



rise dance collective
2024-2025

COMPANY INFORMATION PACKET

Rise Dance Collective is The Dance Spot's Multi-Genre Pre-Professional Dance Company offering training and performance opportunities for dancers ages 9-18.

Our essential focus is to offer a path for dancers seeking a higher level of versatile dance training combined with artistic exploration and technical excellence. We grow hard-working and well-rounded dancers from the ground up who will graduate with all the tools needed to continue their journey in the professional dance world, if they so wish!

One of the best and most important advantages of being on a dance company, to parents and dancers alike, is the environment and expectation that turns great children into great adults. Working together, having to rise under pressure, juggling dance with school, developing and understanding complex relationships, having a safe place to express themselves emotionally, getting to explore themselves creatively, and developing healthy physical habits are just a few of the immense benefits that dancers on RISE are exploring regularly. This constant journey of learning about yourself, while also building interpersonal relationships, sets company members up for a successful life, no matter which path they take.

Dancers of each age group will be challenged appropriately in consideration of their age and level. We will work diligently to foster the love of dance, preserve a curious spirit, and practice self care techniques to stay grounded in a community that can be overly fast-paced. Company members are given support, instruction, and mentorship, to enhance and personalize their craft, and work toward their goals, through intense training, competitive avenues, and commercial and artistic exploration. We value balance in our training and believe that, to be our best, we need to be committed fully to growth in AND out of the studio.



melissa best, DIRECTOR



Melissa Best has been teaching dance for over 20 years with certifications and trainings in child development and progressing ballet technique, and training with contemporary and improvisational masters around the world. She has studied from Germany to New York, but is an Austin native and has built her roots here in Texas with her family. From 2013-2020, she co-owned Evolution Dance Center and created a nurturing home for professional seeking dancers with the award winning, EVOLVE Dance Company, alongside Brianna Underwood. Melissa is passionate about cultivating an environment that is safe and explorative for her dancers, challenging them to set goals, take risks, and make change as creative leaders. Under her direction, her dancers and choreography have received national awards, scholarships, and accolades. As a military wife, she is ready for anything life throws at her, and is passionate about cultivating a future of leaders that are confident, powerful, fearless, and creative. Melissa's goal is to provide a family dynamic within Rise, teaching them values of support, love, encouragement, and determination, as well as providing a customized dance experience for each of her dancers, based on their own personal needs and goals. She works hard to provide a safe space to explore personal growth, with one on one mentorship, as dancers confidently find their voices to become our future leaders.

brie underwood, DIRECTOR



Brie Underwood is a passionate and dedicated dance instructor, choreographer, Brie underwood director, judge, and former studio owner. Beginning her training at age 9, she has been very fortunate to learn from and to compete under some of the best in the industry. Her educators and mentors include Cheryl Copeland, Quinton Weathers, Heather O'Hara, Alexa Moffett, Erica Sobol, and many more – not to mention her own dance students whom Brie learns from and hones her skills with every day. Brie was the owner of Evolution Dance Collective and the Director of EVOLVE Dance Company located in Leander, Texas from 2013-2020 alongside Melissa Best. She was also the Director of North Austin Dance Artists for 2.5 years.

Her students are known for a high level of professionalism, creativity beyond their years, and technique to support it all. Brie strives to individualize each of her dancers' training and company experience to best fit their personality and goals. Parents have come to be able to count on Brie to build their dancer's technique and artistry while also preserving individualism and innocence. You can find many of Brie's students currently teaching dance in studios and on conventions, choreographing around the world, and becoming change-makers in the dance community and beyond.

When not training dancers at TDS, you can find Brie enjoying family life with her 3 year old son, husband, and Italian Greyhound. Brie strives to keep up to date on new training trends/techniques and is constantly surrounding herself with discourse on how to best support this generation of dancers to become the best humans they can be.

avery hampton, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Avery, originally from Savannah, GA, began her dance journey at the age of 3. She studied a variety of movement styles, including tap, jazz, acrobatics, ballet, modern and contemporary with the Gretchen Greene Dance Company. In 2021, she graduated from Emory University with degrees in neuroscience and dance movement studies. During this time, Avery trained under the mentorship of Kristin O'Neal, George Staib, Greg Catellier, Nicole Johnson and Alex Abarca. It was in school that Avery gained a deep appreciation of dance as a link between mind-body connection. Post-graduation, Avery fell in love with dance pedagogy and helping young dancers find their own creative voice. Her teaching style is deeply influenced by rhythm, breath and anatomical experience.

