



July 9, 2019

Dear Prospective SSB Young Dancers and Parents:

We are looking forward to an exciting year in 2019-20. This past year, SSBYD has enjoyed a very strong season. Our annual Spring Celebration of Dance at the Lobero Theatre this last March featured professional choreography for the Company and Apprentice 2's by Kassandra Taylor Newberry and Eva Stone and a lovely Senior piece by Autumn Eckman. Additional contemporary choreography by SSBYD alumni Fenna Roukema and SSB dancer/Outreach Coordinator, Cecily Stewart were set on the Apprentices and Juniors. Emerging choreographers also showcased new works at this performance, along with excerpts from Swan Lake for all of SSBYD. Much of our efforts each year go to preparing for The Ballet Alliance Festival, which is in Long Beach April 9-12, 2020. We always look forward to the Festival. The company (and possibly Apprentice 2) dancers perform at the festival, depending on which piece (s) are selected by the Adjudicator.

We've been involved in this dance organization for 20 years now and we think it has been a valuable experience. The dancers in Levels 4-6 audition to be part of this performing company and attend the Festival each year, where they take classes and attend seminars from nationally acclaimed instructors and experts in the field, as well as perform (some dancers) and attend performances nightly. There are also opportunities to learn about college dance programs. Advanced dancers can audition for summer program scholarships or college programs. As mentioned above, the Festival will be in Long Beach in 2020, which allows for Junior level dancers to attend. Dancers from all over the region will meet to experience the festival together.

In 2017, we instituted an Emerging Choreographer's program, where dancers in SSBYD can apply to set choreography on other members to be performed in a late Spring Emerging concert. All of the SSBYD dancers have the opportunity to apply to be a choreographer for the Emerging Showcase. We generally have space for 12-14 choreographers per year, but all are able to perform in at least one piece.

All SSBYD dancers will dance a ballet part in *Rudolph*, whereas dancers in the school that are not in SSBYD will not. SSBYD dancers will also dance a jazz part in *Rudolph* alongside all of the dancers in their jazz class and have a ballet part in the *Nutcracker*, as will all dancers in the school. Dancers auditioning for the role of Clara in the *Nutcracker* must be in SSBYD.

In SSBYD, there are four divisions of dancers—**Company, Apprentice 2, Apprentice 1 and Junior**--and those levels are based on experience, level of technique and movement quality, maturity, commitment and work ethic.

**Company** Level dancers are the highest level dancers in SSBYD, generally made up of Level 5&6 Dancers in the school. In addition to the Level Requirements for their level in the school, they will take the Tuesday SSBYD class and need to be available for rehearsals on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday all throughout the school year and be available when visiting choreographers are in town to set works. (Scheduled well in advance.) **Company** dancers will be given first consideration (but no guarantee) in all adjudicated works. Adjudication will be in Jan/Feb 2020--date will be added as soon as scheduled. Company dancers will represent the company in the Adjudication class, and may be eligible to apply for scholarships at festival (upon Director's approval). Company dancers are expected to attend The Ballet Alliance festival in Long Beach.

**Apprentice 2** dancers may be chosen to be in adjudicated works, but it is not guaranteed. The choreographers choose the dancers they want to have perform their works. If not chosen to be in an Adjudicated work, **Company and Apprentice 2** dancers are encouraged to understudy those works. By understudying the works, dancers learn style and develop strength so that they may improve as dancers. Apprentice 2 dancers will also take the Tuesday SSBYD class and need to be available for rehearsals on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday all throughout the school year and should be available when visiting

choreographers are in town in order to be considered. (Scheduled well in advance.) **Apprentice 2** dancers may be invited to take the Adjudication class (Definitely if they are in an Adjudicated work.) Apprentice 2 dancers are expected to attend The Ballet Alliance festival in Long Beach.

**Apprentice 1** dancers will not be cast in any adjudicated works and will not take the adjudication class, but will perform in SSBYD performances and have choreography set on them for the *Celebration of Dance* performance. Apprentice 1 Dancers are expected to attend The Ballet Alliance festival in Long Beach.

**Junior dancers** will not be cast in any adjudicated works and will not take the adjudication class, but will perform in SSBYD performances and have choreography set on them for the *Celebration of Dance* performance. Since the Festival is in Long Beach, Juniors will be invited to attend, but not required.

