

# Parent and Student Handbook

## 2024/2025



**CENTER** for **DANCE**

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**VASHON CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

**Where Dance is for EVERYBODY**

**E**ducate

**C**reate

**I**nspire

## **Welcome to Vashon Center for Dance!**

Vashon Center for Dance (VCD) is honored to have served the Vashon Community for more than 2 decades. Our 2 spacious studios are in the historic Oddfellows Hall, which we refer to as the “Blue Heron Education Center”. Our studios are equipped with sprung Marley floors and regulation-height barres. Our amazing teaching staff are a group of credentialed and experienced professionals that share a love for people, dance and performing. For Fall 2024, we are hosting 37 classes per week, and we will produce 3 full-scale productions in the Katherine L. White Hall.

Thank you for choosing Vashon Center for Dance. We look forward to dancing with you.



Ms. Vadne  
Director of Dance  
vadne@vashoncenterfordance.org

Vashon Center for Dance reserves the right to change without notice any statement in this handbook concerning, but not limited to, rules, policies, tuition, admission, scholarships, evaluations, and curricula.

## **Diversity and Inclusion**

At Vashon Center for Dance, we celebrate diversity in all aspects of the work we do and support an environment of inclusion, racial equity, and social justice in our programming and operations. We welcome all individuals to our campus and steward them with respect and dignity. We hold our patrons and all affiliates to the same standard: our home is a center for all, regardless of race, place of origin, sex, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or class.

## Table of Contents

OUR PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM .....	4
PROMOTIONS AND CONFERENCES.....	5
CLASS JOURNAL.....	5
CLASS OBSERVATION .....	6
OUTSIDE DANCE INSTRUCTION .....	6
CLASS ASSISTANTS .....	6
REGISTRATION AND TUITION.....	7
REGISTRATION & ENROLLMENT .....	7
TUITION POLICIES.....	7
SCHOLARSHIPS .....	7
SUPPORTING VASHON CENTER FOR DANCE.....	8
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES .....	8
SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.....	9
CODE OF CONDUCT.....	9
CLASS AND BUILDING CONDUCT .....	10
ATTENDANCE .....	12
DRESS CODE .....	13
CLASS COLORS.....	13
HYGIENE .....	14
PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES .....	14
YOUTH DIVISION .....	14
STUDENT DIVISION.....	15
RECREATIONAL DANCE DIVISION.....	15
<i>The Nutcracker</i> .....	15
<i>Original Works</i> .....	16
ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT .....	16

## OUR PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM

We are proud to offer a robust progressive curriculum to Vashon! Below is a chart that shows the progression through our offerings:

<i>Class</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Shoes</i>	<i>Class Color</i>
<b>Pre-School Division</b>			
Creative Movement	Once Weekly	Ballet Flats	Pink
<b>Kinder Division</b>			
First Steps Ballet/Tap	Once Weekly	Ballet Flats/Black Tap Shoes	Pink
Second Steps	Once Weekly	Ballet Flats/Black Tap Shoes	Pink
<b>Student Division</b>			
Beginning Ballet	Once Weekly	Ballet Flats	Lavender
Beginning Tap	Once Weekly	Black Tap Shoes	Lavender
Beginning/Intermediate Ballet	Twice Weekly	Ballet Flats	Royal Blue
Beginning/Intermediate Ballet Rehearsal	Once Weekly	Ballet Flats	Royal Blue
Beginning/Intermediate Tap	Once Weekly	Black Tap Shoes	Royal Blue
Beginning Modern & Choreography	Once Weekly	Bare Feet	Royal Blue
Intermediate Ballet	Twice Weekly	Ballet Flats	Hunter Green
Intermediate Ballet Rehearsal	Once Weekly	Ballet Flats	Hunter Green
Intermediate Tap	Once Weekly	Black Tap Shoes	Hunter Green
Intermediate Modern & Choreography	Once Weekly	Bare Feet	Hunter Green
Intermediate Lyrical & Contemporary	Once Weekly	Dance Socks & Bare Feet	Hunter Green
Intermediate Jazz	Once Weekly	Black Jazz Shoes	Hunter Green
Advanced/Intermediate Ballet	Twice Weekly	Ballet Flats/Pointe Shoes	Navy Blue
Advanced/Intermediate Ballet Rehearsal	Once Weekly	Ballet Flats/Pointe Shoes	Navy Blue
Intermediate Tap	Once Weekly	Black Tap Shoes	Navy Blue
Intermediate Modern & Choreography	Once Weekly	Bare Feet	Navy Blue
Intermediate Lyrical & Contemporary	Once Weekly	Dance Socks & Bare Feet	Navy Blue
Intermediate Jazz	Once Weekly	Black Jazz Shoes	Navy Blue
BHDC/Advanced Ballet	Twice Weekly	Ballet Flats/Pointe Shoes	Black
BHDC Rehearsal	Twice Weekly	Ballet Flats/Pointe Shoes	Black
Advanced Modern	Once Weekly	Bare Feet	Black
Advanced Contemporary	Once Weekly	Dance Socks & Bare Feet	Black
Advanced Lyrical	Once Weekly	Dance Socks/Bare Feet/Pointe Shoes	Black
Pre-professional Pointe and Variations	Once Weekly	Pointe Shoes	Black
Running Start Class	Twice Weekly	Dance Socks/Bare Feet/Ballet Flats/Pointe Shoes	
BHDC Tap	Once Weekly	Black Tap Shoes	
<b>Adult/Recreational Division</b>			
Adult Beginning Ballet	Once Weekly	Ballet Flats	
Adult Intermediate Ballet (daytime)	Once Weekly	Ballet Flats	
Adult Intermediate Ballet (evening)	Once Weekly	Ballet Flats	
Adult Tap	Once Weekly	Tap Shoes	
Adult Contemporary	Once Weekly	Dance Socks & Bare Feet	

Preschool and Kinder Division classes, which include Creative Movement, First Steps Ballet/Tap, and Second Steps Ballet/Tap have an Open Enrollment policy based on age of the student. Students enrolled in Second Step Ballet/Tap classes are evaluated in the spring by the VCD School Faculty for readiness for Beginning Ballet and Beginning Tap in the

Student Division. Preschool and Kinder Division students who are able to focus for the entirety of class, demonstrate an understanding of the studio rules, follow instructions, and participate fully in the class activities are ready for advancement to the Student Division.

In the Student Division (Beginning-Advanced levels), returning students are evaluated each year for advancement to the next level. It is common for a student to study 2 or more years in each level. Students may be invited to take a portion of the class above their assigned level if they are ready for a challenge, but not yet technically advanced enough for the entire class. VCD strongly recommends, as is customary in classical dance schools, that students also attend classes at the level from which they most recently graduated. This is a zero-cost way to acquire more training and fine-tune technical skills.

Our Adult/Recreational Division provides classes for adults in ballet, tap and contemporary (currently). We often add classes when we get requests, so please let us know if you are interested in something we do not currently offer! Adults are often needed for roles in our productions, so performing is an option open to our adult students.

## **PROMOTIONS AND CONFERENCES**

Once in the Student Division, promotions are determined by the teachers and Director, who base their decisions on the dancers' technical abilities, artistry, class behavior, and attendance. Conferences are offered each year for students in Intermediate+ (Level 4) to discuss progress and goals. The teacher, student and their grown-ups may discuss effort, attendance, technical development, strengths and areas of growth, conduct, potential, goals, and suggestions for improvement. Conferences are aimed at gaining alignment between the student, grown-up(s), and teacher(s) so the student is able to have the best dance experience possible. Students are expected to take notes in their class journal (see below) during the conference to use as a reference during the school year.

Ms. Vadne is always available to answer any questions or hear concerns throughout the year.