Avery is incredibly excited to be joining the Rise family and is looking forward to connecting with dancers and guiding them through their own movement identity. She challenges dancers to be creative thinkers within all facets of their life. Avery is thrilled to provide support to Rise dancers and foster technical, professional and imaginative growth.

ali pfleger, MENTOR



In addition to the consistent in house mentorship you will receive, Rise is excited to bring in the incredibly talented, Ali Pfleger, for monthly mentorship, creative and contemporary exploration, commercial dance and professional preparation.

Ali was born and raised in the coastal city of Newport Beach, California. She began dancing at the age of 9. At age 13, Ali began apprenticing for a professional dance company based out of LA, called MusEffect, under the direction of Jessica Starr. She was the youngest member ever inducted into the company and remains the youngest company member to this day. Living so close to LA, she has had the opportunity to dance for many artists, such as Hailee Steinfeld and Alicia Keys, as well as brands, such as Reebok and Gap. Ali prides herself on her diverse training and exploration, in such a wide array of dance styles, which has greatly attributed to her own movement and teaching style. Ali teaches around the world as a teacher and choreographer, and we are thrilled to have her committed to come to Texas consistently, where Rise will have the exclusive opportunity to train with her!

Training with Ali will provide our dancers with professional dance industry insight, as well as more opportunities to grow personally, creatively, and professionally.

MORE THAN DANCE

Being a part of Rise is more than dance. We prioritize incorporating the **WHOLE** person in our training, not just the dancer. We believe that, in being well-rounded in all facets of your life, you will develop skills that will last a lifetime such as:

INCLUSIVITY
EMPATHY AND TEAMWORK
TIME MANAGEMENT
INJURY PREVENTION
STRESS MANAGEMENT
YOGA/MEDITATION
CREATIVITY
SELF EXPLORATION
CONFIDENCE
ACCEPTANCE TO FEEDBACK
DESIRE FOR PERSONAL
GROWTH
STEPPING OUTSIDE COMFORT
ZONES
SELF RELIANCE
INTERVIEW/AUDITION SKILLS
PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY
COMMUNICATION SKILLS



COMPANY PERKS

Training from Local, National, and International Choreographers

Unique Mentorship under the direction of Melissa Best,

Brie Underwood, & Avery Hampton

Monthly Mentorship from Los Angeles native, professional dancer and

choreographer, Ali Pflieger

Multi-Discipline Education, resulting in Versatile Dancers

Competitive Growth Opportunities

Technical and Artistic Advancement

Close Knit Family Atmosphere

Student Choreography Creative Process and Showcase

Professional Photoshoots

Conceptual Video Shoots and Videography Projects

Creative Exploration and Guidance

Preparation for Professional Auditions and Industry Opportunities

Team Bonding Experiences

Networking within the Dance Industry

Customized Training and Choreography

Discounted Studio Rentals

Multi-TDS Company Discount

& More!

RISE UP

Explore Your Potential

auditions

AGES 9-12

MAY 29TH

4:30-8:30PM

*AGE AS OF 1/1/2025

AGES 13-18

MAY 30TH

5:30PM-9:30PM

*AGE AS OF 1/1/2025

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Dancers should show up in ballet attire. Any color leotard and pink tights, with ballet shoes is required. Boys should wear all black. After ballet portion, dancers will be able to quickly change into dancewear for the other evaluations. Any color dancewear is fine as long as it is form fitting. Show your personality! Bring ballet shoes, tap shoes, and socks that you can dance in. Hair should be in a bun for the ballet portion and can be taken out into a pony tail after ballet. No jewelry or accessories, please. Treat this like a job interview!

You will be evaluated in Ballet, Technique, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary, Improv, and have an interview process in solos and groups.

Audition application and registration should be completed by May 27th.
Both can be found at our website:
<https://www.dancespotx.com/rise-company-info>.

EVALUATION:

The Dance Spot faculty will present to help evaluate auditioning dancers and to provide objective feedback on class placement and cast assignments for competition choreography. In addition, director feedback is considered, as well as past attendance, work ethic, attitude, and performance quality (for returning company members).

Judges and directors will share feedback after auditions and collaborate to determine the decision best suited to dancers' abilities, commitment level (time, attitude and financial), and dancers' expressed goals (per their application).

RESULTS:

Results will be posted on our website by 5pm, May 31st.
Dancers and one parent/guardian will be required to attend a team registration meeting on Saturday, June 1st, from 12-2pm.
Dancers will take headshots at this meeting, so please wear jeans and any neutral colored top.

AUDITION FEE is \$50



AUDITION APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN
WWW.DANCESPOTX.COM/RISE-COMPANY-INFO

LEARN MORE

COMPANY INFO MEETING

APRIL 6TH

11AM-1PM

LEARN ABOUT NEXT
SEASON, Q&A WITH THE
DIRECTORS, AND MORE!

