

EDUCATIONAL STUDY GUIDE

PROGRAM PREPARATION



2013-2014

2700 FLORA ST. | DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

Dear Educator,

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is excited that you have chosen us to provide your Fine Arts enrichment to your students. We know that this will be a wonderful experience for students and teachers alike.

This study guide will help prepare your students for the class(es) or performance that you have scheduled. You are welcome to print individual worksheets included in this guide. They can also be used as a post -activity assignment after the program is complete.

We would like to also invite you and your students to participate in additional educational opportunities offered by Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Information about other educational opportunities offered are listed on the last page. Please contact our offices if you have questions or need additional information on any other programs that interest you.

Thank you in advance for allowing us to provide enrichment to your students.

Ann Williams

Founder/Artistic Director

Dallas Black Dance Theatre

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Ann Williams

Founder and Artistic Director,
Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Vision Like None Other!

For the past 37 years, Mrs. Ann Williams has directed Dallas Black Dance Theatre from a community-based organization to the semi-professional level, and in 1987 to a professional dance company. One of the reasons that Ann Williams wanted to own a dance school and company was not just to turn students into professional dancers, but to introduce one of the oldest forms of art to young people. She wants students to know that dance training can lead to many opportunities. Mrs. Williams' former students can be found in recording studios, executive offices, courtrooms, and hospitals. "I believe the foundation that is provided (through dance) helps to build confidence and self esteem. These attributes will follow (the) students whatever direction they choose to go in, whether it be professional dancing, modeling, choreography, or technical direction," says Mrs. Williams. Ann Williams is a graduate of Prairie View A&M University, holds a certificate in Arts Management from Texas A&M University, earned a Master of Arts Degree in Dance and Related Arts from Texas Woman's University, and received an honorary Doctor of Humanities from Northwood University and Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Dance from TWU. Governor Rick Perry appointed Ann Williams to the Board of Regents at Texas Woman's University; and she is a 2002 inductee into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.



Did you know?

Ann Williams is the first African-American to obtain a Master of Arts in Dance from Texas Woman's University.

Why Do We Dance?

We dance because it's what we love to do.

Dancing is hard work and it takes years of training to become a really good dancer; but when the lights are bright and the audience is applauding, it makes it all worthwhile. Learning to dance teaches poise and grace, it gives students determination, teaches dedication and it builds self-confidence.

Dance reinforces lessons learned in the classroom like:

- ✓ **Math** - teaches fundamental counting, explores geometric shapes, reinforces critical thinking skills, ability to grasp interrelationships.
- ✓ **Science** - teaches the parts of the body, explores body systems.
- ✓ **Music** - learning rhythms, recognizing dynamics in musical phrases, introduction to different music styles.
- ✓ **Cultural Arts** - understanding dance across various cultures, periods of time and recognizing its significance to different cultures, link historical figures to significant dance history.
- ✓ **Physical Education & Health** - teaches fundamental movement compares stationary and locomotive movements, develops body control, stresses maintaining a healthy body and a healthy mind, correlates the body's use in dance with the effects of what is put into the body.
- ✓ **Social Science** - promotes team building, uses positive peer-related behavior modification, helps students learn to positively express themselves in a creative, constructive manner, promotes adaptability and imaginative problem solving, develops self-esteem and self-discipline.

The most rewarding part about dance is being able to meet, teach, and inspire young students at schools around the country- helping them realize that they can be anything they want to be if they try hard and never give up.

Company Dancers

Dancers come from around the world to audition for Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Once accepted, they are on 11-month contracts. This is their full-time job.

In the Spotlight or Behind the Scenes... Careers in Dance



I like dance, but I don't want to be a dancer. What else can I do and still have a career in the dance industry and the arts?

- ✚ Choreographer
- ✚ Costume Designer
- ✚ Photographer
- ✚ Graphic Artist
- ✚ Lighting Designer
- ✚ Marketing/ Public Relations
- ✚ Accountant/ Financial Manager
- ✚ Sales/Promotions
- ✚ Technical Staff (Backstage Professionals i.e. Electrical, Sound, Scenery)
- ✚ Scenery Design
- ✚ Fundraising/ Development
- ✚ Dance School Administrator
- ✚ Artistic Director
- ✚ Dance Teacher
- ✚ Dance Therapist

Genres of Dance:

There are four major dance forms, all which require many years of training for perfection.

