

MERRILEE STUDIOS NEWSLETTER - March 17, 2008

TUITION is due next week for Period 8 - March 23 through April 19. If you have not yet paid for Period 7, you will be charged an additional \$10.00 late fee.

TICKETS FOR SHOWTIME 2008 go on sale April 7. Ticket prices are \$6.00 advance sale and \$7.00 at the door. For every 5 tickets you sell, you will receive one complimentary ticket. Ticket prices are the same as the last several years. Also, when the tickets are gone, they are gone. We have a theatre with seats. I suggest that you buy early. **All ticket sales are final and there can be no refunds.** When you come to the studio to buy your tickets, please know how many you want and whether you want them for Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon. At this time of year, there is often a line at the desk to buy tickets. If you know ahead of time, it will make the line run smoother. (Children under three will not need a ticket if they are going to sit on someone's lap.)

SHOWTIME 2008 DATES are Friday, May 16 for dress rehearsal beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the shows on Saturday, May 17 at **6:00 p.m.** and Sunday, May 18, beginning at 2:00 p.m. All at MTHS in the theatre.

PICTURES will be taken on Saturday, May 10 at the studio beginning at 12:00 p.m. Each class will have a specific time to come in for a group picture. You may buy pictures if you wish, but **there is no obligation to buy.** Individual pictures will be taken following each group picture for those who wish to do so. Prices, forms, and a schedule will be sent home in mid April. This is also the day for the Race for the Cure. By scheduling the first pictures at 12:00 p.m., this should give you enough time to do both. **Please let me know by April 6 if you need more time.**

LAST WEEK OF CLASSES FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR is the week of the dance recital. During this last week of class we will have the regular dance and tumbling classes doing a lot of rehearsing for the show, hand out perfect attendance ribbons, tumbling awards, and certificates to the preacro students. If you have any questions, please talk to me.

LYDIA M. MORITZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD - As many of you know, my mother, Lydia M. Moritz, passed away in March of 1999. She was a lifelong advocate of the arts and because of her dedication to my arts education, I set up a scholarship in her name. Previous recipients have been Brittney Kuehn, Emily Rowden, Meagan Davis, Leah Zulz, Samantha Cremer, Katy Crenshaw, Margaret Greenhalgh, and Julia Burns. This past year's recipient was Clare Maksimovich.

Each year at the dance recital I will announce the recipient for the next year. The following criteria will be used to make the selection.

The student must be at least ten years of age and a dance student at Merrilee Studios for at least the two preceding years including summers, must be a serious ballet student, must have good attendance and attitude, must show sign of home practice and an improvement in skills, must dress properly for class, must show the importance of dance in his/her life, must submit a written composition stating why he/she should receive the scholarship, stating the importance of dance in his/her life and why this scholarship is important to this student. Also, the student who receives this gift is expected to have good attendance in class during the scholarship year. It is important that this is addressed in the composition.

This composition is due May 1 or earlier. No late entries will be accepted.

This should be something that is discussed by the entire family and not written in five minutes.

This is a great honor and it is a huge financial gift. *The chosen recipient will receive ALL*

dance classes for the next school year free of tuition. *If your child would take 2 ballet classes, 2 pointe classes, a tap class, a jazz class, a hip hop class, and a modern class this scholarship is worth approximately \$1500.00.* Please consider having your child apply for this scholarship. The recipients for last four years spent a great deal of time on their applications. Please do not think that you can only submit the composition. The more you do, the better your chances are to win. Some have submitted practice schedules, art work, and poetry. I will give this scholarship to the one who proves to me that he/she deserves it the most and I will also consider this past year's performance in class and the past year's practice.

THE EDMUND F. MORITZ MEMORIAL AWARD - As many of you know, my dad passed away in November, 2003. My mother may have taken me to many classes, but my dad paid for them and my many costumes. In his memory, I would like to offer another award to be made each spring at the dance recital. This will allow a family to have \$200 worth of costumes paid for by the award. The following criteria will be used:

The child must have taken classes in the studio for at least one year including summers. At least one child in the family must also take 3 or more dance classes during the award year. The parent of the child applying for the award must write a short paragraph telling why the award would be helpful. As with the other award, this is due no later than **May 1**. The winner will be announced at the dance recital. You all know about the costume bill. Think how nice it would be not to have one this next year. Please apply for this scholarship.

COLORING CONTEST will be held for children 5-7 years old. The prize will be a free Princess or Storybook Mini Camp. Another coloring contest will be held for 7-9 year olds. The prize for this will be a free mini cheer camp. The coloring sheets will be handed out to 5-7 and 7-9 year olds and will also be available in the office. The winners will be announced at the dance recital.

YOUR CHILD'S PLACEMENT FOR THE 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR - In most cases your child will remain at the same level during the summer and then be moved up (if he/she is moving up) to the next level at the beginning of the school year. Our studio bases its technique on the principle of learning a specific syllabus at each level. The average number of years in Levels 2, 3, and 4 is three years. The following is an attempt to explain to you our class levels. **(They do not follow the school years)**

Pre Tap and Pre Ballet - 30 minute classes for 3 and 4 year olds. At this level they learn basic technique and songs and dances. It is generally all new to the 3 year old, but as a 4 year old he/she will become better at these steps. (The songs and dances will be different.)

Kindergarten Tap and Kindergarten Ballet - 30 minute classes for 5 year olds - Kindergarten age. At this level they continue the basic technique that they began to learn as preschoolers and begin some of the technique taught in the 1's classes.

