

## MERRILEE STUDIOS NEWSLETTER - April 19, 2010

**TUITION** is due before dress rehearsal for Period 9 - April 26 through May 20. All financial matters must be taken care of BEFORE dress rehearsal. This means that all money matters must be resolved no later than Thursday, May 13 at 9:00 p.m. **Your child will not be allowed to rehearse or perform if all financial matters are not paid.**

**TAZWOOD DANCE COMPANY SPRING CONCERT** *Celebrate Dance*, Friday and Saturday, April 30 and May 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 2 at 2:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center of Illinois Central College. This show will include dance inspired by paintings of the masters, a dancing trip around the world, a girl's dreams, children from the community, Miss Spider's Tea Party, and much more. Tickets are available at the ICC Box Office, 694-5136, or through Mary and are \$7 adults, \$5 students and seniors. Mary will have tickets in the studio on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Mondays and Wednesdays you can order them at the desk.

Miss Spider's Tea Party, a special ticketed event, will take place on Sunday, May 2, 1:15-2:15 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center before the afternoon performance. These tickets are \$15 for students and seniors and \$20 for adults and include a ticket to the performance. These tickets are available only through the ICC Box Office, 694-5136.

**LESSONS CHANGES BECAUSE OF TAZWOOD REHEARSALS** – Because we can't be in two places at the same time, there are some lessons changes on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, April 26, 27, 28. If you can't come at these times, you may make up any other week in any other class.

**SUMMER CLASSES AND CAMPS** - Please see the newsletter from February. The schedule is on the wall of the office next to the desk, and in the kitchen. If you would like to see a class offered that is not listed or would like to see a class offered at a different time, please talk to me about it. This schedule is only tentative and changes can be made. The children who take summer classes make unbelievable progress. Give your child this opportunity this summer. Also, please know that it has been scientifically proven that children who take dance classes, do better in school. Sports are fine and good exercise, but **dance lessons will improve your child's learning ability. Dance is an art that needs to be practiced regularly.**

**Summer classes are a must for those involved in ballet and tumbling.** If your child "takes the summer off", he/she will lose a lot of technique. The point of this is that if your child takes 3 months off in the summer, it will take at least 3 months in the fall to get back what was lost during the 3 summer months. Looking at it this way, without summer classes, your child will not be at the level that he/she is right now until Thanksgiving or perhaps later.

**SUMMER CLASSES AND CAMPS** - Please see the newsletter from March. The schedule is on the wall of the office at the top of the steps. If you would like to see a class offered that is not listed or would like to see a class offered at a different time, please talk to me about it. This schedule is only tentative and changes can be made. **The children who take summer classes make unbelievable progress.** Give your child this opportunity this summer. Also, please know that it has been scientifically proven that children who take dance classes, do better in school. Sports are fine and good exercise, but **dance lessons will improve your child's learning ability. Dance is an art that needs to be practiced regularly.**

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**SPECIAL CAMPS AND MINI CAMPS FOR THE SUMMER ONLY** – All age & grade requirements are based on the 2009-10 school year and age as of June 1, 2010.

**For 4-7 year olds only Mini Camps**

**Storybook Camp** – To include dance, stories, crafts, and games relating to your favorite fairy tales and stories, 9-10 a.m., June 14-18, taught by Lida, \$50

**Princess Camp** – To include dance, stories, crafts, and games relating to your favorite make believe princesses, 9-10 a.m., July 12-16, taught by Lida, \$50

**For those who have completed kindergarten through eighth graders**

**Dance Team Camp** – This camp is for children who have completed kindergarten through eighth graders. It will include dance team moves and some tumbling for cheerleaders, 1-3 p.m., June 21-25, taught by Courtney and Dan, \$50 (this includes a Merrilee Studios Dance Team T shirt). This will be a performance oriented camp. The children in this camp will march in the Old Settlers Parade on Saturday morning, June 26 and will perform at the Old Settlers celebration on the square in Metamora on Saturday afternoon, June 26, at 1:00 p.m. For the performance, they will be divided into groups according to age and ability.

**For those who have completed kindergarten through high school ages**

**“Learn That Skill” Tumbling Camp** – This camp is for those who have completed kindergarten through high school students. It will help your child learn “that skill” and hone his/her other tumbling techniques. It will be held the week of July 12-16, from 1:00-2:30 p.m., with Dan as instructor, \$50.

**For those who have completed first grade through high school**

**All Day Dance Camp** – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., August 2-6, taught by Mary, Dan, Laura, Courtney, & Lida, \$165 (Because this camp is so popular, a \$50 nonrefundable deposit must be paid by June 1 to hold your child’s place in camp.) This camp includes ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, and modern techniques plus dance history, nutrition talks and DVDs. The children will be grouped according to age and ability. The camp will culminate with a performance on Friday, August 6.

