

## - AFRO-LATIN JAZZ DANCE LEVELS -

Listed below, are my guidelines for placement in Afro-Latin Jazz Dance class levels. I look at the overall development and abilities of each student. It is important that each student build a solid foundation of strength, flexibility, techniques, skills, and knowledge. Every student is different and will be viewed as an individual dancer with unique talents, strengths, goals and needs. As an instructor, I move students through my levels rather slowly, to allow students to gain the necessary base of technique, strength, flexibility, stamina, focus and confidence. Dancers should also be able to gain from more individual guidance and should be able to accept and use more detailed critiques.

**The Afro-Latin Jazz Dance program is based upon consistent, twice-weekly attendance. Dancers in enrolled in Levels 2 and 3 are expected to maintain a consistent twice-weekly, class attendance minimum**

Students new to dance, jazz or my style; should start with my Level #1, entry level class, regardless of age. The classes at the other levels are conducted with the assumption that the enrolled students possess the required skills and techniques listed for that specific level.

Dancers that have achieved a high degree of proficiency in their current class level, but who are not quite ready for advancement to the next level; may audition and with the instructor's permission, take two levels concurrently. This allows students to boost their skills, stamina and technique. The four-class-a-week schedule challenges a student physically and requires a large time commitment. Students and parents should consider this time commitment before embarking on this demanding program. Students must master the skills required in the more basic level, and audition again, before advancing to enrollment in just the upper level class.

New students auditioning for Levels 2 and 3 and/or Company Class must participate in a placement audition and get instructor permission before enrolling. Students returning to the same level as the prior season don't need to audition for that level, provided that their skills and technique have been maintained at the level required for that class.

Auditioning is required for all dancers interested in **H.E.A.T.** dance company membership.

**AFRO-LATIN JAZZ: LEVEL 1 Beginning/Entry Level: Ages 8-18**

No previous dance experience is necessary to enroll in this class. This entry level class is for inexperienced dancers who wish to acquire basic Afro-Jazz techniques and for experienced dancers returning to class after a long break. It is also appropriate for dancers needing a refresher course in Afro-Jazz basics and for dancers with previous dance experience, but who are new to Afro-Latin Jazz techniques, or to my particular dance style.

**AFRO-LATIN JAZZ: LEVEL 2 Intermediate Level Ages 10-18 *Audition Required***

**Before enrolling** in this class, students should have knowledge of basic dance vocabulary and terminology; be able to demonstrate knowledge of basic hand, arm, foot and leg positions (parallel and turned-out); perform basic barre work (*tendus, eleve's, releve's, battements*); possess cleanly defined isolations (*head, shoulder, rib and hip*). Students should also have clean right/left double pirouettes en releve'; chasse; jazz walk; cha-cha-cha, salsa, and full splits on at least one side. Students should have developed aplomb and an ability to understand and make technique corrections, regarding placement and positioning. Dancers should have the strength and ability to move comfortably in both grande plie' and releve' positions.

**AFRO-LATIN JAZZ: LEVEL 3 Int/Advanced Ages 11-18 *Audition Required***

**Before enrolling** in this class, students should have mastered all of the skills listed for Level 2, plus pas du bouree's; clean right and left triple pirouette en releve'; single chaine'; battements; jete'; increased definition of isolations; articulation of hands and feet; salsa/mambo; samba. Students should be able to work in grand plie' (*Afro-Second*), as well as, from a strong releve'; and have increased back, hip, shoulder/arm, foot and neck flexibility. Dancers must have the commitment and stamina for twice-a week attendance in a vigorous 2-hour class. Dancers should have developed a strong awareness of space, levels and positioning. Basic gymnastic/tumbling skills and splits on both sides are highly recommended

**H.E.A.T. DANCE COMPANY: Ages 11-18 *Audition and concurrent enrollment in Level #3 is Required***

Students enrolling in this class should have mastered the skills and techniques listed for Levels 2 and 3 plus the following skills: ability to execute barre work; right and left double pirouette en plie', en releve', in parallel and in turn-out; axels from a double pirouette; double chaine'; a scale; jazz walks; battements and jete's, tour jete's; port du bras; increased head, arm and foot flexibility and articulation; isolations, contractions and balance. Dancers should be able to sustain work in plie' or releve'. Students should possess the ability to work with a strong sense of musicality; to dance with both control and abandon; to perform adagio work; to be able to interpret music, choreography, emotions and to perform expressively. **Company dancers are expected to possess and demonstrate a strong desire and commitment to dance performance and attendance to all classes, rehearsals, and performances. Parental support and involvement is crucial. to the success of our dance company program.**