



Macomb Ballet Town Hall

OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO INFORM POTENTIAL MEMBERS ON:

1. AUDITIONS
2. SAFETY
3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF DANCERS
4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS
5. SURVIVAL OF OUR INSTITUTION
6. DANCER TRAINING

***PLEASE REMAIN ON MUTE FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING. WE WILL BE USING THE CHAT FUNCTION AT THE END OF THE MEETING TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.**

About MBC

- ▶ The mission of the Macomb Ballet Company is to provide performing experience for talented young dancers through the creation of a quality, community-based, youth oriented, classical ballet company while reaching, educating and enriching the audiences of the Macomb County community through special school performances and formal concerts. In addition to providing an opportunity for serious dance students ages 8-25 to grow artistically through performance experience on a professional stage.
- ▶ MBC accepts members through open auditions.
- ▶ Our season usually runs from mid-September until the beginning of May. Dancers must commit to a full season upon acceptance.
- ▶ In a normal season, MBC has two full length ballets-The Nutcracker in December and a spring show in May.
- ▶ Artistic Director, Amber Michlaik
Assistant Artistic Directors, Sarah Komara and Mary Sherman
Rehearsal Director, Hannah Carden

****Upon completion of this meeting, we ask that new families stay on the call so that we can provide you with more detailed information about the company. ****

What We Know

- ▶ Dancers will train inside, outside and through the use of zoom, depending on what phase the state is in.
- ▶ The Macomb Center for Performing Arts (MCPA) is booking events for the upcoming 2020 – 2021 season.
- ▶ Nutcracker is currently scheduled for Dec 18 – 20, 2020. We do not have spring show dates yet.
- ▶ MCPA anticipates that when they are allowed to open, it will be at a limit capacity.
- ▶ MBC executive board has set a time frame of mid-October to determine if we will continue to work towards a December Nutcracker performance.
- ▶ Poker events, which all members are required to work, are currently shut down. We will schedule our 4 events and have members sign up so that we are ready if, and when they reopen. (These will be in 2021)

Auditions

- ▶ If allowed – our first choice for auditions will be face to face in studio.
- ▶ Dancers will be emailed a time slot for their audition.
- ▶ Auditions will most likely be shorter in length to accommodate more groups.
- ▶ The groups that dancers will be placed in have no relation to their placement, we need to have smaller class sizes for social distancing guidelines.
- ▶ Dancers will not be allowed to enter the facility before their scheduled time.
- ▶ Dancers should be dressed and ready to dance.
- ▶ More information will be available in the email regarding your time.
- ▶ Upon arrival, one member (Either dancer or guardian) can check in and receive their number.
- ▶ We will NOT be accepting any walk up registration. Dancers must pre-register and pay online.
- ▶ If MBC is not allowed to meet in person, auditions will be via zoom.
- ▶ Registration: macombballet.org – Click on the heading ABOUT, then choose Company Auditions.

Safety and Guidelines

- ▶ A detailed COVID-19 response plan can be found on the MBC website audition page.
- ▶ These guidelines that we will follow are recommendations from the CDC on opening and maintaining an activity style business.
- ▶ Guidelines can change daily, so parents and dancers must realize that rules can and will change as we progress through the season.
- ▶ Parents **MUST** play a large role in the safety of not only their dancer, but all MBC members.
- ▶ Parents must help in the health screening of their dancers before sending them to the studio.
- ▶ If our guidelines are not being followed by a dancer, he or she will be removed from the company in order to protect other dancers and staff members.
- ▶ Dancers that do not pass the health screening will be required to log in and watch their rehearsals via zoom. Failure to log in will result in an absence.
- ▶ Every effort will be made to minimize gaps between rehearsals in order to cut down on social distancing.

Survival of Macomb Ballet Company

- ▶ Our main objective for this season is **Survival**. Without the support and understanding of our members, Macomb Ballet Company may not survive.
- ▶ MBC can not continue “business as usual” without income from performances.
- ▶ We hope that members understand this unique situation is not what any of us want, but here we are. We will be open to any and all idea’s members have to generate revenue or cut expenses.
- ▶ Problems we face are lease and utility expenses, prop storage expenses as well as costume storage.
- ▶ Please feel free to reach out to the board with any ideas.

Dancer Training

- ▶ Many of our current dancers have had little to no training since March.
- ▶ Dancers need to continue to train at a high level in order to be ready to perform when called upon.
- ▶ MBC has multiple plans for training. Our training plans will change as the government guidelines change. MBC will continue to provide member dancers with face to face in studio and or zoom classes for the entire MBC season. Performance opportunities will not impact our commitment from directors to keep training dancers.

Audition Registration

- ▶ Go to www.macombballet.org. Click on about>company auditions.
- ▶ Fill out the google form to register. Pay audition fee via PayPal.

Q & A

- ▶ If you have a question, please type it into the chat box at this time. We will read the questions aloud and answer to the best of our ability.
- ▶ New families: Please stay on the call upon completion of the Q & A. This will allow us to give you more detailed information about the company.

Dancer Requirements

- ▶ All members are required to take ballet classes each week at their studio. Dancers may need to provide documentation of classes taken.
 - ▶ Senior, Senior Apprentice, Apprentice, and Junior Apprentice- minimum of (4) ballet technique classes per week.
 - ▶ Intermediate Apprentice and Junior-minimum of (3) ballet classes (Includes Pointe) per week.
 - ▶ Intermediate and Youth-minimum of (2) ballet technique classes per week.
- ▶ Should COVID-19 prohibit/limit in-studio classes at a member's home training studio at anytime, ALL members are expected to then fulfill ALL these requirements via Zoom.
- ▶ Members are required to attend weekly classes/rehearsals with the Artistic Director or Assistant Artistic Director at no additional cost. Missed classes/rehearsals may result in dismissal from the company.
- ▶ Rehearsals and classes are typically held on Wednesday and Saturday for the upper levels and Saturdays for the lower levels.
- ▶ Should COVID-19 prohibit/limit in-studio rehearsals at any time, MBC Directors will hold technique classes via Zoom, and ALL members are expected to attend ALL scheduled Zooms.
- ▶ Members must be able to participate in performances scheduled for December 18 - 20, 2020 and Spring 2021.

Financial Obligations

- ▶ Approximate Financial Obligation (payments made in two equal installments) as listed below.
- ▶ First installment on/before the first rehearsal, October 1, 2020, and second half is due on/or before January 11, 2021. If not received, dancer will not be allowed to rehearse.
 - ▶ \$780 Senior Company
 - ▶ \$750 Senior Apprentice
 - ▶ \$720 Apprentice
 - ▶ \$690 Junior Apprentice
 - ▶ \$570 Intermediate Apprentice
 - ▶ \$480 Junior
 - ▶ \$420 Intermediate and Youth

Family Requirements

- ▶ All families are to pay a \$200 Fundraising Fee per family, (payments made in two equal installments). First installment on/before the first rehearsal, October 1, 2020, and second half is due on/or before January 11, 2021. If not received, dancer will not be allowed to rehearse.
- ▶ All families are to work one charity poker shift per dancer, or be assessed a \$200 fee per required shift. If not received, dancer will not be allowed to audition for the 2021/2022 season until all fees have been paid.
- ▶ All families are to volunteer for at least (1) committee and to be an ACTIVE member.
- ▶ All parents are members of the Board when their child is accepted into the Macomb Ballet Company. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend all Board Meetings, which are usually held monthly, on the second or third Wednesday at 6:45pm, at the Main Branch of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. This is where all the planning and voting takes place.