

# You Are Invited

to audition for

## ELEMENTS DANCE CONCEPT COMPETITION ENSEMBLE

EDC Competition Ensemble is for the dancer who is committed and wants to take their love of dance and their talent to the next level. A dancer in the competition ensemble is expected to have a higher level of dedication, commitment and sportsmanship attitude. We have come to find that this degree of expectations leads to a more well-rounded dancer in and outside of the studio setting. We are excited to have your dancer audition with us!

*Teams will be created using the following criteria: ability, age, experience, and commitment level. Our ensemble is managed and led by owners and directors Ali Evans and Meg Crawford.*

## 2024-2025 COMPETITION ENSEMBLE AUDITION PACKET

### **Auditions held on Sunday, May 5**

*There will not be makeup auditions in person. If you cannot participate on audition day, please ask for more info..*

### **Audition Format.**

#### **TO-DO LIST.**

- Fill out our online audition form linked on BAND before April 25. This form will be posted on BAND by April 1.
- Pay \$15 Audition fee via Dance Studio Pro or pay in person on the audition day via cash/check.
- In person auditions will be held at the studio May 5, 2024 beginning at 1pm. **\*Students must bring a signed student code of conduct form at the audition.\***
- PLEASE COME WARMED UP AND READY TO DANCE. There will not be time to warm up at the studio prior to auditions.
- Brandy will be available at auditions, on May 5th, at 1pm to provide an estimated cost. A monthly payment plan can be created to help with competition costs.

*\*Ages 6 and under will not be required to audition. Please find the section labeled pre-ensemble for more information about the class and financial requirements for that specific team.*

#### **Required Audition Performance**

- Dancers must perform the given routine
- Dancers will show right, left and center splits
- Dancers will show right, left and center leaps
- Dancers will show single, double, and triple turns
- Hip Hop will be required to perform a kip up and head spring
- Tap will be taught an additional tap combo at the end of your audition

**CLOGGERS WILL NOT BE HAVING AN AUDITION.** Clogging is invite only and does not require an audition. Accepting the invitation will place you on a competitive team.

## **Audition Schedule | Sunday, May 5, 2024**

### Ages 7-9:

- 1pm - 2pm

### Ages 10+:

- 2pm - 3pm

### Attire:

- Tight fitting all black dance attire is required
- Bring all dance shoes
- Hair should be neatly secured in a low bun with a hair net . (*Wear a hair accessory to stand out!*)
- Makeup is optional but encouraged

We will be asking for a maximum number of teams each dancer can be in for the calendar year. If you say that 5 is your max, it is possible you will be placed in up to 5 dances. This includes solo/duo/trios if you are invited to do so. **It is expected that all dances offered will be accepted by the dancer.**

Being a part of the ensemble is a large time commitment. By turning in the google form, you are acknowledging that you will make competition rehearsals and event dates a high priority.

## **Pre-Ensemble**

Our Pre-Ensemble team was created especially for those young dancers who want to try our competitive ensemble without the big commitment right away! This ensemble is for dancers ages 5-6 and is invitation only. These dancers will not need to audition.

## **FINANCIAL COMMITMENT**

This team will only attend one competition and will perform at the annual recital. Competitions run \$60-70 per dancer per group dance. Admin fees, and other fees also apply to these dancers.

Dancers are also strongly encouraged to attend one of the conventions in the fall. Convention dates are listed under the "Financial Commitment" heading.

## **CLASS REQUIREMENTS**

Dancers will be required to attend weekly rehearsals for their selected dance(s) as well as ballet/tap.

## **Commitment and Expectations**

*\*Important dates will be handed out upon acceptance onto the competition ensemble team.*

We understand that many of our students are involved in other activities, however we consider the Ensemble to be an educational activity and should be prioritized as such. It is critical to the team, and the dancer's growth, that there is common understanding of attendance and financial commitment. Please read the following carefully to avoid unnecessary conflict and to help us have a fantastic year.

