



Ballethnic Academy of Dance

(Bal-eth-nik) The Official School of Ballethnic Dance Company

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Ballethnic Academy of Dance is an institution which provides a unique education through the art of dance. Staffed with working dance professionals, the Academy offers students an array of courses from Ballet and African dance to etiquette and hygiene. As a family school, Ballethnic Academy of Dance teaches children and adults from a wide range of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Dance training is available for all levels of skill including beginners and professionals. The Academy is a community conscious component of Ballethnic Dance Company Inc. We provide mentors for youth in a nurturing environment. In addition to instruction, we focus on the full development of each student. Disciplined lives, sound bodies, and focused minds are the proven benefits of our educational approach.

A nine-month dance program ~

A four week Arts Transition Camp

A four week Dance Diversity Summer Camp ~

BALLETHNIC YOUTH ENSEMBLE

BYE is a pre-professional training program for young people ages 7 through 21. Its mission is to provide an upper tier level of training for students who, because of their talent and potential, require an advanced level of instruction. They spend an average of 10 hours each week (hours boost tremendously in preparation for and during performances) being taught by professional dancers and instructors. Participants in this program will develop the skills that are necessary to become professional dancers by undergoing intense training, exercising self-discipline, exemplifying commitment, and showcasing their gift in public performances. Ballethnic's goal is to prepare the members of its youth ensemble to receive apprenticeships and dance scholarships at colleges/universities, and dance opportunities in professional companies. Furthermore, the program releases productive citizens into society. In this regard, BYE is an integral part of Ballethnic Dance Company's mission to increase artistic opportunities and outlets for the community at large.

DANSEUR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Danseur Development Project is an innovative and unique program established in 1990 by co-founder, Waverly T. Lucas, II. The purpose of this program is to provide a highly structured yet nurturing environment for young African American males to learn classical dance through an athletic approach. It was developed to combat the rise of violence, drug abuse, teen pregnancies, and a plethora of issues teenagers face on a daily basis. The project provides strong, positive leadership by African American role models and other company members of diverse backgrounds. Young men between the ages of 6 and 21 are taught skills such as discipline, responsibility, accountability, and team work through professional dance technique. Participants must also keep journals to enhance their craft. Weekly classes are offered September through May which are accompanied by special events such as "lock-ins" for the boys and their fathers, brothers, instructors, and/or board members to spend time together for simple male bonding. The boys emerge from the project gaining strength, self-awareness, and maturity in all aspects of their lives.

Performance Opportunities

Dance with Professionals of Ballethnic Dance Company in our annual productions of *Urban Nutcracker*, *The Leopard Tale*, *Epiphany*, *Jazzy Sleeping Beauty*, and *Flyin' West the Ballet*, Special Community Performances and our Open House Performances.

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