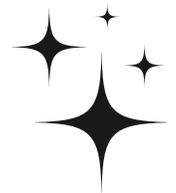
A large, soft yellow spotlight effect centered behind the text.A white starburst graphic with four points and smaller sub-points, positioned above the word "SPOTLIGHT".A white starburst graphic with four points and smaller sub-points, positioned below the word "SPOTLIGHT".A white starburst graphic with four points and smaller sub-points, positioned below the word "LIGHT".

**SPOTLIGHT**  
Performance Company

*2024-2025 Information*



# Meet The Directors

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**Mary Shae Hooper, Director.** Shae is SO excited to join the TDS family this year as Director of Spotlight. Shae graduated in 2021 from NYU Tisch Drama, earning her BFA in Musical Theatre, from the New Studio on Broadway. While at NYU, Shae became an assistant choreographer, shadowing incredible Broadway directors and choreographers and assisting their classes at the collegiate level. Since then, she has returned home to live and work in Austin. Most recently, she played Belle in Magnolia Musical Theatre's Beauty and the Beast. She has also been seen on stage in Cabaret (NYU), Elegies for Angels Punks and Raging Queens (NYU), Disaster (NYU), Spring Awakening (NYU), Little Shop of Horrors (Zilker Theatre), and Playhouse Creatures (Sam Bass).

In addition to theatre, she has worked on independent films, music videos, and short films, for which she has received festival nods. She was the full-time stand in on HBOMax's Love and Death, and made her network TV debut as Diana on the CW's Walker.

Shae has worked as a performer, director, choreographer, writer, and film crew professionally in NYC and Austin. She has been teaching since she was 17 for Broadway and local performers of all ages. Shae has the support of her rockstar husband, Harrison, and looks forward to you all meeting her new baby boy, Indiana (you will see him a LOT)!! They live on 5 acres with their goldendoodle, Hercules.



**Hannah Strieber, Production Assistant,** grew up in Austin, Tx where she began dancing at Balance Dance Studios in high school. She was a part of multiple companies including Ignite Dance Company and Elevate Performance Company. Along with this, she took many different classes covering a variety of styles. Because she discovered her love for dance in her teens, she understands the hard work and dedication it takes to develop skills, technique, and self-discipline. In 2019 she moved to Chicago to pursue her BFA in Film and Television with a concentration in Production Design. Alongside her work in film, televisions, and photoshoots, she was a gymnastics coach for ages 3-12 for multiple years in Chicago while also continuing her dance education. Hannah is extremely excited to be back home in Texas where she can use her creative skills to help the next generation develop a passion for the arts.

# Spotlight Performance Company

At The Dance Spot

## Our Mission

Here at Spotlight, we are dedicated to providing a welcoming place where all young performers can explore the performing arts! We train students in the three disciplines of Musical Theatre: voice, acting, and dance. Performers will receive the highest standard of training while being a part of our theatre family.

We request that all our company members arrive to class with:

- A positive attitude
- A willingness to listen and learn from teachers and peers
- Respect for every company member, teachers, and the studio
- Willingness to explore, be bold, and have fun



## Opportunities

- **Fall Showcase** – A revue is a type of multi-act popular theatrical entertainment that combines music, dance, and sketches. Fall Showcase will be held at our in-house Black Box theatre.
- **Winter Community Outreach** – Throughout the holiday season, we will have extra-curricular opportunities to engage in performances during community events. This could include parades, caroling, festivals, etc.
- **Spring Musical** – A full-scale musical, featuring the Spotlight company members, in collaboration with other teaching artists at The Dance Spot.
- **Spring Recital** – the company will perform one featured number from the Spring Musical during the Recital
- Social gatherings throughout the year, such as movie nights, banquets, and company retreat.

# *Spotlight Performance Company*

At The Dance Spot

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## *Our Team*

Our company is divided into three groups; each company member is assessed on his/her ability, attitude, and age, to assure we have the perfect collection of students in each group. Please note that the ages listed below are a suggestion, but ability and attitude will impact your performer's placement.

### *Broadway Babies*

5-7 years

### *Spotlight 8-11*

Middle School

### *Spotlight 12+*

High School

# Spotlight Performance Company

At The Dance Spot

## About Our Program

Multi-age musical theatre training is incredibly important for Spotlight Performance Company, as it provides numerous benefits for both the young performers and the older, more experienced ones.

For younger performers, working alongside older and more experienced performers provides them with valuable role models to look up to and learn from. They are able to

observe and learn from the techniques, skills, and work ethic of their older peers, which inspires them to strive for excellence in their own performances. This can also help build their confidence and self-esteem, as they are given the opportunity to work alongside more experienced performers and be a part of a larger, more complex production.

For the older performers, it allows them to pass on their knowledge and become leaders within our company. Additionally, working with younger performers can also provide them with a new perspective on their own craft and be a source of inspiration and rejuvenation.