*\*Students and parents will be required to read, sign, and adhere to our company policies, procedures, and code of conduct.*

- **Summer Move Mania Dance Camp** - Every Tuesday night June 4 - July 9 - \$150 (Required for all Elite, Pre-Company, and Company dancers)
- All Elite, Pre-Company, and Company dancers are required to attend AT LEAST 2 SUMMER SESSIONS, **not including the required Move Mania Dance Camp**. They will receive a punch card to keep track of this attendance.

- **Ensemble Kickoff Camp:** Monday-Thursday, July 29-August 8 (*does not include Pre-Ensemble dancers*) / \$25 per dancer per dance
- **1 Convention** - More info under Financial Commitment.
- **Competitions:**
  - Pre-Ensemble: 1 Competition
  - Elite, Pre-Company & Company: 3 Competitions
- **Recital:** May 17, 2025 @ 1pm
- There are also occasions when our teams are asked to perform at local events. These events are fun, educational and great team building experiences!

### **\*NEW 24-25 Guest Artist Production Number:**

All Pre-Company and Company dancers who are in a lyrical, jazz or hip hop routine are required to participate in our guest artist production (dance style TBA). Rehearsals for this will be this summer tentatively August 23-25 and finalized on our Important Dates out soon. This will rehearse weekly on Mondays during the dance season like other competition dances. We are so excited to reveal this guest artist very soon and to compete a large number on the competition stage!

**Competitions:** Dancers will attend 3-4 competitions and 1 convention throughout the dance season. Please be aware that becoming a company member will require you to attend these competitions and conventions. All competitions are held on weekends and are a full day and possibly full weekend commitment. Competition management does not send the performance days and times to the studio until 5-7 days prior to the event. Dancers and parents will need to be available for the entire weekend until we know exact days and times of performances.

**Unexcused Absences:** This applies to all summer choreography and weekly team rehearsals.

- Unexcused absences include but are not limited to: school events that are not graded, other activities that are attended by choice, family vacations, etc. **Attendance will be strictly enforced.** There are only approximately 20 rehearsals per dance throughout the season. Missing any greatly reduces the quality of the final dance. You will need to communicate with other coaches/teachers about dance practice times.
- Attendance at rehearsals is extremely important. You are allowed **5 unexcused absences per class.** This includes your team classes, ballet, and required technique classes.
- Missing more than 5 times per required class can warrant removal from that team, removal of a solo/duet/trio, or be placed as an understudy for that dance.

**Team Commitment:** A \$50 Commitment fee will be charged at the beginning of the season. If you complete the season, we will refund your DSP account \$50 at the end of the season. Should you choose to leave the team after the season has already started you will not be refunded your \$50. This encourages each dancer to keep the commitment they promised at the beginning of the season when auditioning and accepting their competition dances.

**Understudy Roles:** We will be implementing more understudies for Pre-Company and Company dances this year. This is an amazing learning opportunity for dancers chosen to be understudies. Understudies don't pay for the class they are attending monthly but are expected to show up every week and have the opportunity to perform with the class at the annual recital. If you are placed in an understudy role, you are expected to accept this class, just like any other ensemble team. Not accepting the role(s) will result in not getting our Commitment Fee back at the end of the season.

### **Class Requirements**

Class requirements are to reflect our expectations for each style of dance. Technique will be required for **ALL** dancers unless they are only enrolled in only clogging or are a Pre-Ensemble member. Cloggers are required to take competitive or noncompetitive hip hop classes. See below for additional required

classes. These classes will be 45-60 minutes and will be mostly filled with strengthening, flexibility and dance technique. The technique class will run \$45 per dancer per month. Listed below are the styles of dances and what is required for each type.

### **Lyrical, Contemporary, Jazz, and Musical Theater**

- Dancers registered/interested in these styles will be required to take ballet and technique.

### **Hip Hop and Pom**

- Dancers registered/interested in ONLY this style will be required to take a jazz class and technique.