**All dancers in SSBYD** will be cast in both *Rudolph* and *Nutcracker* in the Fall, and will have choreographers work with them for the *Celebration of Dance* at the Lobero March 21, 2020, which is SSBYD's annual repertoire production for all 4 levels of SSBYD. All SSBYD dancers have the opportunity to be involved in the *Emerging Choreographer's Showcase* and are expected to perform in the end of the year Gustafson Dance performance, *Thumbelina*. (Seniors have the option to opt out of *Thumbelina* if needed.) **All members** will have a headshot taken, along with group photos, will be represented on the SSBYD website, and receive a company t-shirt, socks, and an affordable leotard/dance shirt. Company jackets for new members will be provided if the budget allows. SSBYD Company and Apprentices may be invited to take certain Master Classes that are held at the studio for no additional fee.

To maintain the high standards set by The Ballet Alliance for pre-professional ballet companies (like SSBYD), each dancer is expected to strive for his/her personal best.

**Below are listed the major obligations of each dancer and family when becoming a part of SSBYD.**

1. Attendance is mandatory for all classes for your level. (Weekly a minimum of 3 technique classes, Pointe or Boys Ballet and Jazz/Contemporary). Exceptions to the required class schedule must be discussed with the Directors prior to the start of classes in order to be pre-approved. Regular and consistent classes are necessary not only to mold the body and develop the necessary physical skills but also to maintain the body in its proper condition and prevent injury. Many dance movements make strenuous and unnatural demands on the joints, muscles, and tendons, and it is easy to strain or damage them if the body is not properly maintained.
2. Classes that are missed for any reason, including homework, illness, school activities, and family commitments, should be made up in other classes, preferably within the same week when possible.
3. Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals. Absences due to homework, illness, school trips, and family commitments are not excused by this policy. Rehearsals may not be made up. Dancers who are contagious, have a fever, stomach flu or a doctor's note should not attend rehearsals. A dancer who is injured, but plans to perform, should watch rehearsals to stay informed and up to date with clarifications or changes made in rehearsals. Absences for any reason, however unfair it may seem, may necessitate a dancer being replaced in choreography.
4. Attendance at all Dress Rehearsals is mandatory. **Dancers may not be absent at any time during the two weeks prior to the date of scheduled performances, Adjudication or Festival.** Plan to be at the theatre multiple days of the week for the major shows.
  - *Rudolph* at the Lobero December 7th @ 2pm and 6pm (Two weeks of no absences: November 23-December 7. November 25-30 is Thanksgiving week and no classes or rehearsals will be mandatory that week, however November 22-23 are reserved for rehearsals with SSB for *Nutcracker* as well as *Rudolph*.)
  - *Nutcracker* at the Granada December 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm and 7:30 pm and December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm (Two weeks of no absences: December 9-December 22)

- Adjudication –Jan/February, 2020 (No absences dates for those dancing in Adjudication will be added once Adjudication is scheduled.)
  - *Spring Celebration of Dance* at the Lobero on Saturday, March 21, 2020 (2 Weeks of no absences: (March 7-21)
  - April 9-12 in Long Beach (2 weeks of no absences for those performing at festival March 30-April 12)
  - Emerging Choreographers’ Showcase- TBD
  - End of the Year All-School Performance of *Thumbelina* at the Lobero, May 30-31, 2020
5. Requests for exceptions to the performances and attendance to The Ballet Alliance festival must be made in writing upon submission of the contract and will be considered at the Directors’ discretion.
  6. Planned absences should be submitted with the contract or with as much advanced notice as possible. This helps us with planning; however, when choreography is being set or changed, dancers who are not present may not be included in those sections. This is not punitive, this is practical.
  7. If a dancer has 5 absences without make-ups being arranged, the consequences may include, being dropped from all choreography/performances with no refunds given or not being allowed to attend The Ballet Alliance festival as a performing member.
  8. Dancers, including Seniors, are expected to volunteer at all of the Bun Bar events. A schedule will be set so that the duties are divided between dancers. A dancer’s parent may volunteer in his/her place or as an additional volunteer. Bun Bar events include Fall and Spring Photo Shoot weekends, *Rudolph*, *Nutcracker* and *Thumbelina* Dress Rehearsals and shows to help raise funds for group expenses.
  9. Dancers and Parents are expected to participate in additional SSBYD fundraisers such as See’s Candy Sales, Restaurant Fundraisers, Ticket sales to performances.
  10. Parents will be required to assist at the SSBYD Adjudication and shows and we welcome assistance at the bun bar and in other areas. These volunteer tasks are specific to SSBYD’s needs throughout the year. Many opportunities will be presented and we ask that parents participate in at least one way, or pay the \$50 once annual opt out fee for SSBYD volunteering. Please do know that we NEED help to make everything happen, so we prefer volunteering. (Gustafson Dance parent volunteer requirements are separate.)
  11. The 2019-2020 budget for the State Street Ballet Young Dancers includes the following:
    - Annual dues for The Ballet Alliance
    - Choreographers’ fees (including travel, transportation in town, per diem, housing, choreography fee)
    - Rehearsal costs
    - Production costs including costumes, programs/Adjudication Booklet, posters, theatre fees for SSBYD productions
    - Some administrative and office supply costs
    - Partial chaperone costs for The Ballet Alliance festival
    - Adjudicator hosting costs
    - Website hosting annual fee
    - Directors’ fall meeting and festival costs
    - Company jacket or Company leotard
    - Company Photography and Videography
    - Festival Raffle Prize
    - Festival Raffle Tickets for dancers
    - Company T-shirts and socks, Luggage & Dance Bag Tags for The Ballet Alliance Festival
    - SSBYD Scholarship fund (when budget allows)
    - Music