Overall, multi-age musical theatre training in Spotlight Performance Company is an important aspect of the company's mission to provide a supportive, nurturing environment, where performers of all ages can grow and thrive. It allows for the development of important skills such as teamwork, collaboration, communication, and empathy, while also fostering a sense of community and belonging among performers of different ages and backgrounds.



# Broadway Babies

*Ages 5-7*

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Here at Spotlight, we are dedicated to providing a welcoming place where all young performers can explore the performing arts! Broadway Babies is the perfect introduction to musical theatre for our performers aged 5-7 years. We condense voice, acting, and dance into one, action-packed hour!



## *Group Schedule*

Broadway Babies will meet once a week for one hour, and each class will include acting, singing and dancing. There may be some additional rehearsals, during the lead up to shows, in order to rehearse with the entire company.

### *Broadway Babies*

*Wednesday,  
4:30-5:30pm*

PLUS 1 hr of another dance style of your choice (we recommend a Jazz technique or Ballet class)

## *Opportunities*

- **Fall Showcase** – Broadway Babies will perform at least one number of their own in the revue, and may also be incorporated into other numbers, if time allows. This will be held at our in-house Black Box theatre, located at The Dance Spot.
- **Spring Show** – Broadway Babies will perform at least one number in our full-scale spring musical. This full-scale musical will feature the Spotlight company members.
- **Spring Recital** – the company will perform one featured number from the Spring Musical during the all studio Recital.
- Social gatherings throughout the year, such as retreat, banquets, and movie nights!



# Spotlight Ages 8+

*Middle School and High School*

These are the core groups of Spotlight. Every member from these groups is eligible for any role or character. We meet for our large group rehearsals once a week, with some additional rehearsals based on necessity and casting. Students can be any level of skill, but must have a passion and aptitude for musical theatre.



## Group Schedule

### Spotlight 8-11

**Wednesday**  
4:30-5:30 Dance  
5:30-6:30 Voice  
6:30-7:30 Acting

PLUS 1 hr of another Dance style of your choice  
(we recommend a Jazz technique or Ballet class)

### Spotlight 12+

**Wednesday**  
5:30-6:30 Dance  
6:30-7:30 Acting  
7:30-8:30 Voice

PLUS 1 hr of another Dance style of your choice  
(we recommend a Jazz technique or Ballet class)

## Opportunities



- **Fall Showcase** - A combination of group numbers, solos, monologues, and scenes in a Revue style performance at our in-house Black Box Theatre.
- **Winter Community Outreach** - Throughout the holiday season, we will have extra-curricular opportunities to engage in performances during community events.
- **Spring Show** - For our full-scale Spring Musical, all Spotlight performers will have an equal opportunity to audition for speaking roles, and the final show will include all company members.
- **Spring Recital** - the company will perform one featured number from the Spring Musical during the all studio Recital.
- Social gatherings throughout the year, such as retreat, banquets, and movie nights!

# *Additional enrichment*

*Ages 13+ only*

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Throughout the year, we want to provide additional opportunities for our older students interested in continuing their pursuit of the arts and/or theatre. These programs will include master classes with Broadway professionals, learning series, and college audition prep.

## *Opportunities*

### **Broadway Bound**

*4-6 week long courses, on Saturdays, incorporating higher level material (such as Broadway choreography) or guest teaching artists*

### **College Audition Prep**

*High schoolers considering majoring in Musical Theatre, Acting, Drama, etc. will be given individual coaching for their college materials. They will receive hand-selected songs and other materials needed for the college process, and experience a mock audition.*

These classes will be offered for a separate tuition structure and held on Monday nights or Saturday afternoons. As most high schoolers are involved in school theatre, we want to provide these classes at a convenient time so they can continue to train while staying involved in their schools. Our goal is for these classes to supplement what they are learning and bring their work to the next level. Our guest teaching artists will be professionals at the highest level, calling our students to a higher standard of performance ability.

# Audition Information

The Dance Spot is pleased to announce the annual auditions for the Spotlight Performance Company. The company strives to offer professional instruction in dance, voice and acting for the true 'triple threat' experience. We encourage all students to join us at the audition; no experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn!

## *Broadway Babies Audition (Ages 5-7)*

*May 24, 2024 / 4pm-5pm*

All Broadway Babies will have a lighthearted and fun "audition" structure similar to what a regular class would look like. They will learn a portion of a song and a dance, and then will "audition" as a group. If some students want to try their audition solo, we will also provide the opportunity at the end of class. The song will be a familiar Disney song that we will sing together, in class, with a call and response method, so those who are still working on their reading skills can easily participate.

## *Ages 8-12+*

*May 24, 2024 / 5pm-9pm*

For auditions this year, students will only need to prepare a song.

