

AFRO-LATIN JAZZ DANCE with DIANNE LYLE

Welcome Dancers and Parents,

In this note, I'd like to introduce you to my Afro-Latin Jazz dance classes and answer some frequently asked questions. Please keep the Class Calendar and this note handy, for future reference. If you have questions about this program, please e-mail dianne164@aol.com. In case you need to reach me during class time, due to an emergency, my cell number is (831) 601- 9639. I don't answer my phone during class time, but will check between classes for text messages.

REGISTRATION

To attend classes, all students must be pre-registered, with fees paid, PRIOR to the start of each session. Students may register and pay for a single session, multiple sessions or for an entire season. There are no discounts, rebates, or refunds for partial attendance of individual sessions. There are class enrollment minimum and maximum limits. There are no reserved spots in classes and enrollment is conducted on "first come, first served" basis.

Classes are divided into both sessions and seasons. Classes are conducted concurrently with the Pacific Grove Unified School session, from September through May/June. Our **Season Calendars** list class dates, holidays and fees.

All students must complete a registration form at the start of each new Season. Continuing students will not be required to fill out a new form for that Season's sessions, except to update any new contact information.

Registration fees may be paid with cash or by check. Checks should be written to "**DIANNE LYLE**". Be certain to include your dancer's full name, class level and the session number on your check, to assure proper credit for your payment. Payments and registration forms may be mailed to: **Dianne Lyle P.O. Box 51550 Pacific Grove CA 93950.**

Registration forms and payments may be delivered to Dianne Lyle at Chautauqua Hall, on the first, class meeting of each session. To assure proper credit and registration, be sure to enclose forms and payments in a labeled, sealed envelope. If you wish a receipt to be mailed to you, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment.

A \$25 fee will be assessed for all returned or reprocessed checks.

REFUNDS

Full refunds will be given, only if the entire season is canceled by the instructor or by the Recreation Department. Non-attendance refunds for pre-paid sessions, may be offered if the instructor is notified three working days before the pre-paid class session begins, minus a 25% assessed service charge. If a single-class in a session is canceled by the instructor or the Recreation Department, students will be offered the option of attending a make-up class or receiving a single-class fee refund. Refunds aren't offered for student non-attendance of regularly scheduled classes.

CLASS LEVELS and AUDITIONS

To place your dancer in the correct class level, based on age and current dance skills, please review the "**DANCE LEVELS DEFINED**" sheet. This will help you and your dancer to select the right class. Your dancer will progress faster with a solid foundation of skills. Progress is individual, and it is important not to rush through or skip any steps in building good dance technique. I welcome any questions regarding your dancer's class level, placement, and their individual progress. We can schedule a skills evaluation meeting for your dancer. The most important thing to remember is: "**Try not to compare your dancer with any other dancer. And, allow each dancer to enjoy their process, their journey and their dance**".

Audition Days are held before our FALL SEASON, for those dancers who feel that they have acquired the listed prerequisite techniques and skills; who have a strong desire to move to the next level and work harder; and/or who wish to audition for dance company. No audition is necessary for dancers who wish to return to and continue in, the same level as they were attending in the previous season.

Dancers should bring jazz shoes and sneakers to all auditions. Dancers auditioning for Level #3 and Company should bring character and lyrical shoes, if they have them or be ready to dance with bare feet. Hair should be pulled back away from the face. Fitted dancewear or sportswear should be worn to reveal body lines and aplomb. All dancers should bring plenty of water and a healthy snack. These are closed auditions. No guests or visitors, please.

Dancers, please turn your cell phones off, or to "silent/vibrate" during classes

LOCATION

My classes are conducted in the main room of **Chautauqua Hall, located on the corner of 16th and Central Avenue**. Classes may occasionally be relocated to the LeBeck Room, at the Pacific Grove Community Center, 515 Junipero Avenue. I will try to give plenty of notice regarding any location changes.

ATTIRE

The Basic Performance and Class Attire for all dancers will be:

black jazz pants (full-length, boot cut);

black camisole leotard or a below-the-waist length dance top (for females),

black fitted below-the-waist length short-sleeved tee shirt or dance top (for males)

black jazz shoes worn with calf-length black socks or black full-foot or convertible tights.

a pair of dancer's knee pads

These items should be solid black with no logos, prints, stripes or embellishments. They should be well-fitted, not over-sized or too small. This basic outfit is worn plain or often with other costume pieces worn on top.

