



2024-2025  
**INFORMATION**

# WHO WE ARE

UNITE. GROOVE. KONNECT

## OUR MISSION

UGK is a competitive youth hip hop and street-style crew at Balance Dance Studios! Directed by Haley Sikes, UGK trains dancers to be entertaining performers, while growing teamwork skills. The team performs at various events, competitions, and dance conventions across Texas, and holds many prestigious titles. For dancers ages 6-18, UGK focuses on building the youth community in Austin, and exposing more kids to hip hop and street culture.



## OPPORTUNITIES

Training from Local, National,  
and International Choreographers  
Competitive Growth  
Local Performances  
Convention and Industry Training  
Team Bonding Experiences  
& More!



# MEET THE DIRECTORS



## DIRECTOR

# HALEY SIKES

Haley Sikes is a dancer, performer, choreographer, and teacher, based out of the Austin area. She started dancing at the age of three, training in many different styles, with a focus on hip hop. Haley has been directing UGK for the past five years, and has grown a community of talented hip hop dancers at Balance. Haley grows as a teacher by pushing her students to be the best people they can be. She has a fresh approach that sparks creativity among young artists.

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

# ALEXIS O'LEARY

Alexis is a dancer and performer from the Midwest. She began her dance career at the age of 7 as a backup dancer, traveling across the United States to perform until she was 15. She has had the opportunity to train in many different styles, participating in several theatre productions, commercials, and competitions. Alexis looks forward to contributing to the Texas dance community by offering her knowledge and experience to encourage young artists to be creative and confident.



# LIL' GROOVES AGES 6-8 AUDITION INFORMATION

**MAY 31 | \$25 AUDITION FEE**  
**Lil' GROOVES AGES 6-8 | MAY 31 | 11:00am-12:00pm**

After having pre-registered, dancers should plan to arrive at the studio no less than 15 minutes before their audition time, to check in, complete any remaining paperwork (an application should be fully completed ahead of time – please fill out thoughtfully so we can get to know your dancer), and to warm up. Dancers should wear their best hip hop attire to auditions. Application and registration links will be linked from the UGK info webpage at [balanceddancestudios.com/ugk-audition-info](https://balanceddancestudios.com/ugk-audition-info).

Light makeup and hair accessories are acceptable. Dancers will learn a short combo, and will be asked to freestyle, as part of their audition.

\*Lil' GROOVES do not need to attend Innovate Audition Intensive\*

11:00am - Check in/warm up  
11:15-12:00pm - Learn combo and dance in groups  
12:10pm - Parent Pick-up



# INNOVATE AUDITION INTENSIVE

MAY 28-30 | DANCERS AGE 9-18



This intensive's purpose is for our dancers to grow their artistry and emerge as the best dancer and human they can be. Innovate is a 2 track intensive, all styles and hip hop, with combined classes in each room for all tracks. Balance Dance Company Directors will be attending the intensive to observe dancers in preparation for their auditions/casting. Dancers will also learn a short combination at the intensive that they will perform at their audition on 5/31.

Dancers only auditioning for UGK must attend the Hip Hop track.

For UGK/Ignite crossover dancers who have been accepted on the Ignite Pre-Pro company must attend the all styles track.

**Dancers ages 9+ auditioning for UGK are required to attend the Innovate Intensive as well as their audition time on 5/31. Links for both will be available on the UGK information page at [balancedancestudios.com/ugk-audition-info](https://balancedancestudios.com/ugk-audition-info)**





# AUDITION DAY

MAY 31

After having pre-registered, dancers should plan to arrive at the studio, no less than 15 minutes before their audition time, to check in, complete any remaining paperwork (an application should be fully completed ahead of time, along with headshot – please fill out thoughtfully so we can get to know your dancer), and to warm up. Application and registration links will be linked from the UGK info webpage at [balanceddancestudios.com/ugk-audition-info](https://balanceddancestudios.com/ugk-audition-info).

Please wear clothes that highlight your dancers personality and help them stand out. Light makeup and hair accessories are acceptable.

Dancers will learn a short combo, and will be asked to freestyle, as part of their audition. Dancers ages 9+ will perform the audition combo learned at the Innovate intensive.

**LIL' GROOVES** Ages 6-8 | MAY 31 | 11:00am-12:00pm

**UNITE** Ages 9-11 | MAY 31 | 12:30-2:00pm

**UNITEpro** Elite Dancers Ages 9-11 | MAY 31 | 2:00-3:00pm

**KONNECT** AGES 12-18 | MAY 31 | 3:30-5:00pm

**KONNECTpro** Elite Dancers Ages 12-14 | MAY 31 | 3:30-5:00pm

**VELOCITYpro** Elite Dancers Ages 14+ | MAY 31 | 5:00-6:00pm

During the Innovate Intensive, dancers may be asked to audition for a team that is outside of their age grouping. Please contact Haley if you have any questions or concerns regarding the team of your dancer prior to auditions.