-Lighting design for The Ballet Alliance performances

-SSBYD gifts and Thank you cards (limited but occasionally needed for The Ballet Alliance, chaperones, party hosts, Dance Captains, choreographers, etc.)

12. **FEES:** The required dues per individual are \$675, with a \$100 deposit, due upon acceptance and the balance due by August 26, 2019. SSBYD can only accept checks or cash. Once these fees are paid, they are nonrefundable, regardless of the circumstances. In addition, travel expenses to Festival, which are estimated on the last page, will be paid by each dancer individually. A late fee of \$15 will be assessed for all late payments. Each dancer will be responsible for all of their own festival expenses including transportation, hotel, festival kit, etc.
13. Gustafson Dance has a few opportunities to provide financial assistance in the form of a work/trade arrangement for parents who are interested. As funds are available, there may be a scholarship application for those in the Apprentice 2 and Company Levels with demonstrated financial need and merit. Please contact Allison or Nicole for more information about work/trade or scholarship opportunities.
14. Dancers are expected to uphold the Code of Conduct, which is outlined below.

We are looking forward to your participation in SSBYD this year.

Sincerely,

Allison Gustafson and Nicole Comella

Co-Directors, SSB Young Dancers



## SSBYD Dancer Contract/Code of Conduct 2019-2020

**Please return this form with a check for \$100 deposit towards the \$675 dues made out to SSBYD upon acceptance. The full dues payment is due by August 26, 2019.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Student's name), agree to be a \_\_\_\_\_ (level of Company) member of the State Street Ballet Young Dancers for the 2019-2020 season (September 9-May 31). I understand that there are four divisions of dancers—Company, Apprentice 1 and 2, and Junior--and those levels are based on experience, level of technique and work ethic. I understand the requirements and opportunities for my level in the company. I further understand that the choreographers choose the dancers they want to have perform their works. Even though I may not be in the adjudicated pieces, I recognize the value of being a part of this group, in that I will dance ballet choreography in *Rudolph* (as well as the Gustafson Dance Jazz part and ballet part in *Nutcracker*), a minimum of 2 dances in the *Celebration of Dance* show on March 21<sup>st</sup>, participate in the Emerging Choreographer's Showcase, and may understudy works I have not been chosen for. I will attend the Festival as a member of the SSB Young Dancers. (Juniors are invited but not required to attend.) As a dancer, I agree to the Code of Conduct as outlined below:

### SSBYD CODE OF CONDUCT:

1. I will attend the required classes for my level per week and all rehearsals scheduled. I will notify the office before 3:30pm on weekdays, and by 8:30 am on Saturdays if I become ill or if I am unexpectedly unable to attend that day. For any known absent dates, I will turn in a note in writing with as much advanced notice as possible, but preferably at the time the contract is returned. I will also be responsible to take makeup classes, therefore maintaining the proper level of training, keeping my body strong and healthy, and contributing to the company as a unit.
2. I will represent Gustafson Dance, SSBYD and State Street Ballet Company to the best of my ability by behaving in a professional and respectful manner at all classes, rehearsals, performances and group activities.
3. I will show respect to all teachers, directors, choreographers, fellow dancers including Dance Captains, parents, and theatre staff.
4. I will come to classes, rehearsals and performances in uniform, on time and prepared to work.
5. I will not consume alcoholic beverages or engage in drug use while a member of SSBYD. I understand that if I violate this rule, consequences may include probation or expulsion from SSBYD.
5. I will not miss class or rehearsals two weeks prior to a performance date.
6. I will not miss any dress rehearsals or performances.
7. I will make sure that I have my List of Required Items.
8. I will pay attention in all classes and rehearsals, avoiding unnecessary conversations.
9. I will respect my fellow dancers, choreographers, teachers, chaperones and directors, by avoiding gossip, unhealthy competition and unnecessary discussion over the internet. I understand that all dancers in SSBYD are committed members of the Company and should be treated with the utmost respect regardless of abilities and casting.
10. I agree to participate fully in all bun bars and performances. I further agree to support other fundraising efforts for SSBYD.
11. I agree to sell 10 tickets to the Celebration of Dance performance on March 21. For siblings, 10 tickets per family. I am allowed to opt out of the group ticket sales if I add \$100 additional to the \$675 dues (\$775 total

dues). The \$100 opt out fee for ticket sales does not include tickets to the show. SSBYD relies on the required ticket sales to make a profit on the performance, so any family opting out of selling the 10 tickets must pay \$100 opt out fee, plus purchase their own tickets to the show.

12. I agree to attend The Ballet Alliance Festival in Long Beach, CA (April 9- 12, 2020 (*Juniors optional*)).

13. I will show respect to all the parents of SSBYD dancers who are working hard to make my participation with SSBYD possible.

14. I will show responsibility by communicating directly with directors, teachers and choreographers when I need to.

15. I will respond in a timely manner to all questions, requests, sign ups and return forms/tickets/payments ON or BEFORE the due dates given. (i.e., Bun Bar sign ups, size requests, rehearsal preferences when asked, Tickets, payments, forms, etc.)

I understand my placement in the Company, what I am required to do and how I am expected to behave as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student Name Printed)      \_\_\_\_\_ (Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent's name), agree to support my child's participation in the State Street Ballet Young Dancers. I agree to make the financial commitment of \$675 in dues, plus all Festival fees for my dancer (*Juniors optional*). I will assist with preparations for Adjudication, the *Celebration of Dance* performance on March 21 and other SSBYD events/performances by being in charge of \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in if you already know the way(s) in which you are able to assist.) or by paying an additional \$50 opt out fee. Detailed opportunities for SSBYD Parent Volunteer will be emailed and on a sign up at the Fall Picnic. I recognize that the parent volunteer commitment for SSBYD is separate from the parent volunteer commitment for Gustafson Dance. Further, I will support the SSBYD mission to the best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student Name Printed)      \_\_\_\_\_ (Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Approximate Individual Festival Travel Costs: \$1075 (Exact costs will be determined early in the fall.)

Hotel for 4 nights: \$275

Spending and Meal Money: \$200

Festival Kit Price: \$450

Travel: \$150

Known Planned Absences:

\_\_\_\_\_

## List of Required Items

- Women:** Company Leotard (Will be decided on and ordered through SSBYD)  
Colored Leotard for appropriate class level  
Black Leotard  
Black Ballet skirt (Bullet Pointe style preferred)  
Pink Ballet Shoes, Pointe Shoes, Toe protectors, Toe Tape  
Non Slip Socks or Booties for over Pointe shoes at the theatre  
Ballet Pink Tights  
Black Tights  
Light colored ballet trunks for under tutus, dresses, etc (white or light pink)  
Black Jazz Pants  
Black Jazz shorts  
Black and Tan Jazz Shoes  
Nude Undergarments, and any Undergarments needed for specific costumes (as needed).  
Sparkle Earrings  
Character Skirt  
Theraband and Yoga Mat  
Nail Polish Remover  
Sewing Kit  
Jet Glue/Super Glue for Pointe Shoes as needed  
Hair Supplies including Hair Nets and Gel  
Stage Make-up, including Deep Red Lipstick and lip liner  
Purple, Brown and White Eye Shadow  
Black Pencil and Liquid Eye Liner  
White Pencil  
Pencil Sharpener  
Eyelashes and Glue  
Face Make-up and Powder  
Red/Rust toned blush Blush (not pink)  
Suggested: Tan Character Shoes, Foot Undies
- Men:** Company Dance top (Will be decided on and ordered through SSBYD)  
White and Black T-Shirt/Dance Top  
Black tights, Black Jazz Pants, Black Jazz Shorts  
Black and White Ballet Shoes, Black and Tan Jazz Shoes  
Light Stage Make-up  
Dance Belt