



2017-2018

## *Ballet Royale Contract*

This contract is entered into on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, by and between *BALLET ROYALE*, a division of *ROYALTY DANCE ACADEMY*, and \_\_\_\_\_, an individual, "The Dancer".

### *Ballet Royale Goals*

A company of any sort involves different levels of ability, experience, and strength. Although for every company, there is always one common goal, to create a quality product. What does that mean for Ballet Royale? It means that we as a group will work together, rather than soloists to create quality dancers within a mentor system, that exude proper technique, respectful behavior, and undoubting dedication. This requires one thing more than any other, *COMMITMENT*, by the Artistic Director, The studio, and the Dancer. Therefore this contract is for all of us, we must all uphold our best behavior, work our hardest, and respect our commitment to the art of ballet.

### *Company Levels:*

- Pre Apprentices: Ages 5 & up
- Jr. Apprentices: Ages 9 & up
- Jr. Company: Ages 9 & up
- Senior Company: Ages 9 & up
- Pre-Professional: Ages 9 & up

*ALL COMPANY LEVELS ARE DECIDED UPON AT THE MAY 20th AUDITIONS!*

\* Please try to always respect and understand your child's personality and enjoyment. Just because a girl is the oldest in the class does not mean she should move up if she is enjoying herself and acting as a role model. Confidence is built at a very young age and we don't need to tamper with it by pushing our kids to levels that they are not ready for. Keep them happy and dancing as long as you can, it will pay off in the long run!

### *Level Requirements*

*Pre Apprentice:* 1 Ballet Class, Friday 4:45-5:45 Pre Apprentice Class and A Progressive Ballet Class

*Jr. Apprentices:* 2 Ballet IIB Classes and A Progressive Ballet Class

*Jr. Company:* 3 Junior Company Ballet Classes, a Pointe Class and a Progressive Ballet Class

*Senior Company:* 3 Senior Company Ballet Classes (one of which is a pointe class) and a Progressive Ballet Class

*Pre-Professional:* All 3 Senior Company Classes plus your Sunday Pre-professional class and a Progressive Ballet Class

*\*\* Your pointe class does not count as one of your regular ballet classes \*\**

*\*The Saturday Ballet Production is a separate time and charge and the practices are on Saturday. If you choose not to be in the production, you may still be in a company level class if you have auditioned and are registered for the appropriate number of classes during the week.*

*IMPORTANT: If the classes required by your company level conflict with any of the Royalty Prodigy classes that you are in, you can always register for a level below your level but this is the only exception that will be made. It is mandatory that you attend all of the required classes listed above to be in that level class. Private lessons cannot be used to make up for a required weekly ballet class and no exceptions will be made.*

*\*No dancer participating in a competition team/group/sofo at any other studio or dance academy shall be allowed to be a part of Ballet Royale nor Royalty Dance Academy. Because Royalty Dance Academy has many Dance and Elite Competition teams, soloists and ensembles, it is considered a conflict of interest for our instructors to train and prepare other dance studios and academy's students in ballet technique for competition against our dancers.*

### Pointe Work

*I know many of you are wondering, how do I get on pointe?*

*What are the requirements and what classes should I be in?*

*Well, I will do my best to help you understand how, and when, but please understand that pointe work can be dangerous if you are not ready, and that every dancer is different. There is no reason to rush, it can only cause frustration and injury if the dancer starts too early.*

#### **Requirements for Pointe:**

- 1. You must be at least at a Jr. Apprentice level*
- 2. You must be age 11 or older (every child's bone age is different, so there are children who go on pointe earlier or later depending on their bone age which is predicted by their doctor).*
- 3. You must have had at least 3 years of extensive ballet training*

*IMPORTANT: Your pointe level and your Regular Ballet level will not necessarily be the same. Ex. you may be Senior Company, but Intermediate Pointe. All dancers are different and pointe work needs to be practiced at the correct level in order to prevent injury and in the long run the dancer will benefit from working slower and properly.*