**Dancers who make UGKpro are required to attend PROline choreo on June 2-4 from 10am-3pm.**

# AUDITION RESULTS

## Evaluation:

Balance Dance Studios will bring in outside judges to help evaluate auditioning dancers, and provide objective feedback for team placement. In addition, director feedback is considered, as well as past attendance, work ethic, attitude and performance quality (for returning company members). Judges and directors will share feedback after auditions and collaborate to determine the crew best suited to dancers' abilities, commitment level and expressed goals (per their application).

## Results:

Dancers will be notified on Friday, May 31st, via email, of their audition results/placement. After that, one parent and dancer are REQUIRED to attend a mandatory crew meeting with the director on June 1st.

Summer classes start Monday, June 3rd, and end on Saturday, July 27th. The fall session begins on Monday, August 19th.

## Meeting and Photoshoot times are as follows:

### JUNE 1ST!

**4:00pm: UGK Team Meeting**

(Lil' Grooves, UNITE, KONNECT)

**5:00pm: ALL UGK + FUSE Crew Photoshoot**

**7:30pm UGKpro Team Meeting**

(UNITEpro, KONNECTpro, VELOCITYpro)

Meetings will be held close to photoshoot location. This will be communicated in your acceptance email.

**Photoshoot Dress Code:** Streetwear-Blue, Black, White, or Grey. Minimal logos, NO UGK/FUSE Crew hoodie.

Email [UGK@balancedancestudios.com](mailto:UGK@balancedancestudios.com) with any questions.

**DANCERS ON UGKpro ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND  
PROline CHOREO JUNE 2-4 FROM 10AM-3PM.**

# IMPORTANT DATES

SUMMER 2024-SPRING 2025

**5.28-30** INNOVATE INTENSIVE

**5.31** AUDITIONS

**6.1** MANDATORY CREW MEETINGS

**6.2-4** PROline CHOREOGRAPHY 10am-3pm

**6.1** PHOTOSHOOT

**7.29-8.2** AXIS INTENSIVE HIP HOP TRACK

**7.26-28 + 8.1-8.4** CHOREOGRAPHY WEEK

**8.9** RETREAT (*Please keep the whole day available as time is TBD*)

**9.14** WORLD OF DANCE HOUSTON (Mandatory for Pro)

**11.8-10** MONSTERS HOUSTON CONVENTION (Mandatory for Pro)

**WINTER** TBD COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE

**1.17-19** MONSTERS AUSTIN CONVENTION AND COMPETITION

**FEBRUARY** 8 NATIONAL DANCE COMPETITION

**MARCH** DANCE COMPETITION

**3.7-9** MONSTERS DALLAS (optional)

**APRIL** KAOS DALLAS CONVENTION AND COMPETITION (optional)

**APRIL** "MURGE" COMPANY SHOW

**MAY** SPRING RECITAL



# TIME COMMITMENTS

SUMMER AND FALL EXPECTATIONS

## SUMMER COMMITMENTS

Lil' GROOVES, UNITE, KONNECT.

8 hours of hip hop during the 8-week session (1 class/week)

UNITEpro, KONNECTpro, VELOCITYpro.

16 hours of hip hop during the 8-week session (2 classes/week)  
PLUS one weekly rehearsal for PROline routine

Summer choreography weekend (7.26-28, 8.1-4 ), team retreat  
(8.9 6-8pm), Axis Hip Hop Intensive (7.29-8.2)

## FALL COMMITMENTS

Schedule \*subject to change\*

Lil' GROOVES - Thursdays, Rehearsals 4-5pm

UNITE - Thursdays, Rehearsals 5-6pm

KONNECT - Thursdays, Rehearsals 8-9pm

UNITEpro - Thursdays, Rehearsals 6-8:30pm

KONNECTpro - Tuesdays, Rehearsals 5-6:30pm

Thursdays, Rehearsals 6-8pm

VELOCITYpro - Tuesdays, Rehearsals 6:30-8pm

Thursdays, Rehearsals 6-8pm

**All dancers are required to take one additional Hip Hop class each week.**

Attendance Policy: Students are not allowed to have more than 3 absences per class per semester. All absences must be approved by the director prior to classes missed. All conventions and competitions are mandatory. No exceptions. Reblocking fees of \$150/piece will apply.