**SOLOS, DUOS, TRIOS FOR THE SPRING RECITAL 2011**

**PLEASE NOTE THE REQUIREMENTS**

For your child to be eligible to do a solo, duo or trio in next year’s dance recital (2010), he/she must earn three points during the summer classes and then continue to earn three points during each pay period of the 2009-10 school year. Points will be assigned to each type of class taken.

**The core subjects – tap, ballet, jazz, and tumbling – will each count for one point. All of the other classes count for a ½ point each – pointe, hip hop, modern, theatre dance, dance team**

**Each Mini Camp will count as a ½ point.**

**The All Day Camp will count as 3 points.**

The reason for this is that students who wish to do a solo, duo, trio, should be taking at least some of the core subjects, the ones that actually make you a dancer.

**In addition, every student who wishes to do a solo, duo, trio in next year’s dance recital (2010) MUST be enrolled in a ballet class during the 2009-10 school year. (Boys are exempt from this ruling, but they MUST be enrolled in a jazz or tap class.)**

The reason for this is that ballet is what makes all of the other dance forms look good. If a child is really serious about being a good dancer, ballet must be a part of the education.

**DANCE RECITAL INFO:**

**DATES:** Dress Rehearsal is Friday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Showtime 2010 is Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**VIDEO TAPES** - The show will be professionally video taped by Mark Goodyear. The cost for a DVD is \$35.00. You will need to pay for the DVD and fill out a form at the desk. The DVD's will be in the studio for pickup by mid June.

**PICTURES** - Pictures will be taken in the studio on Saturday, May 8. They will be taken by Kevin Arnold. We will schedule pictures from 12:00 noon on. A few of you have requested later times and I have taken care of that. The picture schedule is on the wall at the top of the steps. You will receive a copy of this with this newsletter.

This is what will happen: you will receive a list for the time for each class picture. You will bring your child in at the appropriate time and he/she will have his/her picture taken with his/her class. If you wish to have an individual picture taken of your child, it will be taken immediately after the class picture. We generally stay on time, so it is important that you are a little early. Because of the large number of pictures that will be taken that day, we cannot wait if someone is late.

The pictures will be taken in full color in front of a pastel background. **You are under no obligation to buy pictures.** We always like to have a good turn-out because the group pictures will be hung on the wall (as you can see, we have 32 years of pictures on the walls). If you do wish to purchase pictures, they **MUST** be purchased no later than Thursday, May 6. (You will be able to purchase pictures on Picture Day, but it will be much more inconvenient for you and for us.) Picture forms are available at the desk. Also if you purchase pictures and can't come, your money will be refunded. The picture packages offered and prices are as follows:

Package A - \$17.00 ( 1 Memory Mate - 1 5x7 group and 1 5x7 individual)

Package B - \$17.00 (1/8x10 Individual)

Package C - \$10.00 (1/5x7 Individual)

Package D - \$12.00 (8 wallets [uncut page of 8]- can only be purchased with another package)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE LOWER PRICES THAN LAST YEAR.**

Pictures should be ready for pickup five to six weeks following the show. Please call the studio before coming in to pickup your pictures.

**DOLL CLOTHES FOR YOUR CHILD'S 18" DOLL** made by Priscilla Greenhalgh to match your child's show costume. Prices are \$30 for the costume, \$5 for shoes (tap, ballet, jazz), \$5 for tights (pink, white, tan). These clothes are adorable. In the past, children have had their pictures taken with their doll in the same outfit. (To have the clothes ready for Picture Day, they must be ordered no later than April 24.)

**FLOWERS FOR YOUR SPECIAL DANCER** - The Village Florist of Metamora will be supplying flowers for those who wish to buy them. They will come wrapped in paper with extra greenery. The prices are as follows:

Package 1: A bright colored carnation with fillers and greens - \$5.50

Package 2: A beautiful red rose with fillers and greens - \$6.50

Package 3: A colored rose (your choice when you pick up your flowers) with fillers and greens - \$6.50

Package 4: Gerber daisy and Shasta daisies bouquet - \$8.50

Package 5: A bright colored spring mix to include a Gerber daisy, Shasta daisies and a carnation - \$10.50

Package 6: A glittered mix bouquet - \$15.00

**All flowers must be ordered and paid for by Thursday, May 6.** Flower forms are available at the desk. **The flowers will be available for pickup at MTHS on May 15 between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. FLOWERS MUST BE PICKED UP AT THIS TIME.**

There will be a few flowers available for purchase at the door on a first come, first served basis. Because these flowers were not ordered ahead of time, they will cost more.