BALLET - A more stylized form of dance whose etymology is in French. Ballet or classical dance, originated in the court of Louis XIV in fifteenth-century France. Many of their ballets are often based on fairy tales and myths. A familiar classical ballet is The Nutcracker. Many ballets are performed to classical music. Classical ballet dancers wear pointe shoes and costumes that consist of a tutu and tights.



ETHNIC – The cultural dance of a particular people, country, or nationality. For example, Homage to the Source: AFRICA is a dance work performed by Dallas Black Dance Theatre which explores movements of African dances. Ethnic dance is sometimes called folk dance and is performed to a wide variety of music and instruments. The Mexican Hat Dance is a dance that explores movement from the country of Mexico.

JAZZ - An American style of dance consisting of syncopated movements, such as the dancing on MTV. There are many styles of jazz. Some jazz dancers' movements are smooth, flowing and low to the ground, while others move quickly with short, forceful gestures. Jazz is frequently danced to the music heard on the radio, as well as older music styles such as the blues and bebop jazz music.



MODERN - Modern dance is a more free-style movement incorporating locomotive movements. Modern dance was created in the early 20th century as a rebellion against the strict movements of Ballet. Modern dance pioneers emphasized the use of more varied, natural movements as well as the use of everyday (pedestrian) movement. Modern dancers have traditionally danced barefoot, making their movement more grounded and natural. Modern dance is performed to various

kinds of music, and sometimes spoken words or in silence. Modern dance choreographers translate individual ideas and concepts into movement, which communicates with audiences.

DBDT is a contemporary modern, repertory dance company. Repertory defines our program as being varied; that is, dance works by many different choreographers. In one single program you may see dances depicting religious, jazz or classic themes performed to contemporary music.

VOCABULARY

Audition	A trial performance of a dancer, actor or other performing artist to evaluate their talents and technique; a “tryout” for a part or a company
Character	Movement expressing prominent individual traits
Choreography	The art of arranging or “making up” dances
Duet	A dance for two
Ensemble	A group of dancers who perform together
Graceful	Controlled, rhythmic, smooth, fluid
Improvisation	Spontaneous movement that has not been choreographed
Pirouette	Turning; a complete turn of the body on one foot
Port de bras	Carriage of the arms; describes arm motion
Rehearsal	A private practice for a public performance, usually held in a dance studio
Repertory	A collection of dances learned for performance purposes by a dancer
Rhythm	The patterns formed by the arrangement of short and long sounds (or movements) and silence
Technique	A collection of basic dance movements from which dances are constructed
Shape	The interrelated arrangement of body parts of a dancer or dancers in space. Example: curved, twisted, angular, straight, symmetrical or asymmetrical

Review

Match the following questions with the answers below.

___1. What is the name of this dance company?

___2. When was it founded?

___3. Who is the Founder/Artistic Director?

___4. How many dancers are in the company?

___5. What are the four major forms of dance?

___6. Which one of these forms defines DBDT?

___7. Which words are dance careers?

___8. Who is the Associate Artistic Director?

ANSWER OPTIONS

A. DBDT is a modern dance company

B. 12

C. 1976

D. Dallas Black Dance Theatre

E. Melissa Young

F. Choreographer, Dance Teacher, Dance Therapist

G. Ballet, Modern, Jazz, & Ethnic

H. Ann Williams

ANSWERS:

1. (D) 2. (C) 3. (H) 4. (B) 5. (G) 6. (A) 7. (F) 8. (E)

Dance Vocabulary- WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words below. Use the word list at the bottom.

*Hint: Not all words will be used.