## **CLASS JOURNAL**

All students in Intermediate Ballet and above are strongly encouraged to keep a class journal to record corrections and conference notes. We have Vashon Center for Dance notebooks available for \$5.00 (see Ms Vadne), and any spiral notebook is acceptable. Students are expected to carry this notebook with them every time they come to the studio. We recommend that at the end of each class, each student record all corrections received personally or to the class in general. Students should review their journal frequently to refresh what to think about and work on while in class or rehearsal. If there is something about which the student needs clarification, they should ask the teacher who made the correction for clarification. After a time, students come to appreciate journaling as an effective tool for progress and comprehension.

## **CLASS OBSERVATION**

Parents/guardians are invited to observe class at any time through the viewing window (upstairs studio) or by Zoom for classes held in the downstairs studio. It is so much fun to watch your kiddos, but please be sensitive that your presence may impact the comfort of other students, or even that of your own child. Students deeply want to impress their family and friends, so any visitors may cause your dancer, or someone else's, to be distracted. For little ones, a parent or guardian in view gives them a reason to ask to leave, which is counterproductive to remaining focused in class. If you are going to stay in the waiting area for the duration of class, please make every effort to not interrupt class by entering the classroom, taking photos/video without permission, opening the door and addressing any child or teacher, waving at the kids through the window, or making excessive noise. Of course, teachers understand that occasional exceptions need to be made. But class time belongs to the students, and they should be afforded a productive learning experience.

## **OUTSIDE DANCE INSTRUCTION**

VCD makes every effort to deliver a complete dance education in each style of dance offered. As educators, we feel it is our duty to prepare our students for their eventual graduation from our program and subsequently train collegiately or with a conservatory school. To this end, the Education Staff feels it is important for students to experience other teachers and styles of dance not offered at VCD. This is unusual in the dance world: many schools forbid their enrolled students from taking classes at other schools. Since our students receive excellent training, it is not unusual for them to receive offers from other studios. Our position: Unless it is a school associated with a professional company (PNB Ballet School, as an example), beware of any teacher or administrator that encourages departure from VCD to train exclusively at another school. Their motives may not be in the best interest of the student. VCD's teachers and staff are approachable, want what is best for every student and family, and are happy to objectively discuss these offers so that the student and grown-up(s) have all the facts necessary to make an informed decision.

## **CLASS ASSISTANTS**

Class Assistants are needed! This is a wonderful way to earn your Community Service hours required for graduation, help your studio, gain work experience, and give back for being awarded scholarships. If you would like to be considered, please notify Ms. Vadne.

## REGISTRATION AND TUITION

### REGISTRATION & ENROLLMENT

Families/Students must register by first creating an account in Jackrabbit, our registration system. Once an account is created, students may enroll for classes. New students may try a class free of charge by contacting our registrar ([Joy@vashoncenterforthearts.org](mailto:Joy@vashoncenterforthearts.org)) after they create an account. Links to create a family account and to enroll in classes can be found on our website: [www.vashoncenterforthearts.org/dance](http://www.vashoncenterforthearts.org/dance).

Enrollment closes on the first day of class. If you would like to enroll after classes begin, reach out to Joy.

### TUITION POLICIES

Tuition is due upon enrollment unless a payment plan has been set up.

Students admitted after the term has begun are eligible to pay a pro-rated amount. Please see the Registrar to make pro-rated arrangements. Additionally, students are eligible for pro-rated tuition if they must withdraw from classes due to prolonged illness, injury, or other unforeseen circumstances, and upon approval of the Director of Dance.

Enrollment in a camp or class may be canceled 8 business days or more prior to the start date to receive a full refund. Cancellations made 7 or fewer business days in advance will receive a 50% refund for the camp/class. No refunds will be issued after a camp/class has begun. If a day of a class or camp is canceled by VCA, we will offer a make-up class or a prorated refund for the missed day. In the event that a camp/class is canceled by VCA, a full refund will be given. We understand that life happens, so PLEASE contact Ms. Vadne or our registrar, Joy, if your circumstances require an exception to the policies.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship program that Vashon Center for Dance enjoys is unprecedented and is gifted directly from the Vashon community. We must demonstrate our appreciation by adhering to the policies regarding application deadlines, attendance and make-up classes, and volunteering.

