

**2023-
2024**

Information
Packet



WHO WE ARE

Rise Dance Collective's 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 pride ourselves on training well-rounded artists and providing opportunities for growth within a tight knit family atmosphere. 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 to be our best, you need to be committed fully to your growth in AND out of the studio.

We are FIRST great humans and very closely second: great dancers.

Within the full scope of educating our dancers as well rounded, versatile, and talented dancers, Rise is a family who values hard work, determination, teamwork, kindness, and leadership. We hold each other accountable to achieving our goals, push each other beyond what is expected, challenge one another, and uplift each other toward each of our fullest potentials. We desire to challenge the meaning of "competition dance".

RISE UP

<https://www.dancespotx.com/rise-company-info/>



THE COLLECTIVE

We consider all dancers, regardless of age, as a collaborative part of Rise Dance Collective.

Dancers are placed into weekly classes by level placement and experience, and cast into pieces based on their audition results. Dances are based on age AND skill level, to achieve maximum benefits, socially and technically.

Dancers will fall into age divisions at conventions, however, and there are no exceptions to convention rules. These are often referred to as "minis", "juniors", "teens", and "seniors".

Rise is designed to help all team members by surrounding them with like-minded dancers to help advance their growth appropriately.

Having ONE family limits "competition" with one another and encourages growth, personally, and as a full team.

RISE UP

Join The Family

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 in being well-rounded in all facets of your life 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



PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL, AND CREATIVE MENTORSHIP

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.

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.



TRAINING & SCHEDULE

Rise Dance Collective is supported by great faculty with weekly classes taught by top quality, passionate, inspiring instructors! We believe that it takes a village to raise these well rounded dancers, and these instructors are all passionate about their growth!

Dancers on Rise have the opportunity to train consistently in:

BALLET
JAZZ
CONTEMPORARY
IMPROV
TAP
HIP HOP
MODERN
BALLROOM
TECHNIQUE
ACRO
PBT
PILATES

VERSATILE TRAINING

Plus the opportunities to broaden their repertoire in "block" with styles to challenge and push them outside their comfort zones, such as heels, improv, grooves, lyrical, house, and more!

Rise will do the majority of rehearsals on Monday evenings, with the exception of early fall (September-November) Saturday rehearsals, preparing for our first competition in early

December. It is our goal to rehearse one Saturday a month leaving the remaining weekends free for family time/balance. After packing in 2-4 full days of dance weekly, we believe this helps provide a balanced dancer and prevents burn out!

WEEKLY REHEARSALS

THURSDAY "BLOCK"

Rise Collective members will have "block" on Thursday afternoons, where they will have rotating teachers, providing versatility and challenging them to learn from different instructors/genres. This is the block in which Ali Pfleger will teach when she's in town. Block is divided by levels to stay on track with the rest of the evening's classes. We will utilize this block for rehearsals on an "as needed" basis for Choreo Show and if needing additional time for all dancers.



ONE COMPANY, TWO TRACKS

FLEX TRACK COMMITMENT & EXPECTATIONS

For those who are limited on time or finances but still want the opportunities to train and grow with Rise, we've got an option for you:

2-3 days/week + minimal

Saturday Rehearsals

6 weekly classes including Rehearsal & Block

Limited Competition Dances

Lower Choreography Costs

Option for Solo with Select Choreographers & Competitions

Lower Commitment Convention/Competition Schedule

PRE-PRO TRACK COMMITMENT & EXPECTATIONS

For those seeking a professional avenue and have the availability for a more advanced training experience:

3-4 days/week + occasional

Saturday rehearsals

9+ weekly classes including

Rehearsal & Block

Opportunity to work with

many outside choreographers

Unlimited Opportunities for

Conventions/Competitions

Dance Trip to NYC Option

Monthly Private Lessons



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

ON RISE, WE PRIORITIZE ARTISTRY, GROWTH, STEPPING OUTSIDE OUR COMFORT ZONES, AND ALL THINGS THAT HELP EXCEL OUR DANCER'S POTENTIAL. BELOW ARE A FEW WAYS WE WILL DO THAT NEXT SEASON!

- CONCEPTUAL PROFESSIONAL DANCE VIDEOS
- STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHED SHOWS
- INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL DANCE FESTIVALS
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADDITIONAL CONVENTIONS AND WORKSHOPS
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR A DANCE TRIP CURATED FOR THE PURSUANT PROFESSIONAL DANCER IN NYC



COMPANY PERKS

Training from Local, National, and International Choreographers

Unique Mentorship under the direction of Melissa Best

Monthly Mentorship from Los Angeles native, professional dancer and choreographer, Ali Pflieger

Multi-Discipline Education, resulting in Versatile Dancers

Competitive Growth Opportunities

10% off TDS Master Classes

Technical and Artistic Advancement

Close Knit Family Atmosphere

Student Choreography Creative Process and Showcase

Professional Photoshoots and Videography Projects

Creative Exploration and Guidance

Versatile Training

Preparation for Professional Auditions and Industry Opportunities

Team Bonding Experiences

Conceptual Video Shoots

Networking within the Dance Industry

Customized Training and Choreography

Discounted Studio Rentals

Multi-TDS Company Discount

& More!

