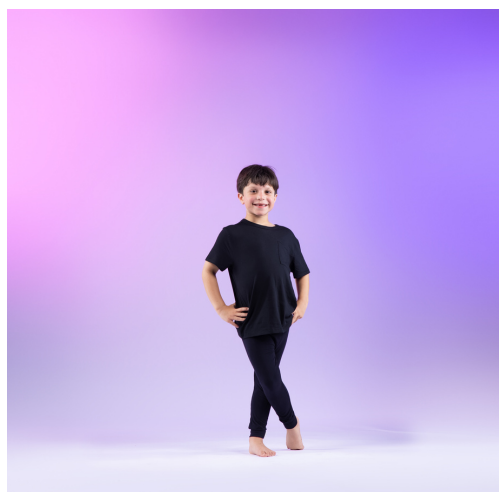


*The  
Performance Co.*

  
**IGNITE** dance company

At Balance Dance Studios



**2024-2025 INFORMATION**

# Meet the Director

SHAWNA HESKETH, DIRECTOR

Shawna started dancing at an early age, at her one-room studio, in her small central Texas hometown. Her love of dance continued to grow, and she went on to join her high school's drill/dance team, and then began teaching dance at the age of 16. She attended Sam Houston State University, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, in Photography and Dance. While at SHSU, she was in several performances, including a graduate thesis, and also worked in the costume department for their Nutcracker production. After moving to Austin, she got back into dance full-time, diving into ballroom dancing. Shawna then joined Balance Dance Studios, in the fall of 2012, in its inaugural year. Since then, she has created a home and family with Balance, and now gets to share this journey with her two children, as she watches them dance and grow.



## What Is Ignite Performance Company?

"NO PRESSURE, JUST PASSION"

### Our Mission

The performance team will demonstrate their artistry at approximately 3 shows per year, which are their spring showcase, the Balance Dance Studios' Nutcracker and spring recital. They are not required to attend any dance competitions or conventions.



### Opportunities

- Time Management Skills
- Local Performances
- Competitive Growth
- Flexibility with Other Commitments
- Professional Relationships and Support
- Team Building Skills
- Leadership Building
- Professional Level Training & More!

# Audition Details

MAY 22ND | AGES 5-6 | 4PM-5PM

MAY 22ND | AGES 6-7 | 5:30PM-6:30PM

## Company Evaluation

This process will feel more like a fun dance class. We do not treat this as a serious audition for these young ones. We will create a standard jazz class where we warm up and then use some across the floor and combos to evaluate the attendees for summer and fall class placement. If we feel they are ready to join the company, we will offer them a position on our team. If they aren't quite ready, we will let them know the best class options for summer and fall enrollment which help prepare them for the next season. We are looking for students who have a combination of basicbody awareness, some flexibility, classroom maturity, passion, motivation, and the ability to remember a pattern of steps/movement. Some parents prefer not to even use the word "audition" with their students, and we fully support that as well. Come join us for a fun class evaluation!

MAY 20TH | AGES 8-12 | 4PM-8PM

An intermediate jazz routine will be taught, the week of May 13th-15th. Dancers ages 8-12: choreo will be taught and rehearsed (\$20 drop in rate) on Monday, May 13th, at 5pm and 6pm, as well as Wednesday, May 15th, at 6pm. Some advanced students in the upper age range of this audition may be asked to attend the older audition as well.

Students can attend as many audition practice classes as they'd like to register for. This routine will also be sent out via email to anyone registered for auditions.

MAY 21ST | AGES 13+ | 5PM-9PM

An advanced jazz routine will be taught, the week of May 13th-15th. Choreo for dancers ages 13+ will be taught and rehearsed (\$20 drop in rate) on Monday, May 13th, at 7pm and at 8pm, as well as Wednesday, May 15th, at 7pm and 8pm. Based on dancer's comfort level, students in this age group may choose to learn the routines for, and attend both, the intermediate and the advanced auditions, in order to best demonstrate their strengths and artistry.

Students can attend as many audition prep classes as they'd like to register for. This routine will also be sent out via email to anyone registered for auditions.

AGES 5-7

AGES 8-12

AGES 13+

# Audition Details

## DAY OF AUDITION

EVALUATION

**Evaluation (5-7):** Dancers will follow a simple jazz class format, including a high energy warm up and stretching. Following this will be some basic skills demonstrations across the floor and a simple character style dance with the option to show off any of their favorite moves or special skills.

**Evaluation (8+):** Dancers will sign in, receive their audition numbers, and head to the warm up room to prepare. Dancers will go through a very simple ballet warm up to prepare their bodies and demonstrate basic ballet technique. No previous ballet experience is required for this. Then, there will be a quick contemporary phrase taught on the spot to see how dancers learn new choreography and interpret movement. Dancers are not expected to have this combination perfected. We are looking for movement and style, as well as how quickly dancers can memorize choreography. The final section of the audition will be across the floor skills and the jazz routine that was previously taught.

We ask that parents do not stay during evaluations; the screens in the lobbies will be off, as we want to create a calm, stress-free environment.

CLOTHING

Dancers are expected to come to auditions wearing studio dress code of all black attire that is clean and professional looking. Please do not wear baggy clothing or busy patterns/styles. We prefer clean, simple lines. Hair can be worn in any style that is pulled up, slicked back, professional and completely out of the face at all times. For example, slicked back ponytails or a variety of braids and buns are a great choice. Please no loose hair, unless very short, as this creates a distraction as well as the occasional safety hazard. Dancers should have ballet shoes for the ballet portion and then either jazz shoes, socks or bare feet for the other genres. Students are welcome to change shoes as we change styles. No jewelry or watches will be allowed other than stud earrings. The use of watches and phones will be strictly prohibited once auditions begin. Please leave those in your bags or at home. No photography or videos will be allowed in the audition room once auditions have started. During check in and warmups however, please feel free to use these items as desired and, if you post on social media, feel free to tag us: @balancedancestudios and @ignite.dance.co.