*Your pointe level will be determined at the May 20th audition!*

#### **Things I Look for before putting someone on pointe:**

*#1- The dancers releve is high enough to get up on the box of a pointe shoe. This ultimately has to do with "How well can you point your foot!" And keep in mind, we are born with our feet and some are born with beautiful natural arches and some are not. But those that are not are not hopeless, they just need to work harder for their feet. If you cannot releve high enough to get on your box then you cannot do much on pointe and that can be frustrating and dangerous.*

*#2- That the dancer has an expansive ballet vocabulary. Meaning I should not have to teach you how to do certain steps, you should know them and then be learning how to do them on pointe.*

*#3- The dancer should have a high level of ballet technique, an ability to apply corrections immediately and should be at a strength level that is safe for pointe work.*

- Please purchase your pointe shoes at:*  
**5 6 7 8 Dancewear**  
475 W Southlake Blvd  
Southlake, TX 76092

## The Production

### *“The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe”*

*Jan. 20 & 21, 2018*

*Although the Ballet Production is not Mandatory, it is STRONGLY encouraged. It helps the dancer SOOO much with stage presence and understanding the complexity of a production. The interaction between all the different ages and levels in a production is an irreplaceable experience.*

#### \* Ballet Company Performance Cost :

*To perform in the Ballet Royale show, you must register for your Saturday company level rehearsal class with the front desk. The charge is the same as a regular 1 hour class and will be added in with your total monthly tuition cost. Tuition will be due on the same date as regular class tuition is due (by the 5th of every month) and late fees do apply. Keep in mind that there is a significant discount when you take multiple classes a week.*

*All cancellation rules are the same as a regular class. All weekday and weekend class cost will be based off of the tuition price sheet and all company members are required to pay the registration fee.*

*DIFFERENCE: If the show is in January for example, you will be charged for Saturdays starting in August through the month of January and then we will no longer have rehearsal. You will not be charged again until another show starts rehearsing.*

*Extra Costs: Just like any other regularly scheduled class, you will be asked to pay a costume fee. Although this may vary depending on your role, level, and number of dances.*

*\* Most levels and students will follow the standards below, but please be open minded to extra costume fees if your dancer shows potential for an extra part.*

*\* Your recital fee will be paid separately in October and is not affiliated with the Ballet Company Performance.*

#### Costume Cost For 2017-2018 Ballet Production:

*Most costumes will be \$65/each and every dancer will have two parts in the show so that would require you to buy two costumes.*

*Senior Company/Pre-Professional-This group is designated for main roles, so each member number of costumes/cost may vary depending on role assigned. (approximate cost \$65-\$100)*

- Please understand that production style costumes are not always glamorous, cute or stylish and are designed to fit the character that is being portrayed.*

*The Costume Fee is non refundable and will Be Due to the front office by Friday Sept. 8, 2017! Late fees will apply.*

#### Stage Fee :

*Putting on a full length production is expensive and between the theatre cost, labor, props, scenes, and sets, it is thousands of dollars. Therefore, each dancer will be asked to pay a one time fee of \$125 to perform in each show as a contribution to the production.*

*The stage fee is non-refundable and is due to the front office by Friday Oct. 13, 2017! Late fees will apply.*

## Production Rehearsal Times

*Saturday Rehearsal times for the Ballet Production begin the first week the studio opens August 12th! Each dancer will be required to come to a one hour rehearsal every Saturday through January and the rehearsal times will be decided after the May 20th audition. A rehearsal schedule will be emailed out to you with exact dates and times in June..*

**IMPORTANT!!!**

Since this is a very interactive show and runs as a story rather than in a recital fashion, there are MANY transition moments, curtain cues, dance overlaps, etc that need to be worked out. Therefore LONG REHEARSALS ARE REQUIRED BY THE ENTIRE CAST and you are only allowed one long rehearsal absence per show ( it counts as one of your 2 absences)!