Financial Aid scholarship support is granted on a semester-by-semester basis and is determined at the beginning of the new term after the application deadline. Previously awarded financial aid does not transfer from term to term; families must reapply. Previous awards do not guarantee assistance each term.

### **To apply for a scholarship:**

1. Enroll in your desired classes through our website. You will need to have a credit or debit card on file on your account (it will prompt you to enter this info). At check out, it will show the full price of the class(es) and ask you to "accept enrollment fees and continue" - click that button (your card will not be charged until your application has been processed). After clicking that button, you will receive a confirmation email which means that your spots have been secured in your classes.
2. Immediately after you enroll in classes, go to the scholarship tab of our website and fill out the scholarship application. Your application must be submitted within 1 hour of enrollment to ensure that you do not get charged the full tuition amount.
3. Joy will apply your scholarship funds, charge your card on file for the remaining amount due for the class, and send you your receipt. If you are awarded a lesser amount than requested in your application, she will notify you and wait up to 7 days to hear back from you before charging your card for the remaining balance. If you requested a payment plan, she will communicate with you about how the payments have been split.

Financial assistance is determined by a panel of Artistic, Board and Administrative staff, and is based on financial need, and class attendance and participation are considered. Those who receive scholarship awards are obligated to attend their enrolled classes. If a class is missed, the student is encouraged to make it up in another class, to be approved by the teacher.

Classes and workshops taught by guest artists may not be open for scholarships (to be determined before registration for these offerings opens).

Private Lessons are excluded from the scholarship program.

If VCD rules or policies are violated, the student and parents must meet with Ms. Vadne to discuss the matter. Repeated/serious violations may affect scholarship eligibility.

## **SUPPORTING VASHON CENTER FOR DANCE**

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

We need your time. We need your expertise. We need your brawn. We need your talents. Our volunteers, organized by our staff and team of Parent Advisors, are one of our biggest assets. We reward volunteerism with free tickets to our shows, performance-day goodies, comradery, and big thank yous. There is not a more fabulous group of people on the island, and we are always looking for more help. Some volunteer opportunities related to performances include:



- Green Room Attendants: helping with the little ones before and during the performances
  - Team Leads: organize a team of volunteers for one aspect of the production – Sets, Front of House, Floor Team, as examples
  - Floor Team: roll-out and tape-down our dance floor on the stage at the theater
  - Set Construction: build, paint, repair, re-purpose set pieces
  - Stage Runners: lead groups of dancers to and from the stage
  - Costume Helper: assist Kate with ironing, mending, hand sewing and help dancers with costumes
  - Props Manager: make sure props are in place and in good condition for the show
  - Stagehand: help with the curtain, set pieces, and show equipment
  - Strike: after the show, taking EVERYTHING out of the theater and back to storage
  - Front of House: decorate the lobby, sell goodies and merchandise
  - Flowers: procure and arrange flowers to sell in the lobby
- On-going volunteer opportunities include:
- Photography for marketing materials
  - Fundraising campaigns
  - Outreach projects
  - Studio clean-up and build projects
  - Special events for students

## **SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

It is the policy of Vashon Center for Dance to maintain a positive, healthy and productive learning and working environment for all students, staff and volunteers. EVERYONE deserves to feel safe here.

VCD students are expected to behave in a responsible and disciplined manner and to adhere to the school rules and regulations. Students are expected to treat VCD staff, volunteers, fellow students and VCA facilities with respect and to maintain a positive attitude. We strive to ensure that all rules are clear and reasonable. Students are expected to observe the established Code of Conduct.

VCD reserves the right to suspend or dismiss any student whose conduct is found to conflict with our rules. Please respect the expertise and decisions of the VCD School faculty and staff.

### **The following are absolutely forbidden at Vashon Center for Dance:**

- Firearms/Weapons: Any student/teacher/staff member possessing a firearm, explosive, knife, incendiary device, or any other weapon without a government issued permit will be expelled or terminated.