1. ntaidou _____
2. rephhocarygo _____
3. oiptvimsnraoi _____
4. riopetetu _____
5. rts prod bae _____
6. ehrelsara _____
7. nbmleees _____
8. dtue _____
9. itheequnc _____

VOCABULARY LIST

Character	Audition	Movement
Ensemble	Improvisation	Repertory
Pirouette	Technique	Choreography
Port de Bras	Rhythm	Duet
Rehearsal	Shape	

ANSWERS:

1. audition, 2. choreography, 3. improvisation, 4. pirouette,
5. port de bras, 6. rehearsal, 7. ensemble, 8. duet, 9. technique

CLASS ACTIVITY

Please pick the answer that best completes the sentences below.

1. DBDT stands for _____.
 - a) Dallas Brings Dance Technique
 - b) Dance beyond Dallas Texas
 - c) Dallas Black Dance Theatre
2. A private practice for a public performance, usually held in a dance studio, is called a _____.
 - a) Performance
 - b) Rehearsal
 - c) Dress Rehearsal
3. A collection of dances learned for performance purposes by a dancer is called _____.
 - a) Repertory
 - b) Dance
 - c) Choreography
4. Objects used by dancers to establish a time, place or characters are called _____.
 - a) Shoes
 - b) Costumes
 - c) Props
5. The patterns formed by the arrangement of short and long sounds (or movements) and silence is called _____.
 - a) Phrase
 - b) Rhythm
 - c) Beats
6. _____ is the spontaneous movement that has not been choreographed.
 - a) Improvisation
 - b) Technique
 - c) Surprise

ANSWERS:

1. (C) 2. (B) 3. (A) 4. (C) 5. (B) 6. (A)

Questions Students Ask About Dance

Are girls better dancers than boys?

No. It used to seem that way, though. For a long time, all the famous dance stars were women. The men did not have very much to do. Choreographers began to put a lot of difficult steps in their ballets for men. Then everyone could see that men were really good dancers.

Where do dancers practice?

Dancers, as well as students, practice in a large room called a studio. Big mirrors in the studio help the dancers see what they are doing correctly and incorrectly. Wooden bars along the wall help dancers keep their balance. Dancers usually have music when they dance, so there is always a piano, a record player or a tape recorder in a dance studio. There is no other furniture.

Do you wear special clothes for dance lessons?

Yes. Special clothes are worn for dance classes so that the teacher can see how you move. The girls usually wear tights and leotards and the boys usually wear black sweatpants and a T-shirt. A leotard looks something like a bathing suit. Sometimes, the older girls also wear a skirt.

Do you have to go to regular school while you are learning to be a dancer?

Yes. General studies classes such as Math, English, Social Studies and Science are a must. You will need these classes to learn information required to perform dance—like counting beats, the square footage of your dance space, climate of where you are performing, terminology, muscle, bone and joint movement.

When should you begin to take dance lessons?

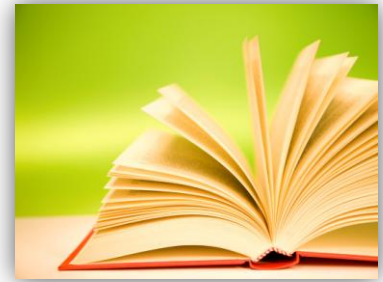
A good time to begin taking lessons is at age eight or nine years old. Many famous dancers started when they were a little older or younger.

How do dancers turn around and around without getting dizzy?

Ballet dancers have a little trick that keeps them from getting dizzy. When they do turns they pick something to look at like a doorway or a clock on the wall. Then they try to keep looking at it while they are going around and around. The term is called “spotting”. Usually it works, but sometimes they still get dizzy.