### **Clogging/Tap**

- Dancers registered/interested in this style will be required to take a noncompetitive or competitive hip hop.
- Clogging dancers will also be required to attend a mandatory rehearsal on the weekend leading up to each competition. These rehearsals will not last more than 3 hours.

EXAMPLE 1: Suzy wants to take clogging, musical theater, and lyrical. Therefore, she will be required to take hip hop, technique, and ballet as well.

EXAMPLE 2: Bobbie wants to take pom, hip hop, and clogging. Therefore, she will be required to take jazz and technique as well.

EXAMPLE 3: Jenny wants to take clogging. Therefore, she will be required to take a hip hop class as well.

**Additional Growth:** We **STRONGLY** encourage that each dancer takes studio classes outside of the required competition classes to keep up on the technique and expand on the dancer's knowledge. We strongly encourage tap or clogging as this aids in rhythm, teaches grounded movement, and most any convention we attend will require a tap session. If a dancer decides to take any non-required studio class, this class will only run \$25 per class. For example, if Betty is on a competition jazz team she can take a non-required studio jazz class for \$25.

### **Dress Code**

Dancers on the competition team will be required to wear all black tight fitted clothing to all competition classes. This aids in professionalism and helps when setting choreography. Dancers must wear their hair tightly pulled back and be wearing the correct shoes for the class they are attending. Team uniform is required to be worn to and from competitions as well as award ceremonies.

### **Financial Commitment**

Costs can vary greatly in our competitive ensemble. It is important to have payments on time otherwise the dancer may be asked to sit out of class if that dancer has a negative balance on their account over \$250. If you have questions about how much your commitment will cost, Brandy will be able to give you an estimate. Brandy will be at May 5 Auditions at 1 pm to go over potential costs with anyone interested and provide a cost analysis form for each specific dancer. Class pricing can be found on our website and we offer multi-class and autopay discounts.

**Commitment Fee:** \$50 Commitment fee that is reimbursed to your DSP account by completing the season. Dropping any dances after they have been assigned after auditions will result in not receiving this Commitment Fee back.

**Competition Cost:** Competition costs vary depending on the competition. On average, group pieces run \$55-\$65 per dancer, duets/trios run \$70-85 per dancer, solos run \$100-150 per dancer. We attend 3-4

competitions per year in the months of February-May. You will know those dates before the season begins. Pre-Ensemble only competes at one competition. Competition Dates TBD.

**Costume Cost:** Costumes can run anywhere between \$85 and \$175 per dancer per dance.

**Convention:** We attend 1-2 conventions in the fall. All dancers are required to attend at least one, unless they are only enrolled in only clogging. This cost runs anywhere from \$185 to \$275 depending on the age of the dancer.

Convention Dates:

- *Revel Dance Convention - Nov. 15-17 / Omaha, NE*

**Ensemble Fee:** \$50 - to be paid prior to kickoff camp.

**Choreography Fee:** \$25 per dancer per dance. Ensemble Kickoff Camp will be required Monday-Thursdays July 29-August 8 (schedule TBA). Kickoff Camp allows dancers to get back into gear and get a head start on choreography for the 2024-2025 season. This will be mandatory for all teams. This schedule will be coming out ASAP along with the full class schedule for the 2024-2025 dance season.

**Admin Fee:** \$15 per dancer per competition to cover travel, pay, and lodging for studio teachers and staff.

**Competitive Uniform:** All ensemble dancers are required to purchase the team uniform. This information will be going out after auditions. Uniforms range from \$200-\$300. If you purchased a uniform during season 2023-2024, you will not need to order again. We order new uniforms every 3 years. *Uniforms are not required for Pre-Ensemble dancers.*

**Please Note:** Competition dancers may also have the opportunity to travel to locations overnight or even over a weekend. Please be aware of any extra expenses that may occur such as food and lodging.