RISE UP

Explore Your Potential

AUDITIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS

MAY 27 | \$30

NEW PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

We are inviting new prospective Rise members to come to a pre-audition class with current Rise members to get a feel for the company and experience. In this audition class, you will be evaluated on work ethic, skill level, attitude, technical ability, improv, and personal style.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Dancers should wear all black dance attire with no shoes (barefoot) and bring nude socks. Hair should be pulled out of face and professional, and light makeup can be worn.

No jewelry or accessories, please.

Treat this like a job interview!



Audition application and registration should be completed by May 26.

Both can be found at our website:

<https://www.dancespotx.com/rise-company-info/>.

Please make sure you've completed BOTH forms before auditioning.

If selected to be a part of Rise 2023-2024, you will be invited to return for the casting audition on July 22, which will be required for all members for the upcoming season.



If any dancer is unable to be present at either audition, please email directors at RISE@DANCESPOTX.COM to set up a private audition.

5:30-7PM AGES 8-12
7-9:30PM AGES 13+

register at www.dancespotx.com/rise-company-info/

CASTING AUDITION | JULY 22

10AM-2PM | AGES 8-12 | \$40

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Dancers should wear all black dance attire with no shoes nor socks and bring ballet, tap, and jazz shoes. Pink Ballet tights and ballet shoes are required for the ballet portion. Boys should wear all black. Hair should be pulled out of face and professional, and light makeup can be worn. No jewelry or accessories, please. Treat this like a job interview!

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

10:00-10:45 | Ballet Evaluation
10:45-12:15 | Technique, Jazz, and Tap Evaluation
12:15-1:00 | Contemporary/Improv Evaluation
1:00-2:00 | Individual Evaluation

(please be prepared to answer "interview" type questions, as well as to demonstrate a "special skill" you'd like to show us that highlights a strength of yours).

Evaluation: The Dance Spot will bring in outside judges to help evaluate auditioning dancers and to provide objective feedback for 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 placement best suited to dancers' abilities, commitment level (time, attitude and financial), and dancers' expressed goals (per their application).

*Advanced/older dancers may be asked to come back for the next age group if the Directors would like to see them dance with the older age group. Be prepared to come back for the 12+ year old audition if this is the case, however it is not common. Dancers asked to stay will not be asked to pay an additional audition fee.

RESULTS:

Results will be posted on our website by 10am Sunday, July 23. Dancers and one parent/guardian will be required to attend a team registration meeting on Monday July 24 from 5-8pm.

Dancers will take headshots at this meeting, so please wear jeans and any neutral colored top. Company commitment begins with the start of the summer session on June 6.

AUDITION APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

[WWW.DANCESPOTX.COM/RISE-COMPANY-INFO/](https://www.dancespotx.com/rise-company-info/)



AGES 8-12 | 10AM-2PM
*AGE AS OF 1/1/2024

CASTING AUDITION | JULY 22

3PM - 7PM | AGES 13+ | \$40

AGES 13+ | 3PM - 7PM
*AGE AS OF 1/1/2024

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Dancers should wear all black dance attire with no shoes nor socks and bring ballet, tap, and jazz shoes. Pink Ballet tights and ballet shoes are required for the ballet portion. Boys should wear all black. Hair should be pulled out of face and professional, and light makeup can be worn. No jewelry or accessories, please. Treat this like a job interview!

Audition application and registration should be completed by May 27.

Both can be found at our website:

<https://www.dancespotx.com/rise-company-info/>.

3:00-3:45	Ballet Evaluation
3:45-5:15	Technique, Jazz, and Tap Evaluation
5:15-6:00	Contemporary/Improv Evaluation
6:00-7:00	Individual Evaluation

(please be prepared to answer "interview" type questions, as well as to demonstrate a "special skill" you'd like to show us that highlights a strength of yours).

Evaluation: The Dance Spot will bring in outside judges 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).

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MORE INFO

JOIN US!

JOIN US FOR AN
INFORMATIONAL MEETING AT
THE DANCE SPOT AT 6PM ON
FRIDAY, APRIL 21, TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT RISE AND THE
OTHER COMPANIES, AT THE
DANCE SPOT, IF INTERESTED!

FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO
DIRECTOR, MELISSA BEST,
WITH ANY QUESTIONS, AT
RISE@DANCESPOTX.COM!

