a native command of the English language, and knowledge of publishing software. *Time Commitment:* 5 hours a month.

#### **New Family Mentoring Program:**

The purpose of the New Family Mentoring Program is to help new families feel welcome and supported in our community. Mentor families are asked to aid the new families who have just been admitted, both parents and students, by telling them about AIB, helping to integrate them quickly into the AIB community, and being a resource during the weeks that follow registration as well as during the new family's first year of tenure at AIB. The program also gives new families a personal connection at the Academy and the new student a familiar face in the hallway or in the classroom if the students share a similar level. This assignment is a pleasurable way to connect with new families and get them involved in the Academy Support Hours Community.

The minimum requirement is that the parent makes an initial contact with the new family prior to the first day of class for the student and that you attend the Open House the Academy organizes once a year. You may also be asked to help set-up or tear down at the event.

After that initial meeting and once ballet lessons start, the mentor places a call to check in to see how the new family feels and ask if they have any questions. If you would like to get together with the new family and set up some more meaningful get-togethers for you and them, you are of course welcome to do that. Knowing a second language is a plus.

Number of Parents Needed: 5 Time Commitment: 6 hours per year

#### The Nutcracker and After Showcase Social:

During the Nutcracker performances we have a concession stand. Planning on getting the gifts, concessions, setting up and dismantling. Selling products before the shows.

Selling and checking tickets before the shows.

Once a year, AIB organizes a get-together for its Community to say thank you, disseminate information, and play together. In the spring, the event happens indoors at the Academy or other venue, following AIB's showcase. Organizing the Socials relies on skills that combine planning, purchasing, setting up, and dismantling.

Number of Parents Needed: 5

Time Commitment: 10 hours per vear

**Academy Social:** Please 'Like US' and share our posts on Facebook and Instagram. "Tag" Academy in pictures and "check in" at the Academy.

## **Open House:**

Once a year, AIB opens its doors to the community. This is a vibrant event that showcases the Academy and the Academy's Way. For this event to take place, parents are needed to set up, attend the event, and make contact with potential new families to answer questions they may have and describe your experience at the Academy.

Number of Parents Needed: 3 per location Time Commitment: 5 hours per year

# The Nutcracker performance volunteers:

Parents in the first act 8-12; Backstage crew 4-6; Load in and out 3-5; Set stage 3-7; Costume adjustments and help 5-7.

# **ACADEMY COMMITMENT FORM**

I have read and understand the rules, procedures and the conditions of the Academy of Int'l Ballet and agree to embrace, comply and respect the Academy Way:

Student's Name: (please print)
Student's Signature:
Date:
Parent or Guardian's Name: (please print)
Parent or Guardian's Signature:
Date:
I would like to help Academy with:
Newsletter / The Nutcracker and After Showcase Social / Open House
Academy Social / New Family Mentoring Program
OTHER:

Sorry, I can't help this year.

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