Pre Acro - 30 minute classes for 3, 4, and 5 year olds. Since they all work at their own pace, we feel that we can combine them.

Tap 1, Ballet 1, Jazz 1 - 30 minute classes usually only for the first graders to get them used to classes doing more technique and not learning songs. Most are usually at this level for only their first grade year., but some need to repeat the level.

Tap 2, Ballet 2, Jazz 2 - 30 minute jazz and tap classes & 45 minute ballet classes for second graders and older. Children are at this level for at least 2 years, sometimes 3 or even 4. It all depends how quickly they learn the material to be taught at this level.

Tap 3, Ballet 3, Jazz 3 - 45 minute classes for those who have successfully completed the 2's level classes. They are always at this level for 2 years and very often for 3 or 4. Once again it all depends how quickly they learn the material to be taught at this level.

Tap 4, Ballet 4, Jazz 4 - 45 minute jazz and tap classes & 60 minute ballet classes for those who have successfully completed the 3's classes. By this time they are usually late junior high. They are here until they learn all of the material taught at this level and until they are mature enough to be in the 5's classes.

Tap 5, Ballet 5, Jazz 5 - 45 minute jazz and tap classes & 60 minute ballet classes for those who have successfully completed the 4's classes and have the maturity to be in the classes with high school age students. At this point they should really want to learn and improve and this should be the focus of all of their classes.

Ballet 6 - 90 minute ballet class for those who have successfully completed Ballet 5 and show the desire to work very hard in class.

Modern classes - At this time there are only two levels. The lower levels brings new students into the modern classes with younger students who have already had modern. This blend seems to work well. The higher level modern class is for high school girls who have had several years in the lower level class.

Hip Hop Classes - Hip Hop 1 is for the younger beginning hip hop student, Hip Hop 2 is for students up through junior high, and Hip Hop 3 is for the high school students.

Acro Classes - These classes are for anyone who wants to take acro at a time offered. Dan is able to work with each student individually and progress each student at their own rate. The class that is chosen may be chosen for time convenience or to be with a friend. These classes are not in levels.

SUMMERTIME CLASSES AT MERRILEE STUDIOS BEGIN THE WEEK OF JUNE 2 AND RUN THROUGH JULY 31. (CLASSES WILL NOT BE HELD THE WEEK OF JULY 14-18 BECAUSE OF DANCE CAMP.) MOST CLASSES WILL BE ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, MORNINGS AND EVENINGS, BUT THIS IS NOT SET IN STONE.

PREREGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CLASSES GIVES YOU AN INPUT TO THE DAYS AND TIMES OF THE CLASSES. PREREGISTRATION BEGINS WITH THIS NEWSLETTER AND ENDS APRIL 10.

REGULAR REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CLASSES BEGINS APRIL 14.

CORE CLASSES OFFERED

All age & grade requirements are based on the 2007-08 school year and age as of June 1, 2008

Tap for preschoolers through adults

Ballet for preschoolers through adults

Jazz for first graders through adults

Pointe (approved by Mary)

Hip Hop for second graders through adults

Tumbling for preschool and older

Modern for fourth grade and up and must be also enrolled in a ballet class

Theatre Dance for second grade and above and must be enrolled in a ballet and/or jazz class

SPECIAL CLASSES FOR THE SUMMER ONLY

All age & grade requirements are based on the 2007-08 school year and age as of June 1, 2008

Adult Beginner tap, ballet, and jazz classes

Ballet class for the serious students - a 1 ½ hour complete ballet class (advanced levels only) and taught by Mary.

Pilates mat class for twelve year olds through adults taught by Mary. This class will firm your abs and make you more flexible. This class will be thirty minutes in length. It will also include stretching and additional conditioning.

All Boys Tumbling Class for boys first grade and older and taught by Dan.

All Boys Ballet Class for boys at least 8 years of age. It will be a FREE class.

High Level Tumbling Class for those who can do back handsprings by themselves and taught by Dan.

Acting Classes will include two levels: 1st to 4th grades for 1½ hour class per week and 5th grade and up for a 2 hour class per week. They will be taught by Alan Walker. Alan is an adjunct theatre director, sound designer, and choreographer. He studied acting at Center Theatre Training Center and Second City in Chicago. He went on later to study at ICC and ISU. He has traveled the country playing comedy clubs and appeared on "An Evening at the Improv" (Comedy Central).

Beginner Clogging classes will be for third grade through adults. They will be taught by Courtney Smith. Courtney clogged for about 5 years and performed with a clogging group.

SPECIAL CAMPS AND MINI CAMPS FOR THE SUMMER ONLY

All age & grade requirements are based on the 2007-08 school year and age as of June 1, 2008

For 5-7 year olds only

Mini Camps

Princess Camp – To include dance, stories, crafts, and games relating to your favorite make believe princesses, 9-10 a.m., June 23-27, taught by Lida, \$50

Storybook Camp – To include dance, stories, crafts, and games relating to your favorite fairy tales and stories, 9-10 a.m., July 21-25, taught by Lida, \$50

For 7-9 year olds only

Mini Cheer Camp – Including cheering, dance team moves, tumbling for cheerleaders including mounts, 1-2 p.m., June 16-20, taught by Courtney and Dan, \$50

For those who have completed first grade through high school

All Day Dance Camp – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., July 14-18, taught by Mary, Dan, and one other teacher, \$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, July 18