

#UnitedWeDance Recital and Studio Updates

Dear Dance Factory Families and Students,

We are happy to share with you some important information regarding our #UnitedWeDance 2021 Recital! **Please read this entire newsletter carefully as it contains several updates and important details.**

As you are aware, this year's recital will look slightly different due to the pandemic. **We want to reassure you that we continue to make our students' and families' safety and health our number one priority during this time.** We are so excited to finally give our dancers the opportunity to perform in a safe and fun environment!

#UnitedWeDance Recital 2021

Due to capacity limits and COVID restrictions, we will not be having a complete all-studio production on one day as we normally do. Instead, we will be holding **Recital Filming Week from Monday, June 7th through Saturday, June 12th at Patriots Theater at the War Memorial (Trenton, NJ).** Preliminary details are as follows:

- Each class will receive a specified timeslot to arrive at Patriots Theater (Trenton, NJ).
- Classes will be held in socially distanced waiting rooms until it is their time to use the stage. Dancers will then perform their recital dance twice: one time for parents and family to record/take pictures and a second time for our professional videographer to film.
- **Information regarding your dancer's timeslot(s) and day(s) of filming will be published and sent to you in April so that you can plan accordingly.**
- After filming week, our videographer will compile each dance and publish three recital videos for your viewing. More information regarding a live stream of the #UnitedWeDance 2021 recital production will be published in April. DVDs will also be available for purchase as usual.

Filming Week Safety Precautions

- **Dancers are expected to arrive performance-ready at the theater— dressed in full costume/accessories with hair and makeup complete according to the directions that will be provided with costumes.** There will be very limited access to bathrooms for changing purposes.
 - If your dancer has 2 or more classes being recorded on the same day, we will have a socially distanced changing area to prevent bathroom crowding. Dancers and families will be instructed to wait in specified holding rooms when waiting for their next class to perform.
- **All dancers and family members will be required to wear a mask at all times, including while dancing on stage.**
- **Tickets:** Dancers will receive 5 tickets per class to distribute to family members. Dancers will not need a ticket. In order to control capacity limits, we ask that you please bring no more than 5 people per filming slot to accompany your dancer to the theater. Each person accompanying your dancer at the specified timeslot must come with a ticket with the correct day, time, and class to enter the theater. **More Information regarding ticket pickup will come in April.**

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Recital Costumes

The majority of costumes have been delivered and are ready to be distributed to your dancers! Most costumes will be labeled and given out to your dancers throughout the month of February. This year we will not be putting costumes on hangers and will instead be giving your dancers labeled costumes in plastic bags so that we can reduce as many contact points as possible. **After your dancer receives his/her costume, please try it on to make sure it fits, make sure there are no missing pieces, and place the costume(s) on a hanger.** Please also ensure your account is up to date, and if you have any questions about an outstanding balance, do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail (dancefactory1@gmail.com)!

We thank you for your continued patience as we learn how to navigate a recital during a pandemic. We could not be more excited to get all of your dancers back up on stage! More details and updates about any changes will follow in the coming weeks!

Studio Updates/Zoom Classes

As we get closer to the recital filming week, it is important that our students get the opportunity to practice together as one class. At our current enrollment, we have room for every dancer to come to classes in person. Dancers will continue to dance inside 6 ft by 6 ft squares, receive temperature checks before class, wear masks at all times, and use specified entrances and exits to prevent crowding. If your dancer is currently on Zoom and wants to participate in the 2021 recital, they must come into the studio to practice with their class by April 19th at the latest.

As vaccines are becoming more available, we are optimistic that many of you will feel comfortable allowing your dancers to dance in person while we continue to follow all CDC guidelines and clean in between each class. We understand that there are circumstances in which you cannot allow your dancer in the studio or at the recital filming week. **If you plan not to participate in the recital filming week, we ask that you please let us know via email by March 15th.**

Those currently on Zoom who wish to start coming in person right away are welcome to come into the studio beginning **Monday, February 8th!** Zoom meetings will always be an option to take class from home in the case that your dancer or a family member has tested positive for COVID-19, exhibits any COVID-related symptoms, or has been in contact with someone who has COVID-19. It is important to us that our dancers feel prepared and proud of the final product they put on stage!

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to us!

Sending Love and Light,

Miss Kelly and The Dance Factory Staff