- Physical intimidation or injury
- Any student/teacher/staff member possessing, buying/selling, using, or under the influence of alcohol or regulated drugs (including marijuana), or any person providing alcohol or drugs (including prescription drugs) to another person will be expelled or terminated. If Ms. Vadne has reason to suspect a student is “using,” it will result in a conference with the student and parents – because we love you.
- Self-destructive behavior
- Sexual harassment
- Smoking and vaping: It is bad for you AND it is against the law to use tobacco if you are under the age of 18. Please do not smoke or vape anywhere on VCD grounds.
- Theft
- Verbal abuse, bullying, intimidation, or harassment of any kind
- Improper use of the internet
- Willful destruction or misuse of VCD or another person’s property
- Photography and/or video recording in VCD studios without permission from VCD staff.

Any of the above actions will be reported immediately to the Director, who will, in consult with Vashon Center for the Arts faculty and attorneys, decide appropriate disciplinary action. Penalties may include but are not limited to probation, loss of scholarship, suspension, or expulsion.

## **CLASS AND BUILDING CONDUCT**

Vashon Center for Dance teachers and staff are here to provide every student with a positive dance experience. Allowing our teachers to focus on this effort, instead of delivering frequent reminders about appropriate behavior, will keep the environment positive. These “rules” are practical in that they allow the teachers to better train the dancers, keep the dancers safe, extend the life of our equipment, and promote respect. A note on RESPECT: All students, parents, guests, teachers, and staff must treat all students, parents, guests, teachers and staff with respect. Ballet is a 500-year-old art form born in the royal courts, and as such, requires respectful behavior. Most problems will not occur if RESPECT is consistently practiced.

- All teachers should be addressed by their preferred name and pronouns. Your teacher will tell you how to address them. As an example, our old-fashioned Director is called “Ms Vadne.”
- All students will be addressed by their preferred name and pronouns. If names and pronouns change, teachers and fellow students will change how we address the student.
- BE ON TIME, READY TO DANCE. When a student is late, they miss a critical part of the warmup, miss the discussion about the plan for that class, cause disruption, and experience a delay in the mental preparation required to switch from school/home/friend life to dance class. Many schools will not allow a student to physically participate in class if they are more than 10 minutes late, and are instead made to sit and watch class or are sent home. Here, we are sometimes constrained and impacted by a ferry commute, so

we absolutely understand that tardiness occurs. If you are late, enter the studio and wait by the door for the teacher to signal you to join class. To make sure you have your equipment, please check dance bags before leaving home for hair accessories, shoes, clean bodywear, etc. We understand that *life happens* and we are all occasionally late and unprepared for class, but chronic issues are considered disrespectful to the teacher and other students.

- **Class Interruptions:** A focused learning environment is a productive one. Interruptions should be avoided. Repetitive requests for water, to talk to mommy, to find a different pair of shoes, to fix their hair, are some common examples of unnecessary interruptions by students. Parents opening the door to talk to the teacher or their child, or distracting the students through the glass should be avoided except when necessary. Remember, interruptions distract the WHOLE CLASS.
- **Water Breaks:** Water breaks will be given during class at the teacher's discretion. Water bottles are allowed at the barre when the temperature is warm. Otherwise, they should be left in the waiting room (upstairs) or in cubbies (downstairs). If brought to barre, inevitably they get kicked, spilled, etc. Please do not ask for water breaks (See Class Interruptions) except in the case of headaches or extremely dry throat.
- **Food:** Please do not bring food into the dance spaces. Food is allowed downstairs only. Food left behind attracts insects and vermin, and spills can ruin expensive dance shoes. To help keep our studio clean and sanitary, please clean up after yourself.
- **Street Shoes:** There are no street shoes on the dance floors. Dance training often requires floor work, and we want our floors to remain clean because our skin may be in direct contact with them.
- **Talking:** this is generally considered disrespectful behavior in any classroom environment, and it is especially true in a dance class. Except for Musical Theater, dancing is a non-verbal art, and so we must train appropriately. Avoid talking during and between exercises at the barre or at center, and while the teacher is demonstrating and/or instructing.
- **Studio Equipment:** Studio Equipment should not be used, touched, or moved without permission. This includes the mirrors, pianos, sound equipment, percussion instruments, fans, de-humidifier, blinds/shades, white boards, etc. If you would like to borrow something, simply ask. The answer will almost always be "yes".
- **Running:** It is generally considered inappropriate to run around in a dance studio. We understand that children like to run in open spaces, so they will be instructed to travel via *chassés*, skips, *bourrés*, or some other travelling dance step.
- **Dress Code:** Students that follow the dress code will receive better training, and will progress faster than those who do not. Examples of dress code violations and their effects: Baggy clothes inhibit the teacher and the student from seeing postural placement and shape of the arms, knees, ankles. Bright colors and patterns distract the eye, and musculature and alignment are difficult to identify. Lack of proper shoes will cause injury as the floors are designed to work specifically with dance shoes.
- **Hair:** Hair must be out of the face for all classes. For Ballet Classes, hair must be in a bun. Hair that is hanging in the face or flopping around inhibits the dancer from learning how