**T SHIRTS FOR SHOWTIME 2010** – Lavender T shirts with the studio logo and “Showtime 2010” in dark blue ink will be ordered on April 27. There are sample shirts at the desk for sizing – child small, medium, large, adult small, medium, large, and extra large. The cost is \$14.00 plus \$1.01 tax for a total of \$15.01. They must be ordered and paid for before April 29. T shirt forms are available at the desk. They will be in the studio to be picked up the week of the show.

**TICKETS** are on sale at the desk for \$6. **For each five tickets that you purchase, you will receive a complimentary ticket.** Please purchase early. There are only as many tickets as there are seats in the theatre. When they are gone, *they are gone*. Each child who takes classes whether or not they are in the show will receive a ticket that will allow her/him to watch the show when not performing. You will receive this ticket the week before the show. If there are unsold tickets, they will be on sale at the door for \$7. All ticket sales are final.

**TIGHTS AND SHOES**- Please check with the costume picture book **and** with your child's teacher about the proper color of tights and what shoes are needed for the show. If you wish to order a body stocking (see the March newsletter), it must be ordered by April 22

**CLASSES THE WEEK OF THE SHOW** will be held as usual. This is an important week. It is the last rehearsal in class that your child will have. Please make dance a priority this week.

**CLASSES THE WEEK AFTER THE SHOW** – Because of the way the calendar falls, every seven or so years we have classes the week following the recital. During this week your child will receive Perfect Attendance ribbons, tumbling awards, and the pre tumbling classes will receive their certificates. You will also receive your class times, etc. for summer classes. This week is also the last week for the school year classes.

**DRESS REHEARSAL, Friday, May 14** - at MTHS beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please enter the high school through the doors off of the large parking lot and look for the signs directing you to the dressing rooms. **The show will be rehearsed beginning with the finale and then in order from the beginning. I expect the finale rehearsal to take about 15 minutes,** but it could take a few minutes longer or a few minutes less.

This is a complete rehearsal including costumes, tights, shoes, makeup, and hair. Check the timed list in the office for a closer time that your child will rehearse. (The times should be posted on the revue lineup on the wall in a few weeks.)

Plan ahead. Be sure to purchase tights, shoes, tickets, pictures, flowers, T shirts, videos, etc. before the rehearsal. Also **be sure that you have taken care of ALL FINANCIAL MATTERS BEFORE DRESS REHEARSAL.** Your child will not be allowed to perform if you owe anything.

**NO MERCHANDISE WILL BE SOLD AT DRESS REHEARSAL.**

This is the best time to take pictures or video tape on your own. The actual show is a bad time. The extra commotion it causes can make your child do the wrong steps. (Flash pictures are very distracting at any time, so please – NO flashes.) **We also request that you do not videotape during either of the actual performances.** It is very annoying to people sitting near you and it is not fair to our videographer.

For the entire rehearsal and the show, please have your child lined up in the hallway three numbers in advance.

**NO FOOD OR DRINK WILL BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE IN THE THEATRE, BALCONY, OR BACKSTAGE AREA.**

**SHOWTIME 2010, Saturday, May 15 beginning at 5:00 p.m.** Those in the first few numbers

should be lined up in the hallway by 4:45.

The doors to the theatre will be opened at 4:30. Please remember this in regard to the elderly. Arrange to save seats for them so that they do not have to stand in line. Seats may be saved by sitting by them, placing jackets, etc. on them. Under no circumstance, should they be saved by taping, roping, or in any other way to close off a section of seats. (Any tape, roping, or otherwise blocking off seats, will be removed.) Also, please try to be cordial to your neighbors on this day. It is very important to your child and if you become upset, your child will be upset.

You will notice some reserved seats. These are for those who help us with the show, and the teachers and receptionists families. Tickets, if available, will be sold at the door for \$7.00. They are on advance sale for \$6.00 through 9:00 p.m. on May 13. Please do not call me on May 14 and ask for discounted tickets. All ticket sales are final. Buy only what you will use. Proof of ticket purchase will be checked throughout the entire show.

Please try to be as quiet as possible when entering and leaving the theatre during the show because **every child performing is important . Mothers who must enter and exit to help children change costumes are asked to use the side doors. They are more convenient for you.**

No children or performers will be allowed in the theatre in a visible costume. You can wear something over the costume that completely covers it or you can change. (This would be a good use for a "Showtime 2010" T shirt). If you wear something over your costume, it must stay on once you are in the theatre. We have this rule for several reasons:

1. The audience will enjoy the number more if it sees the costume for the first time from the stage.
2. It may spoil another child's number to have a child come in to the auditorium who has just performed - it makes for extra talk.
3. It is very unprofessional.

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**IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE THIS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR CHILD!**