**Fundraising:** Every year we will offer four fundraising opportunities for dancers to get assistance with fees. Dancers are not required to participate in these fundraisers. This information will be passed out before classes start in the fall. Some dancers fundraised over \$450 in the 23-24 season!

**Fee Estimation:** Brandy will be at our auditions this year at 12pm to help estimate all fees and can create a payment plan to help with competition and costume fees. This way you can make pre-payments to your account over the summer so the financial load around the fall is lighter.

*\*Payment due dates for fees other than monthly tuition (due on the 25th of each month) will always be posted in our important dates that will be given/posted after auditions. You need to be checking your Dance Studio Pro accounts once a month to prevent missed fees, which can result in late fees.*

**Competition Jewelry:** Every year we will give new dancers on the team the team earrings and necklace at no cost. It is then the dancers responsibility to replace any lost or broken jewelry. Earrings \$20 and necklaces are \$25.

**Additional Rehearsals:** With school activities, some dances will need to have weekend rehearsals to make up this time if dancers miss practices. These will be charged \$5 per dancer per extra rehearsal.

## **Solo/Duet/Trio**

To be eligible for a solo, duet, or trio, the dancer must be in at least one group number. You must be invited to perform a solo, duet, or trio. Being a member of the ensemble does not guarantee a solo, duet, or trio. If you are interested in a competitive solo, please mark on your audition form. This cost includes choreography and 3 hours of rehearsal time.

- Solo: \$500 per solo
- Duet: \$650 per duet (\$325 per dancer)
- Trio: \$750 per trio (\$250 per dancer)

All solos, duets, and trios will be required to take a weekly rehearsal class to run dances. This will be a 45 minute class at \$40 per month. These dancers are also required to finish these dances by the time classes start in September or they are subject to losing their solo, duet, or trio.

## **BAND Application**

There is a separate band for competitive dancers. Parents/Guardians of Elements Dance Concept MUST download the BAND app to stay up to date with everything related to our season! All information is translated through BAND. BAND can also be accessed via a desktop.

### **BAND**

- Download the app to your phone
- In the search bar type "EDC Competition Ensemble"
- Select "Join This Band"
  - *\*Allow Notifications\**

## **Student Code of Conduct**

Ensemble members are required to be model students, teammates, and leaders. Our team represents our name and poor behavior and/or work ethic is grounds for removal from the team. Don't forget to have fun! You'll gain a lifetime of great memories and friendships during this time together so enjoy every second! We strive to make this the most positive and rewarding experience for our dancers and look forward to having another incredible and exciting dance season.

- **Social Media Policy:** Ensemble members will conduct themselves professionally and positively on all social media accounts. Any negative posts or private messages towards themselves, other dance studios or Elements Dance Concept will result in suspension or removal from the team. Absolutely no posting of foul language or engaging in unfavorable activities.
- **Social Media Agreement:** If your dancer has social media, they are requested to share and post all Elements posts as a way of showing support for the team they are part of. Please tag Elements in your dances post as well so we may showcase them on our social media!
- **Positivity Promise:** Ensemble members and parents will create a positive and inviting atmosphere on and off the team. In class, each dancer will work hard, take corrections, and come to class with a positive attitude. Inside the studio and lobbies, dancers and families are to keep conversations uplifting and use the golden rule.
- **Classroom Respect:** Dancers will treat teachers and classmates with respect, and if they are not, dancers will be pulled from their respective teams.
- **No Refunds:** If the dancer is removed from the team by violating the code of conduct, no refunds are given.

I, the signed, agree to the above terms including all of the policies stated in the Competition Ensemble Packet. I agree to keep up to date on BAND as well as Dance Studio Pro in order to make sure my dancer(s) accounts are up to date. I agree that if I do choose to join EDC Competition Ensemble, I will abide by the above rules and agree to the time and financial commitment.

**I, THE SIGNED, AGREE TO JOIN ALL OF THE TEAMS I AM ASSIGNED AFTER AUDITIONS.** *Including guest artist production and understudy roles.*

Parent Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_