- Acting: Students will be asked to read simple scenes and play games during the audition.
- Movement/Dance: a 16 bar (about 30-60 seconds) dance routine will be taught during the audition.
- Singing: Students may sing any musical theatre song of their choice, as long as it is age appropriate.
  - Please note: performers should be prepared to sing 30-60 seconds of their chosen song. It should be memorized, and they should be prepared to sing with the INSTRUMENTAL track.

# *Time Commitments*

Fall/Spring Group Schedule

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## *Broadway Babies*

*Wednesday, 4:30-5:30pm*

PLUS 1 hr of another Dance style of your choice

We recommend Jazz technique or Ballet class.

## *Act Two and Three*

*Wednesday 5:30-8:30*

PLUS, *at least one* additional dance class to support their training.

We highly recommend an intermedite or advanced Jazz or Jazz technique class.

All classes will take place at The Dance Spot. Please make sure your performer arrives with: all black appropriate dance attire, hair pulled back, water bottle, and snack.

**\*Please Note: The additional dance class can be replaced with other The Dance Spot classes, per Director approval.** If your performer is also in another other company at TDS, additional classes do not need to be added.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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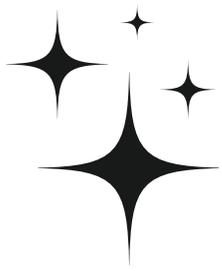
## *"Are parents expected to help out?"*

Parent involvement is essential to the success of any type of educational theatre; however, that can come in many forms. Throughout the year, we will post, on the Band App, the areas in which we need support (from helping to make sets/costumes, to hands on deck for the shows, to running quick errands). Please know we are exceedingly grateful for any time and talent you can contribute to your child's experience!



## *"Why do my students have to take an additional dance class? Don't they dance during the rehearsal?"*

Yes! However, we want our students to become the best triple threats they can be. That requires dance technique class to be taken outside of rehearsals to learn the basics, strengthen their bodies to avoid injury, and build upon skills they can offer while in production rehearsals. Dance in rehearsals will consist of movement and choreography.



## *"My child would rather do two musicals a year. What is the Fall Showcase?"*

A revue is a type of multi-act, popular theatrical entertainment that combines music, dance, and sketches. We will be able to learn all of the necessities to put on a full-scale musical, such as acting through a song, ensemble collaboration, as well as working on material from musicals we could not otherwise do/don't have access to the rights (i.e. Wicked, Mean Girls, HAMILTON!!). This is also a great time for students to stretch their idea of their "type" and explore dream roles.

# *Additional Details*

## *Spotlight Binder*

Each student will be provided a ring binder, at the Spotlight Summer Intensive, with the following items:

- Some sheet protectors
- Notebook paper
- A pencil and highlighter

These binders will be a safe place to keep all scripts and song sheets that we will use in class. We buy the rights to each musical we perform; therefore, your performer will also receive an official script to take home for their spring musical.

## *Communication*

Company members will receive all important information via the Spotlight email and Band App. We ask that all parents (and students if allowed) join Band App and include their full name with picture. We post plenty of pictures and videos of your children on the Band app as well!

# *Welcome to Spotlight!*



# Summer Requirements

All Spotlight (including Broadway Babies)

*Boost your training this summer!*

**Mandatory Summer Intensive** – The Spotlight Performance Company intensive will take place August 12th to 15th (Mon-Thurs) from 4:30–8:30pm at The Dance Spot. This is required for all Spotlight Company Members (including Broadway Babies, who will have an abbreviated schedule).

**Team Building Retreat** – Our Retreat will take place on Friday, August 16th. This is a mandatory day of fun for ALL of our company members to bond and kick start the season with our new team! Fee includes all food and activities for the day.

**Summer Workshop at The Dance Spot** – Required for Spotlight company members, the Musical Theater Workshop (Movie Musical Magic) Tues–Thurs, July 23th –25th, 9:00 am–12:00pm, at The Dance Spot (does not include Broadway Babies). This three day workshop is open to the studio and includes three action packed days of Musical Theatre classes.

**Required Summer Class** – Take ONE weekly class at TDS (total of 8 hours), which does not have to be consecutive (taking the Musical Theater Workshop: Movie Musical Magic is 8 hours, and would apply toward these required summer hours).

# Fall/Spring Requirements

## MANDATORY COMPANY REQUIREMENTS

**12 Month Commitment** – All students are committed to the Spotlight Company from June 2024–May 2025.

**Wednesday Rehearsals** – attend weekly rehearsals at the assigned time for their group within the company.

**Extra Dance Class** – All members of Spotlight Performance Company are required to take at least one additional dance class, preferably jazz, outside of Spotlight rehearsal, to ensure growth of technique, stamina, and strength. Failure to uphold these requirements could result in removal from the company.

**Extra Rehearsals** – Extra rehearsals will take place closer to show time; these dates will be released at the beginning of the year, and all students called must be in attendance (The Directors will let you know well in advance who is called). Please note: while we try to plan ahead of time, additional rehearsals may need to be added closer to the show.