

2023-2024

Inspired *Movement*
Ballet Conservatory

Information Handbook



IMBC

INSPIRED - ARTISTRY - EXCELLENCE

Creating Artists, Building Friendships, Inspire Confidence

The following information should be read thoroughly by each dance parent. This should help you and your dancer understand the requirements, cost, and commitment level.

MISSION STATEMENT

Training dancers to have superior technique coupled with artistic excellence is the ultimate objective of the IM Ballet Conservatory program. We believe in nurturing talent and developing self-confidence by motivating the dancer to achieve their personal best, at their own individual pace. Each dancer is viewed as an individual, following a personal trajectory while learning to work as a conservatory member. Discipline, drive, commitment and perseverance, all life skills learnt by each student in a caring environment. IMBC offers a premier dance education to the more serious ballet student.

IMBC Overview

Primary, Junior, Intermediate, Advanced: Placement is based on the physical, physiological and mental development of each student. Each student will be placed in the level befitting their own personal trajectory.

IMBC requires a higher level of commitment in order for the dancer to achieve their personal goals. Each student is required to attend a predetermined number of classes per week.

Select students will be *invited* to participate in competitions like YAGP, California Dance Classics, Icon amongst others, either as a solo performer or in an ensemble. Once committed, these rehearsals are mandatory. Guest teachers are frequently invited to teach the IMBC dancers and we do prepare them for the audition circuit if they wish to participate in Summer Intensives.

IMBC will fully prepare each student for the dance goals of their choice.

2023-2024 FACULTY

- Robyn Shifren
- Andrew Brader
- Beverly Bagg

IMBC Class Requirements (levels determined by personal level, not age)

Primary (7.5/wk)

- Ballet Technique: 3x/ week
- PBT (Progression Ballet Technique): 1x/week
- Contemporary: 1x/week
- Turns 1x/week
- Pre Pointe 1x/week

Junior (8.5 hrs/wk)

- Ballet Technique: 3x/ week (Pre-Pointe/Pointe to be included)
- PBT (Progression Ballet Technique): 1x/week
- Contemporary: 1x/week
- Turns 1x/week
- Pre/Beg Pointe 2x/week

Intermediate (12 hrs/wk)

- Ballet Technique: 4x/ week (Pointe to be included)
- PBT (Progression Ballet Technique): 1x/week
- Contemporary Class: 2x/week
- Turns 1x/week
- Add'l Pointe 1x/week

Advanced (14.5 hrs/wk)

- Ballet Technique: 6x/week (Pointe to be included)
- PBT (Progression Ballet Technique): 1x/week
- Contemporary Class: 2x/week
- Turns 1x/week
- Pas De Deux/Variations: 1x/week

- **No absences will be allowed for two weeks prior to dress rehearsals, shows or competitions.**
- Any outside master classes or intensives must be cleared by Robyn and do not count towards any of the requirements.
- Dancers are required to attend all designated weekly classes.
- Additional rehearsals and run-throughs may be scheduled in the two weeks prior to performances or competitions.
- Pointe/Pre Pointe will be covered in regular class hours, however we highly recommend dancers to take additional classes within the academy schedule.
- Ensembles will have weekly rehearsals at an additional tuition rate.
- Dancers are required to audition for Nutcracker and will have rehearsals on Saturdays from 3-6pm (tentatively).

COMMITMENT

Being part of our Conservatory requires a full season commitment from each dancer. Our season will run from August 2023-June 2024. Quitting mid-year is detrimental to everyone in the Conservatory, so please consider this carefully before committing. Dancers who are committed to outside sports teams, musical programs etc, will want to make us aware of any schedule conflicts ahead of the season. Also, including any family events or vacations planned. We value family time, but ask that you make us aware of these dates in advance, to help minimize last minute conflicts. We set high expectations for our Conservatory dancers to be fully committed not only to the Conservatory, but to their dance training as well.

ATTENDANCE

The most important issue for Conservatory members is attendance. The commitment to Conservatory means attending all scheduled classes, all rehearsals for ensembles, including extra rehearsals, and being available for ALL competitions and ALL performances. If you are involved with other programs that require specific time commitments, we will need to know about any other commitments you may have. Absences from class should be communicated to the IM staff by emailing the front desk & the instructor. If dancers' attendance is poor, It also could affect your participation in ensembles, being able to perform solos and risk your consideration for acceptance for the following season. A LIMIT OF 2 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FOR REHEARSALS MAY MEAN REMOVAL FROM THE ROUTINE.