These rehearsals at first on paper will seem like an overwhelming commitment and burden, but this is usually the dancers favorite part. This is what separates a company dancer from a studio dancer. All levels of dancers who are truly dedicated, get to come together and watch each other perform and create an amazing performance together!

The official dates of the long rehearsals will be emailed out to you in June. So PLEASE do not plan other activities that you cannot miss during this time.

### Absences

PLEASE READ THIS! These rules apply for Saturday rehearsal classes, weekly ballet classes, and any other required class to be on Ballet Company. Therefore these rules apply to you in order to maintain the ballet level you auditioned for regardless of show participation.

Example: If you miss more than the allowed classes, and you are in Jr. Company, you will be moved to a level that is decided between Royalty Dance Academy & Ballet Royale Staff, that better suits your attendance.

Absences allowed with no excuse in weekly classes:

-3 per dance season (August-May)

Absences allowed with an excuse in weekly classes:

3 per dance season (August-May)

Absences allowed for Saturday Rehearsal with or without an excuse:

-2 per show

\* We will work with mandatory school functions (drill team, choir, band, etc...) if you exceed your absences in your regular classes.

Acceptable Excuses:

-Mandatory school functions (letter from teacher required prior to absence)

-Sickness (phone call to the front desk)

\*Other mandatory dance events associated with Royalty Dance Academy or another dance academy that is approved by Director and staff will not count against you.

PLEASE DO NOT ABUSE THESE EXCEPTIONS! They are given to you because we understand that we all have lives outside of ballet and dance and that things happen. But, ultimately if your attendance is affecting the quality of your dancing and/or the "production", then we must dismiss you and ask you come back to Ballet Royale when you are ready to commit.

Tardiness:

#1 Rule! This is proper ballet etiquette! If you are late to class, you do not enter the room while the music is playing (long rehearsals are the only exception). You wait until the music ends, then enter the classroom and wait for the teacher to invite you in. If you are more than 10 mins late, more than 3 times a dance season, the issue will be addressed by the Ballet Royale Staff and could be grounds for immediate dismissal.

Sitting Out in Class:

If you sit out in class more than 3 times without a doctor's note or written note from your dance teacher it will count against you as one unexcused absence. Your doctor's note must state your injury and exactly how long you will be sitting out. If you are sitting out you will be required to take notes

during class.

### Leaving Class Early:

If you leave class early more than 3 times it will count against you as an unexcused absence. If you leave for more than a 1/3 of your class time then that is considered leaving early. (example: If you take a 45 minute class and leave when there is still 15 minutes left, that will count against you as leaving early.)

### Casting

It is completely and totally up to the Artistic Director and Ballet Royale staff to decide casting with the advice from our audition judges to decide what role best suits each dancer.

Casting is always a tricky thing. It will inevitably cause drama, but the more we can all keep in mind that it is ultimately about creating the most entertaining and quality show possible as a team, not just an individual, then perhaps we can prevent the unnecessary drama. This should be a positive, and exciting lifetime experience for everyone and every member is equally important to the show!!! I cannot stress this enough, I have danced as a corps member and a soloist, and the corps de ballet is sooo much harder! If you mess up in a group, everyone knows, if you mess up as a soloist, only you and your teacher know. So NEVER underestimate the importance of your dancing and contribution to the show! If there is any verbal or written complaint received by Ballet Royale Directors or Royalty Dance Academy staff regarding the part your daughter was given, it is grounds for immediate dismissal from Ballet Royale.

-All roles for the production will be announced by email no later than June 2, 2017!

### Behavior

If you, the dancer, are disrespectful or disruptive during regular class time or rehearsal:

You will be put on a 3 strike program:

Strike 1: The teacher will speak to you alone regarding the issue.

Strike 2: The teacher will speak to you and your parent or guardian regarding this issue.

Strike 3: The teacher will speak to Mrs. Amy and your other ballet teachers, and we will decide whether to dismiss you from company, and find a level more appropriate.