RESULTS

Dancers will be notified of their audition results via email on or by Thursday, May 23rd. At this time, you will be asked to review all company paperwork and complete necessary steps to prepare for an individual planning meeting on Saturday, May 25th, from 12:00-1:00pm, with your team director, to sign up for summer classes and intensives, as well as previewing fall classes.

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.BALANCEDANCESTUDIOS.COM/IGNITE-AUDITION-INFO/](https://www.balancedancestudios.com/ignite-audition-info/)

OR

EMAIL: [IGNITE@BALANCEDANCESTUDIOS.COM](mailto:IGNITE@BALANCEDANCESTUDIOS.COM)

The  
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**Fall Weekly Schedule: 2+ hours required\***

Monday or Wednesday (based on team placement) Ballet and Jazz  
Additional classes may be taken, depending on individual goals.

**Required Routines:**

1 routine in the genre of choreographer's choice, based on strengths of the team

**Required Performances:**

Nutcracker, Spring Showcase, Spring Recital

**Additional Commitment:**

Choreography Week

Team Retreat

Photoshoot (includes headshot, action shot and team photo)

Holiday Party

Spring Banquet

**Summer Requirements**

1 hour/week assigned Jazz class and an intensive of dancer's choice. Balance Intensive is strongly encouraged.

# Important Dates

## REQUIREMENTS

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- Summer Intensives: Ballet, Axis, and/or Balance Intensive, based on team placement
- Photoshoot - Summer TBD
- Choreo week - July 29-Aug 2 (Conv/Pre-Pro) & Aug 5-9 (All Co)
- All Company Retreat - Sept TBD
- BDS Trunk or Treat - Oct TBD
- Holiday Party - Dec TBD
- Nutcracker Ballet - Dec TBD
- Spring Recital - TBD May
- Illuminate Spring Show Reh/Show - TBD April or May
- Banquet - TBD April or May
- Balance Spring Recital - May TBD

# 2024-25 Summer Intensive Opportunities

**Ballet Intensive 6/10-6/14:** The ballet intensive curriculum focuses on strong technique, rooted in the traditions of classical ballet, with elements of contemporary movement. It is designed to help advanced dancers in the development of solid technique and artistic style, through the challenging combinations and variations presented in each class. In each class, dancers will have the opportunity to gain a greater appreciation for dance and movement, while growing in athleticism, artistry, clarity, grace, speed, and musicality.

**Balance Intensive 7/8-7/11:** Our Balance Intensive is designed to inspire dancers and further their technical and artistic training in a welcoming, all-inclusive environment. This program is ideal for the dancer who would like to broaden his/her understanding of various dance styles and may be interested in getting into the convention or competitive dance team world. Classes will be taught by our passionate, engaging, in-house instructors and the intensive is a great opportunity for students to get exposure to more of our BDS faculty. In order to allow for more class time and lower the pressure of performing, there won't be an end of week performance.

**Axis Intensive 7/29-8/2:** The AXIS Intensive is designed for motivated dancers who come to be trained, inspired and often transformed by these incredible dance experiences. Students will have an opportunity to refine their skills and broaden their dance vocabulary, while being exposed to guest master teachers from coast to coast (who will push them to unexplored limits). The AXIS Intensive is dedicated to the growth of each dancer as a physical technician, as well as an expressive and articulate artist. Taking part in these intensives will help bring students' performance quality to a new level. Designed for the serious multi-level artist, this intensive is geared toward those with an eye for pre-professional quality performance.

**To register for a Summer Intensive, [CLICK HERE.](#)**



# 2024-25 Summer Requirements

**Classes/Workshops:** Minimum class enrollment is 1 hour of jazz per week for all Ignite members, in a class as placed by the directors, so that dancers can progress together and prepare for choreography week. Dancers auditioning for Pre-Pro and Competition teams should plan to add a ballet class at their appropriate level. We understand that, with summer travel, some dancers may have to load up classes, at the beginning or end of the summer, in the form of make ups. Optional weekly workshops are offered to allow dancers to submerge themselves in additional specialities as well. Full descriptions of each are available. Students are encouraged to take as many additional classes as they wish, especially in ballet, to maintain their current level.

## **Competition Prep (applicable to all Ignite teams):**

- Choreography Week (\$150+ per routine cast), dates dependent on team casting: between 8/5-8/9. We will set the bulk of Ignite competition and possibly some convention choreography during this week. If you cannot be here for Choreography Camp, it is possible that you may not be able to participate in the 2024-2025 Ignite season. If a dancer is allowed to miss choreography week, he/she will need to pay the choreographer or an assistant for privates to catch up. This is determined on an individual basis. The schedule will not be available until all contracts are signed and teams solidified. Convention choreography pieces and any additional pieces will be set throughout the summer, based on castings and guest instructors.

## **Team Building (applicable to all Ignite teams):**

- Company Retreat: This will be a fun-filled time, as we get to know each other a bit more through various activities. Date/Time TBD.

## **Summer Class Requirements and Pricing:**

All Ignite teams are required to take a minimum 8 total hours (\$180) of jazz technique class, with their teams, over the summer (equivalent to 1 hour/week). Competition/Convention/PrePro teams must add a ballet class for an additional 1.5 hours per week (\$428). If students are gone for part of the summer, they can double up where necessary. Intensives do not count toward class requirements.