Attendances to all dress rehearsals & performances are mandatory for Conservatory members. Also, if dancers commit to ensembles, attendance to rehearsals and events is mandatory. Any conflicts must be communicated ahead of time. **NO ABSENCES in the two weeks prior to a competition or show unless through illness. and could result in the removal of the dancer from the piece without a refund. Occasional Sunday rehearsals may be called before such events. We will limit these to the bare minimum.**

Lastly, there are some instances where parents have withheld dance participation from their dancer as a means of discipline/punishment. Please note that at the Conservatory level, this punishes that dancer, the entire group, the instructors and the studio. We wholeheartedly support parents in raising your wonderful dancers, but do not withhold him/her to rehearse/perform as a means of punishment. If you feel that your dancer is falling behind in school or having some issue that may lead to them missing class or rehearsal, please communicate with Ms. Robyn, so a plan of action can be created before it becomes detrimental.

ENSEMBLES

This season we plan to offer opportunities for ensembles in either classical, neo-classical and contemporary. Dancers will be invited to participate based upon the cohesiveness of a group. We look forward to showcasing ensembles again this year! If invited, you must commit to all weekly rehearsals and competition/performances.

SOLOS

Solos will only be given to dancers who show the highest level of commitment. Solos will be limited to very few dancers as they will be required to have a goal focused mindset and be able to represent IMBC to their best abilities. ***Soloists will be required to have weekly 1-2 private lessons, and may need additional privates leading up to a competition.*** This is one of the reasons solos will be more selective this season. Private lessons will be allocated to dancers on a first come first served basis. Please be sure to use any early dismissal times for these lessons to help your dancer manage their time best.

NUTCRACKER

We're thrilled to be bringing back the ballet classic of The Nutcracker! All BC dancers are required to audition. Rehearsals for Nutcracker will be held on Saturdays from 3-6pm (tentative) from Sept-Dec.

TUITION

Monthly Tuition: *tuition does not include private lessons or rehearsals. Please note that this season, tuition covers many more hours/classes than previous years. *Classes taken in academy such as contemporary, turns etc are included in monthly tuition.*

Primary- Includes all required classes

- \$360 monthly
- \$1,746 x2 (Sept/Feb payments due, 3% discount)
- \$3,420 (full year payment, 5% discount)

Junior IMBC - Includes all required classes

- \$408 monthly
- \$1,978 x2 (Sept/Feb payments due, 3% discount)
- \$3,876 x1 (full year payment, 5% discount)

Intermediate IMBC - Includes all required classes

- \$576 monthly
- \$2,794 x2 (Sept/Feb payments due, 3% discount)
- \$5,472 x1 (full year payment, 5% discount)

Advanced IMBC - Includes all required classes

- \$696 monthly
- \$3,376 x 2 (Sept/Feb payments, 3% discount)
- \$6,612 x1 (full year payment, 5% discount)

REHEARSAL TUITION/CHOREOGRAPHY FEES

- Choreography fees are dependent on the choreographer for contemporary or neo-classical solos
- Variations are not charged a choreography fee - just the private lesson fee
- Guest Choreographers: Dancers may select an outside choreographer for solos, at their own expense. The guest choreographer will need to be approved by Miss Robyn, prior to meeting with them and will charge their own fee.

Ensemble Rehearsals Monthly Fee: 30 min-1 hr (varying in reh length) \$70-120/month

UNIFORMS- Required uniform info : All dancers are required to purchase uniformed leotards and skirts for class. These are custom made and will cost between \$40-\$65. Team jackets are mandatory and will range from \$100-\$150.

PERFORMANCES

- Nutcracker Dec TBD (mandatory)
- Spring Showcase Recital (mandatory)
 - IMBC dancers will perform their ensembles. No spring production.

COMPETITION COSTUMES

Solo Costumes- It is the responsibility of each parent to secure a ballet/contemporary costume for each solo. Every costume needs to be pre-approved by Robyn before purchase/rental. Solo costume fees will be the individual's responsibility and will not be charged through the studio. Solo costumes will be decided on by the dancer/family & instructor. Costume Rental - We hope to set up a costume rental system as the program continues to grow. As much as we can reuse costumes, we will. IM has several tutu's of excellent quality that are available to rent. Fees for tutu rentals vary based on the costume or tutu you want to rent. Kimberly McSherry (Fiona Dancewear) also has tutu's to rent and charges around \$200 for the season. There are other rent options too.