### What is proper ballet etiquette?

- Do not speak while your teacher is speaking and while you are waiting for the music to begin, or while the music is playing.
- If you are talking it should always be quietly and only regarding the current choreography or combination at hand (Ex. while a group is dancing, you will not review your dance from jazz class the hour before, this is disrespectful to your current teacher).
- Respect your teacher always, as you should respect all your elders and always answer your teacher with "Yes Ma'am" and "No Ma'am".
- Do not make class requests (Ex. "Can we just stretch today?") Your teacher knows what you need and how to train you, please do not question it.
- NEVER lay your elbows on the ballet barre, this is a sign of laziness and disrespect.
- RULE OF THUMB-A teacher should NEVER have to repeat anything more than twice! A correction to your friend is also your correction. Take your corrections, cherish them, and apply them to the best of your ability.
- Come to class dressed ready for success by following the Ballet Dress Code given to you at the time of registration. If you do not following the dress code exactly as stated then you will not be allowed to participate in class. You will have to sit and watch and take notes.
- If you arrive late to class, wait for the music to end before you enter and once you enter you then wait until the teacher invites you in before you join the class.

### Dress Code:

*If you do not follow the dress code exactly, then your dancer will be asked to sit and watch class and not be allowed to participate. While watching she will have to take notes on the combos and the corrections given during class.*

1. *Hair slicked back (no bangs) in a bun at the crown of the head with no fly away hairs. Do not use a donut or sock to make the bun. Hair accessories/headbands can be worn if they are flat to the head.*
2. *Class color leotard:*
  - Ballet IA- Lt. Blue*
  - Ballet IB- Peacock*
  - Ballet IIA- Carnation*
  - Pre-Apprentice- Lavender*
  - Jr. Apprentice- Purple*
  - Jr. Company- Red*
  - Sr. Company/Sr. Pointe- Black*
  - Ballet Prodigy- White*
  - Beg/Int Pointe- Red*
3. *Pink tights (preferably with seams) and no runs or tears in the tights.*
4. *A white or black ballet hip alignment belt*
5. *Solid colored skirts may be worn in the center of the floor with the teacher's permission.*
6. *Angelo Luzio canvas ballet shoes. Do not get a larger size for growing room as this constricts the line of the foot, shoes must be fitted.*
7. *Small earrings may be worn. Absolutely NO: necklaces, bracelets, rings, fitbits, apple watches, regular watches or hair ties are to be worn on the wrist area at anytime, as these items cause distractions.*
8. *Warm up clothing may be worn during plies when temperatures are low.*
9. *NO booty shorts or biker shorts, only ballet knitted warm up shorts or ballet windbreaker material shorts can be worn during that "special" time of the month. That "special" time of the month only happens once a month!*
10. *Tuck your ballet strings into the ballet shoes!*
11. *If you need to wear a bra, you are allowed to wear a black thin strap sports bra with no "T" style or "X" style back. It needs to have the cleanest lines possible that do not show outside of the leotard.*

### Production Rehearsal Dress Code:

*All dancers are required to wear a black leotard and follow the Ballet Dress Code stated above.*

### End of the Show Party

*There will be a party planned after the Ballet Company Show is over where we all meet up at the studio and watch the show and have refreshments and look back on all of the wonderful memories we've made!*

*We are so excited for the year to come and are so proud of all our dancers! Although this contract seems like a lot to take in, in reality it just says: "Commit, work hard, learn, and enjoy the beauty of ballet!" which is what any true dancer would do!*

*Thank You and we look forward to seeing all of you May 20th,*

*Ms. Victoria, Mrs Amy, Mr. Shawn & all of the Ballet Royale Staff*

*By signing this contract you are agreeing and understand everything you have read, and are responsible for following all rule and guidelines associated with your Ballet Royale Company position. You also agree that if it is found that you have broken this contract, that the Ballet Royale Staff has the right to dismiss you from your position and no money will be refunded to you.*

*The Dancer's signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent or guardian's signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Artistic Director's signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_