These items are an essential basic performance purchase for continuing dancers, and individual items should be replaced, if they are out-grown or become too worn for performance.

In all class levels, fitted dance or sportswear is appropriate for females and males. *Dance tops, tanks, tees, camisoles, leotards; athletic tops, worn with jazz pants, dance shorts, leggings, fitted sweats or yoga pants are all appropriate for class. Pants should fit at the waist and shouldn't drag the floor. Sleeves shouldn't extend beyond the wrist.*

Dancewear should be fitted enough to reveal the body's proper positioning and alignment. *Clothing should also allow for absolute freedom of movement, including floor-work and lifts.*

Dancers are encouraged to experiment and play with their studio look, it attire meets the above requirements.

Dancewear needn't be expensive or even new. Wraps, sashes, ties, rips, holes, layers, colors, and your imagination can inspire you to create your own looks and add lots of fun to classes.

All dancers should have warm-ups or sweats to wear before and after classes. These should not be worn during class as a substitute for dancewear. They should be removed after the warm-up, unless there is a long break during class when muscles can start to cool down or if it is extremely cold in the studio.

SHOES

For all dancers, black jazz oxfords or boots (lace-up or slip-ons) , are the recommended footwear for all classes. All shoes should be worn with socks.

Level #3 and Company dancers will also need a pair of half-sole lyrical shoes) , and an inexpensive tan t-strap 2" heeled character shoe. An inexpensive t-strap character shoe is available through Discount Dance Supply.

Dance shoes should be purchased to fit comfortably but snugly. Shoes that are too big or small can create problems such as blisters, corns, cramping toes/arches or improper use of the foot and loss of balance. Always try on shoes for fit and size before purchasing. If ordering by mail, try a shoe on in a local store for size or if there is no other option, try on a fellow student's shoe (remembering that the shoe has probably stretched to fit their foot) . Dance shoes fit a little differently than street shoes. Read sizing descriptions for different brands carefully.

HAIR

All hair should be worn secured away from the face. *Ponytails, braids, and buns are great for class. Soft cloth headbands, clips, pins, ponytail bands, bandannas, scrunchies and scarves and gel or hairspray can be used to keep hair and bangs out your face. All hair accessories should be well-secured before class.*

WHERE TO PURCHASE DANCEWEAR AND SHOES

Online or mail order dancewear and dance shoe companies are great sources for the "dancewear basics", as well as, the latest fashion-forward dancewear looks. All the companies listed below have online catalogs and printed catalogs available upon request. Delivery of in-stock items is very quick. Be careful, however, of getting the proper sizing and fit.

Dancewear Solutions, www.dancewearsolutions.com (1 866 542-6500)

Discount Dance Supply www.discountdance.com (1 800 328-7107)

Dance Distributors (1 800 333-2623)

Online Dancewear www.onlinedancewear.com

Local dancewear stores are **Tres Jolie**, at 853 Munras Avenue, Monterey; **Joy-Pers**, 944 S. Main, Salinas (831 424 3466) and

Dance or sportswear can be purchased at discount stores, such as **Target, Wal-Mart, Marshalls, and Ross.**

Amazon/Amazon Prime is a great quick source for dancewear and shoes...if you know your dancer's sizes.

DANCE BAG

Every dancer, should bring a dance bag to class, containing these items:

water bottle (there is no water fountain in the facility)

dancer's knee pads

sweats or warm-ups

dance shoes

hair bands/clips/ponytail bands/scruncis

safety pins

a pocket folder, or 3 -ringer binder, with paper (for taking notes, handouts, stickers, worksheets)

pen/pencil.

Dancers should not bring toys, pets, sodas or junk-food snacks, valuable jewelry, electronics or large amounts of cash. Be sure to take home all schoolbooks, backpacks, and clothing items. Maintenance services will remove studio "lost and found" items regularly and I donate usable items to charity organizations. Dancers may eat, before or after classes, in the outside park or patio. Remember to clean up and remove all your trash.

DANCER'S ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

Dancers, arrive on time and prepared for class. The doors will be closed fifteen minutes after the scheduled class start time. Late arrivals must do a full warm-up and stretch before joining the class in progress. If class is in session, be quiet and respectful of those students and the instructor.