All Ensembles will receive custom costumes. These costumes may be created or ordered from the following: Fiona Rose Dancewear, Eleve' Dancewear, Discount Dance, Sansha New York, Ali Express. These costumes will range in price from \$50-\$250 depending on the type of costume, fabric and applique add-ons. Costumes will be designed and decided after the

ensembles are set. Costume fees will be charged after the costume is finished. You will be notified ahead of time the full cost of costumes. Solo costumes will be decided on by the dancer/family & instructor.

Costume Rental - We hope to set up a costume rental system as the program continues to grow. As much as we can reuse costumes, we will. IM has several tutu's of excellent quality that are available to rent. Fees for tutu rentals vary based on the costume or tutu you want to rent. Kimberly McSherry (Fiona Dancewear) also has tutu's to rent and charges \$200 for the season.

Practice Tutus- If your dancer has a variation, they will need to get a practice tutu.

IMBC dancers will receive personalized wear (vests or jackets) to wear at competitions etc.. These should be worn to all performances and competitions to represent your studio. The fee for the personalized vest is \$75. This is required for all IMBC members.

COMPETITION FEES

All **competition** fees will be divided and added into your monthly tuition cost (10 months). Depending on your dancers total number of solos & ensembles, the cost will be calculated once results are posted and contracts are signed.

Fees will vary depending on how many routines your dancer is in, and the rates of each individual competition. Here is an approximate breakdown:

- Solos- \$95-115, Duets/Trios- \$55-65, Ensembles (4 or more)- \$45-50 (per routine/competition)
- Registration Fee: All Ballet competitions charge an additional registration fee for the event. These fees do not include lodging or personal traveling costs. This allows dancers to take ballet & contemporary classes from master teachers during the weekend of the event. The fees can range from \$75-95 per competition. Sometimes only soloists will be eligible to take the classes, which is the case for California Dance Classics.
- Teacher Fees- Teacher fees will be divided amongst the dancers, and added into their competition fee total (depending on how many competitions they attend). It will be based on if your dancer is performing a solo or ensemble. These fees will be calculated once the routines have been set and we know how many routines and events your dancer is attending. Teacher travel fees cover lodging, parking, time, and other expenses. Teachers are compensated very little for the time they spend with their dancers during competitions, so this helps with costs and allows them to be there as much as possible for every competition to support their dancers.

YAGP Finals- Any student in an ensemble must be available for YAGP finals in April if they are offered the privilege of attending. This is mandatory and non-negotiable.

OPTIONALS- Optional competitions will be for dancers that wish to attend more than the listed competitions. In most cases it's just solos, duos/trios may compete as well if they choose to. Ensembles are able to compete only if every dancer is attending. Fees for optional competitions will be posted and paid prior to the event. Dancers that attend optional competitions will be responsible for covering any teacher fees if they request their teacher or choreographer to attend as well.

MASTER CLASSES - All ballet master classes are mandatory for IMBC.

SOCIAL MEDIA- IMBC dancers are required to promote all Inspired Movement events such as performances, master classes, guest teachers in classes, or extra training. Dancers will be required to tag @inspiredmovementbc and @inspiredmovementdance when posting any dance related photos or videos. Dancers will also be held to the expectation that what they post on social media reflects them in a positive light. Dancers who post inappropriately will be penalized on a case by case basis. IMBC dancers should be positive role models and that should reflect in and out of the studio.

COMMUNICATION- Communication to instructors will be limited to email. If you wish to have a conversation beyond email, please feel free to schedule a call or meeting in the studio. Out of respect for their personal time, IM staff will not accept text messages unless at a competition. If you have a question or concern, it is preferred that you send an email. If you are running late to a class or rehearsal, please call the studio. Sunday's will be a non-work day, so emails will not be answered until the following Monday. Emails will also not be answered past 8pm during the week. If a matter is urgent, you may call the studio, but in all other circumstances, please email. Having a dancer in IM Ballet Conservatory requires clear and constant communication. Please expect weekly emails regarding the conservatory as well as always check the team board located in the studio.

INTENSIVE EXPECTATIONS - Dancers are highly encouraged to participate in ballet intensives. We will recommend intensives we believe are best suited to the dancer. Please note auditions begin as early as January and can be highly competitive for placements. We will also hold annual winter & summer intensives at the studio.

