

Class Descriptions

Creative Dance 1, 2 and 3

Our Creative Dance classes offer an introduction to contemporary dance. Classes deliver a balance of creative exercises and technique to build confidence and ability. There are sharing opportunities throughout the year and enrolment is through age rather than experience.

Although you do not need to have attended our Creative Dance classes to enrol in our Youth Performance Companies, Creative Dance offers a solid grounding for progression to our older companies.

Jump

Designed for young people aged 10-13 years, Jump is a performance company that acts as a great starting point for those wanting to perform. It's the perfect progression for anyone who has attended our Creative Dance or drop-in classes. This is, however, not a requirement as it's equally accessible to anyone looking to start their dance practice.

Led by artist Danni Louise Chell, Jump focus on creating their own choreography, developing performance skills, and working toward performance opportunities in the region (see FAQ: Performance Opportunities).

Incompany

Designed for ages 13-19 years, Incompany is our all-girls performance company. Primarily concentrating on contemporary technique, Incompany also looks at a variety of styles to develop an understanding of the world of dance. Performance skills are developed as members work toward regional performance opportunities (see FAQ: Performance Opportunities). Dance artist Rosy Pilsworth leads this company.

Bounceback

Designed for ages 13-19 years, Bounceback is our audition only performance company (see FAQ: Audition Process). Placing equal emphasis on creativity and technique, the class focuses on contemporary dance techniques and devices used to create choreography.

Co-led by dance artists Megan Smith and Daniel Longhurst, Bounceback work towards performance opportunities at a regional and national level (see FAQ: Performance Opportunities). It is an excellent starting point for young people who are considering studying dance art at college or university.

Youth Dance and Circus

Designed for ages 10-18 years (school years 6 - 13), our Youth Dance and Circus companies fuse dance and acrobatics with aerial skills. These companies are audition only (see FAQ: Audition Process). Our Dance Development and Learning Coordinator, Isobel Davis, leads this company and recent development opportunities have included training workshops with the National Centre for Circus Arts in London.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you need experience?

No, we are proud to offer classes that are accessible to those from both a dance and non-dance background. Once enrolled, we ask for a termly commitment so that our tutors have the time to build your technique and ability. Prior to this, you do not need to have any previous experience.

Our Youth Dance and Circus Company, and Bounceback, are the only companies that require an audition before enrolment. These are open auditions so, although some dance experience may aid your audition, you do not need to have any dance experience beforehand and we welcome everyone, regardless of background or experience, to apply.

Our auditions for these companies happen annually. Please contact Isobel Davis, our Dance Development and Learning Coordinator, for further information at i.davis@deda.uk.com.

Audition Process: What do you need to prepare for auditions?

Our open auditions do not require you to prepare anything in advance. For information about a specific audition, please contact Isobel Davis, our Dance Development and Learning Coordinator, at i.davis@deda.uk.com.

Our general audition process involves taking part in a contemporary class and learning repertoire as part of a large group. You will perform the repertoire in small groups, never solo. In addition, you will have a creative task to respond to but, again, this will be as part of a group. We do not ask you to perform solo or prepare anything in advance.

Do you have to perform?

Our Creative Dance courses include sharing opportunities throughout the year. If you are concerned about performing, please speak with our Box Office or the class tutor so we can adapt to your child's needs accordingly.

Our Youth Performance Companies (Jump, Bounceback, Incompany and Youth Dance and Circus) work toward performance opportunities so performing is a requirement.

Performance Opportunities

All of our Youth Performance Companies work toward performance opportunities at a regional and national level. This includes entering national platforms, including U.Dance, and exploring development opportunities, including with the Dance4 Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) programme. In addition, our Dance Development and Learning team regularly source further performance opportunities.

Why do we run these classes as courses?

As our tutor's focus on building technique and ability, we do ask that you make the commitment to attend. Payment is therefore required, in advance, either half-termly or termly.

What does a typical lesson involve?

Each company class offers a balance between learning technique and exploring creative exercises. Tutors use this to build a strong foundation for developing performance and choreographic skills.

What styles of dance are covered?

Contemporary dance is the focus of our Youth Performance Companies and Creative Dance classes. Our tutors use their experience and expertise to offer a broad range of Contemporary Dance techniques throughout their teaching. On occasion, performance opportunities can lead to classes exploring other styles. However, contemporary dance remains the sole focus of these classes.

What kind of music is used?

Our classes use a broad variety of music to suit exercises and compliment exploration of practice. This also develops musicality and knowledge of a wide range of styles.

When can I join?

We offer taster sessions, for non-audition companies, at the start or end of the term (our term dates are on our website at www.deda.uk.com/classes). This allows you to try a class, before payment, to see if it suits you. There is no commitment to enrol once you have attended a taster unless you wish to do so. Pre-booking is required so please call our Box Office on 01332 370911 to book your taster session.

Once you have decided to join, you can do so at any time of the year but, as payments are half-termly, it ideally needs to be at the start of a new half term. If our classes are working toward a performance opportunity, we may ask you to wait until the following term. However, our Box Office will advise you of this when booking so you do not need to worry if this is not the case.