If you arrive slightly early, please remain outside or, go quietly to the restroom, if you need to change. During inclement weather, dancers may sit quietly, warm-up or stretch on the sides, in the studio, until their class begins. Dancers are not free to wander in and out of the studio, during classes. It is distracting and disturbing to the class in session and requires the instructors and assistants to divide their attention.

Parents should come to the door to pick up students after classes. Sixteenth Street is one way and cars go down pretty fast. Most drivers are not expecting quick stops or kids crossing the street. Many parking slots in the lot across the street are reserved or timed; you can get ticketed for overtime or illegal parking.

If dancers are walking home from class, carpooling or have made pick-up arrangements with some one other than the listed parent/guardian; please send me a note. This will help insure your dancer's safety and avoid any confusion.

RESTROOMS

There are restrooms in the rear of Chautauqua Hall, down the hall, on the right of the corridor. Please cross behind the class on the floor to get to the restrooms. There are other classes conducted in the rear rooms of Chautauqua Hall, so please be quiet, courteous, and quickly to return to the main hall. All other rooms are off-limits to dancers.

PERFORMANCES

DiFranco DanceProject, is the performing name of our company of dance students. We will have two scheduled performances per year. One, an informal Open House at the end of the Fall Season and one larger recital at the Pacific Grove Performing Arts Center at the conclusion of the Winter/Spring Season. Check the Dance Calendar or the Pacific Grove Activity Guide for the dates of these events, so that you may plan your dancer's participation. We may also participate in several community events such as The Good Old Days and the Feast of Lanterns in Pacific Grove. All these performances are optional, but extra dance opportunities may be open to continuing Afro-Latin Jazz dance students. Participation in any of these performances will require additional costume purchases and some extra rehearsal times.

DANCE CONVENTIONS and COMPETITIONS

This 2017- 2018 Season, I am offering qualified and continuing students in Levels 1, 2 and 3 the opportunity to participate in regional dance conventions. In past years, we have attended two to four events per season, depending upon committed interest of dancers and parents. Attending regional dance events can offer a dancer inspiration, a great opportunity to meet other young dancers, a chance to try new dance styles, to challenge themselves with other instructors and to help set their own goals for growth in dance and performance. These events are two or three-day events, held on

weekends. Usually, the workshops are hour-long, back-to-back classes, in a variety of styles with nationally renowned instructors from 8:00am until about 4:00pm, with an hour break for lunch. For dancers to fully benefit from this intense and exciting schedule, stamina, strong basic dance skills and an open and eager approach to learning are essential.

These events are expensive. Each dancer pays convention workshop fees (from approximately \$190-\$250 per dancer for the classes) ; hotel costs; food/meals and travel costs. There are additional competition fees (per dancer, per dance), for HEAT dance company members, if we send competition dances. Discounted convention fees are paid, in full, through the attending studio, a full month in advance. After those deadline dates, the fees will increase and dancers are accepted only if space is available. Many popular conventions have been known to meet their maximum enrollment, as much as 3 months in advance. Hotels also fill up early and hotel reservation deadlines are usually the same dates.

I have developed some strategies for keeping some costs down. We share hotel rooms, carpool, and bring food, snacks and water to share. I don't plan competition dances for first-time convention attendees, it is usually more than enough for them to meet the challenges of the workshop classes. I will consider sending HEAT company competition dances, depending upon the interest and readiness of those dancers.

If your dancer is interested in attending convention, please get a Dance Convention handout for more details. We will have a meeting of all interested parents and dancers the first weeks of our FALL 2012 dance season.

GUESTS

Occasionally, out-of-town guests or prospective students may view other classes during the session, but, only by pre-arrangement with the instructor.

New students may participate in a single, trial class, for a single class fee of \$10. Participation must be pre-arranged and confirmed, by phone or email. A registration form must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian before any dancer may participate in a trial class.

All visitors are requested to be respectful of the class in session. Visitors should view quietly; seated on the sides of the studio and remain off the dance floor. Please keep babies, toddlers, and toys off the dance floor at all times. If it is necessary to cross the dance floor, please cross behind the class in session. Photos and videos are welcome, if the process is not disruptive to the class or dancers.

Thank you, dancers, and parents. If you have other questions or comments, please email me at dianne164@aol.com. It is often difficult to catch me in that brief transitional time between back-to-back classes.

***Reach for your dreams....
Honor those who came before us...
Accept the blessings of the Universe....Harambe'
Dianne Lyle***