IMBC COMPETITION/CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Required Competitions

- *California Dance Classics (CDC) San Diego Jan 24-27*
- *ICON San Diego Feb 15-18 (master classes required for soloists)*
- *YAGP San Diego March 7-10*

Select Solos & Adv Dancers

- *YAGP Phoenix Feb 9-11 (select solos only)*
- *UBC Los Angeles March 27-30 (select ensembles & solos only)*

Optional Competitions

- *NYCDA Las Vegas Feb 23-25 (w/ IMCC)*
- *YAGP - LA - Feb 29-March 3rd*
- *ICON LA April 5-7 (extra classes required for soloists)*
- *YAGP Finals New York - April 11-21 If soloist or ensembles are selected (attendance dates vary)*
- *Any Competitions on the IMCC/IMPC optional list*

Inspired Movement Dance and Performing Arts 2023-2024 IMBC Dancer/Parent Conduct Contract

Please sign and return to the front desk no later than 2 weeks after audition along w/ first month of tuition

Dancer Conduct: As a member of IMBC, I will be expected to:

1. Develop a team spirit among all members of the Conservatory, including parents, teachers, and all other dancers.
2. Always give 110% in all the classes and rehearsals_____
3. Challenge and push myself to new levels_____
4. Realize that being on this Conservatory prepares me for a professional environment _____
5. To show dedication, determination, and desire to be a productive Conservatory member_____
6. To positively represent Inspired Movement when out in the community, while attending conventions and competitions, and everywhere else I go. _____
7. Refrain from posting any negative remarks, or leave negative feedback about IM, my fellow Conservatory members, teachers, or dancers on any social media platform. _____
8. Treat all my fellow Conservatory members with respect. This includes encouraging one another, being kind, and supportive.
9. To embrace all newcomers to the Conservatory and welcome them as part of our dance family. _____
10. To refrain from any negative behavior or chatter towards my classmates and studio family._____
11. To remain focused in classes and respectful to all my teachers and choreographers._____
12. I will not make disparaging remarks or negative comments of any type with regard to teachers, choreographers, choreography placement, costumes, other parents, and other dance schools. _____
13. I will not publicly criticize anyone in the studio or at any event; whether they are from IM or another studio. I will always applaud all dancers. _____
14. If I exhibit poor behavior, have excessive unexcused absences, my parents will be responsible for payment of a re blocking rehearsal. _____

I understand and commit myself to all of the above. I am aware that if I break any of the dancer's conduct expectations there will be consequences such as: being pulled from a competition/performance, being removed from the Conservatory, or being dismissed from Inspired Movement.

Dancer Signature: _____

Parent Conduct:

1. The parent's behavior and attitude reflects upon the behavior and attitude of the dancer.
2. Parents are to keep their differences with other parents to themselves. If an issue arises with other parents and/or dancers, parents shall communicate directly with one another. IM Staff should only be included as a last resort.
3. Parents are not to post any negative remarks, or leave any negative feedback about IM on any social media platforms.
4. Parents are expected to speak positively about IM in and outside of the studio.
5. Parents may not criticize their own dancer or any other dancer from the Conservatory.
6. "I will at all times control my emotions and will be considerate of all dancers' collective emotions."
7. "I will wait to react to a situation until my emotions calm down and I can respond rationally and with compassion."
8. "I will not make disparaging remarks or negative comments of any type with regard to teachers, choreographers, choreography placement, costumes, other parents, other dancers and other dance schools."
9. "I will not publicly criticize anyone in the studio or at any event; whether they are from IM or another studio."
10. If IM hears or sees any of this negative behavior, a meeting may be scheduled with individuals involved.
11. I will always applaud all dancers.
12. If my dancer is pulled from a routine because of poor behavior or excessive unexcused absences, I will be responsible for payment of a re-blocking rehearsal.

As the parent/guardian of (dancers name) _____, I have read all of the information regarding the Inspired Movement Ballet Conservatory. I understand that when out in the community and while attending conventions and competitions I am representing Inspired Movement. I will maintain good conduct towards all others including instructors, parents, directors and dancers. I will use appropriate language while at events representing IM. If I cause any conflict or act in a way that could reflect IM in a negative way, I understand there will be consequences such as suspension from the studio.

Parent Signature: _____