

# the Dance Factory

## **Newsletter – June 2020**

**Link to Miss Kelly's Reading of the Newsletter - <https://youtu.be/A3diKMSxoVE>**

Dear Dance Factory Students and Families,

At the beginning of 2020 I could have never imagined the situation we would be facing today. This time of year and the month of June has kept a special place in my heart since our very first recital production in 2003. I love the energy in the dance room as we wrap up our last week of classes before recital; I look forward to the excitement of unloading our truck at Patriots Theater and seeing the set pieces and backdrops put together on stage; I cherish every single moment between welcoming the first dancer on day 1 of Dress Rehearsal to saying 'see you later' to the last dancer after our final show; and I feel honored to watch my graduating seniors give their final bow on stage. I know that I am not alone in my sentiments and that my Dance Factory instructors, staff, dancers, families, and friends treasure the joy that surrounds this time.

While this year may have turned out far different than ever expected, I would like to take this time to extend my deepest gratitude to Dance Factory families for sticking with us and making the most out of this situation. I hope you will also join me in sharing appreciation for your Dance Factory instructors who have worked hard to keep dancers motivated by posting videos, messages, and by hosting weekly Zoom classes, which we believe to have been the best alternative under these circumstances. Lastly, to my dancers, THANK YOU for keeping the DF spirit alive while we cannot meet in person.

The global pandemic situation and, more notably, its effect on our state has been constantly evolving and for this reason it has made planning for the future quite difficult. However, it has always remained my priority to keep our students safe and abide by the guidance provided by The State of New Jersey.

**Please continue to read this newsletter in its entirety as we will address many of the questions that you might have and it will provide important information surrounding our #UnitedWeDance recital, registration for the 2020-2021 dance season, and summer camps.**

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## **#UnitedWeDance Recital Production**

With all of the hard work, dedication, and planning that goes into each year's recital production, and the excitement that results from it, I have always felt that the only right way to produce this show is on stage at Patriots Theater without limitations or restrictions for allowed guests. The recital is a celebration of dancers and I aim to make this day as special as possible for all involved.

The instructors and I have discussed the necessity of dancers being able to dance together (and without masks) in the studio before bringing a finalized piece to the stage. For our more advanced dancers, it is also extremely important that they are prepared physically to perform at a high level.

**Given the aforementioned reasons and many other considerations, we have decided that our recital production, #UnitedWeDance, will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at Patriots Theater at the War Memorial.**

This theme, #UnitedWeDance, is perhaps more relevant and meaningful now than it was when we revealed it back in January. I am confident that there is no theme better suited for our next production than the one we were working on as the pandemic situation began to unfold. I promise to my dancers that my vision for this show will come to fruition and they will perform #UnitedWeDance on stage in 2021.

**Since there will be no recital this year, all paid recital fees will carry over to the 2020-2021 dance season.** We will also be holding costumes and distributing next year in order to guarantee that we can do proper size exchanges as needed.

When we begin our 2020-2021 dance season in the fall, classes will focus heavily on technique, strengthening, conditioning, and fostering personal connection. Recital dances will not be revisited until January/February of 2021 so that instructors can focus on providing a well-rounded dance education.

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## 2020-2021 Registration

Next year's class schedule will remain as close as possible to the current class schedule. This will allow for instructors to build on and continue the progress and class synergy from this current dance season.

- All dancers will receive 2020-2021 class recommendations via e-mail by June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Registration will be held at The Dance Factory on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 12-3pm.** We will be doing 'drive by' registration so that you can remain in your car and limit personal contact. Only the registration fee will be due at this time.
- **In lieu of in-person evaluations, we will be using a Google Form link for dancers to complete if they are interested in adding a new class genre next year. Please complete the form at the following link: <https://forms.gle/LJektx6fz1QqaCYn7>**
- Additional information and full instructions for registration will be provided by e-mail when personal class recommendations are sent on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## 2020 Summer Camps

The dancing continues and we will still hold summer camps this year! Camps will be held via Zoom, in a shorter format, with prices reduced to reflect these changes. **Revised summer camp forms are included as attachments.**

All previously received registrations and payments will be destroyed (no check payments have been deposited).

- **If you registered for a 2020 summer camp and would still like to participate, you will need to send in a new registration form and payment by check.** Please use the new registration form attached and take note of the reduced camp fee.
- **If you have registered for a 2020 summer camp and no longer wish to continue with the camp, no further action is required.** Your check and registration form will be destroyed.

If you are interested in joining any of our Zoom dance camps this year, please fill out the appropriate form and mail to our studio with check payment. You can also drop off forms when the studio is open from 4-7pm on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> (mentioned below).

*2020 Summer Tour Team: Due to the nature of the camp and continued safety concerns regarding performing in the community, the only camp that will not be running is Summer Tour Team (July and August weeks). No payments have been deposited and we will destroy any received checks.*

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## Upcoming Schedule and Important Dates

**June 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>: Last week of Zoom classes** and 'Wellness Week'.

**June 11<sup>th</sup>:** Photo/video submission deadline – send to [dancefactory1@gmail.com](mailto:dancefactory1@gmail.com). Dancers can send in video clips of the choreography taught by instructors during Zoom classes. **We also encourage dancers and parents to send us pictures or videos from Holiday Observation or Zoom class participation.** We will be sending out a special video message on the morning of June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and would love for all dancers to be a part of this video.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> (4-7pm):** Studio open (outdoors). Social distancing and guidelines will be put in place. We invite you to visit us during one of these days for the following (*more details to come*):

- **#UnitedWeDance Recital Wear:** Pre-orders are available for pickup. We have also ordered extra so you can purchase a tank, T-shirt, and/or sweatshirt at this time.
- **Award Recipients:** If you are receiving a 3, 5, 8, 10, 12 or 15 year award this year, please stop by to pick up your award. **The complete list of award recipients is attached – congratulations to all for your dedication!**
- We also encourage dancers to stop by and take a picture with their teachers!

As always, if you have any questions regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Sending Love and Light,

Kelly McDermott, Studio Director