Literacy Connections:

There are many wonderful books that Dallas Black Dance Theatre recommends for positive reading experiences about dance and dancers. (Active Links)



◆ **WE LOVE BALLET**

- By Jane Feldman ISBN-13: 9780375828317
- Age range: 3 - 7 Years

◆ **BALLET STARS**

- By Joan Holub ISBN-13: 9780375869099
- Age range: 4 - 6 Years

◆ **BOY, CAN HE DANCE!**

- By Eileen Spinelli ISBN-13: 9781442474413
- Age range: 4 - 8 Years

◆ **DANCING IN THE WINGS**

- By Debbie Allen ISBN-13: 9780142501412
- Age range: 4 - 8 Years

◆ **BROTHERS OF THE KNIGHT**

- By Debbie Allen ISBN-13: 9780142300169
- Age range: 4 - 8 Years

◆ **A YOUNG DANCER: THE LIFE OF AN AILEY STUDENT**

- By Valerie Gladstone ISBN-13: 9780805082333
- Age range: 9 - 13 Years

For the complete list of suggested books, please email us at academy@dbdt.com.

Post-Program Activities

After the program is complete, take a few minutes to ask the students to discuss what they saw and experienced.



- ★ Ask students to sit quietly and close their eyes. Direct them to imagine the beginning of the program. Tell them to try to remember the details of the dance, the costumes, the lighting, how the dancers moved, how many of them there were, how they used the stage space (did they stay in one place, run across the stage a lot, did they huddle together), the music and the speed at which the dancers moved.
- ★ Ask them to remember how they felt when they were watching the dancer(s), how the people around them reacted and what they thought the work was about.
- Ask students to demonstrate small pieces of movement from what they have learned in the dance class. Select two or three dancers and have them lead the class through their movement. For example, if one student remembers an important gesture, ask them to go to the front of the room and clearly demonstrate the gesture. Then have the rest of the class stand and attempt the gesture. Repeat this process until everyone has a clear understanding of the movement.
- ✓ As an extension, assign students the task of creating a short dance “study” by using the movements they remember from the performance or class(es). They should connect the gestures with their own movements. Some tools dancers use to modify movement may be helpful here: repetition, slowing movement down, speeding movement up, reversing the order of gestures and changing the level of the movement (performing a gesture while kneeling close to the ground and then performing the same gesture while jumping).



EDUCATIONAL AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Dallas Black Dance Theatre has a history of arts education excellence. Our arts-in-education residencies and outreach programs are designed to build critical thinking skills, connect youth to themselves and their own culture, and to invigorate the educational process by building connections between the construction and execution of dance as an art form and traditional learning techniques. Each year DBDT exposes over 20,000 DISD school children to the dance forms of ballet, modern, jazz, hip-hop and African dance. An additional 20,000 students share DBDT in this experience nationally and internationally.

DANCE: LET'S MOVE!

Learn dance from the best! Dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre want to make new friends through dance by sharing the joy of ballet, modern, jazz or African technique with students of all ages. The program ends with a special presentation for parents, school staff and friends. This program is designed specifically for during or after-school programming and is aligned with First Lady Michelle Obama's campaign to fight childhood obesity-- Supporting America's Move to Raise a Healthier Generation of Kids.

STUDENT MATINEE PERFORMANCES

The ultimate field trip for students! See dance at its best performed at performance halls across the metroplex. Dallas Black Dance Theatre currently provides matinee performances at the Dallas Latino Cultural Center the new state of the art Wylie Theatre. Dallas Black Dance Theatre brings joy and excitement to students of all ages with its superb performance of dramatic dance works by nationally known choreographers. Study guide for teachers, bookmarks and programs for students are provided to enhance the performance experience.

AttenDANCE!

AttenDance is an informational, interactive demonstration and discussion of the different dance disciplines with history and descriptions of the movements provided by the Artistic Director as the dancers perform. This on-campus, fun-filled lecture/demonstration concludes with selected dance numbers from DBDT's repertoire. Student participation is included and a question/answer session with the dancers follows.

YOUTH FLASH MOB/CHOREOGRAPHY PROJECT

Learn choreography from the professional dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre. With your choice of dance styles instructors of Dallas Black Dance Theatre will teach fun, creative choreography to students that can be performed for school events or just for fun! Choose from Ballet, Jazz, African, Hip Hop or Modern dance.

BOOK YOUR PROGRAM NOW!

For more information, contact Dallas Black Dance Theatre at 214.871.2387

Email: academy@dbdt.com Web: www.DBDT.com