to turn properly and creates bad habits (wiping hair out of the face) that show up on stage. Spare supplies for hair can be found in (and donated to) the dressing room. Please do not put your hair up in the studio as it leaves hair on the floor.

- Personal devices: At times, we use cell phones as rehearsal and learning tools to make notes, watch videos, record choreography, etc. However, there is no reason, except in the case of family emergencies, where a student should be talking, texting, swiping, posting, or scrolling on a cell phone during a class. All unauthorized cell phone usage during class, rehearsal or performances will result in confiscation of the device, to be returned to the parent only.
- Restrooms: Please clean up after yourself. Used paper towels are to be deposited in the waste basket.
- The Barres: Barres are intended as a training tool to develop balance and turn-out. Avoid hanging, swinging, leaning, yourself or your belongings on the barres.
- *Au revoir*: At the conclusion of every class, a *Révérence* is danced, and the students will take a moment to reflect, thank each other and their teacher.

These are standard rules for any respectable studio in the business of providing classical dance instruction. Since we strive to be a nurturing environment, gentle and constructive reminders will be provided when needed. Chronic problems will be considered a respect issue and will result in a conference with the student and parent.

## ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and rehearsals. Students or their families should report all absences prior to class time. For the safety of our students, we will contact the parents immediately if a student is missing from class without prior communication. Students at the Advanced/Intermediate and Advanced levels who are injured are expected to take notes while observing class if it does not aggravate the injury. Attendance is critical to consistent progress and advancement. Missing rehearsals impacts the choreographer and all the other dancers in the piece. Poor attendance will jeopardize a student's placement, participation in productions, or scholarship awards. Missed classes may be made up by attending a lower level class (at the teacher's discretion).

## DRESS CODE

Dance clothes should be clean, holes should be mended, proper shoes must be worn, and hair must be appropriate for the style of dance. Jewelry should be limited to wedding rings and earrings that are less than 1 inch in length. Long earrings, necklaces, bracelets, etc. are dangerous because they fall off, get caught on things, and scrape others, as a few examples.

Hair should be pulled back and out of the face for all dance classes. For ballet classes at the Beginning/Intermediate level and above, long hair should be in a bun.

Vashon Center for Dance welcomes darker shades of tights and shoes that appropriately match the dancer's individual skin tone.



If purchasing from [www.discountdance.com](http://www.discountdance.com), please use # TP 120973 when ordering so our school can get credit to be used for our costume requirements. This helps us keep the costume costs, and the resulting performance fees, low.

When in public, arriving and departing the studio, please wear street shoes and clothes over dance apparel. Please do not wear your dance shoes outside. Any shoes worn outside are not permitted on the dance floors. Most dance styles require floor work where our skin may be in direct contact with the floor.

## CLASS COLORS

### Pink

- Creative Movement
- First Steps Ballet/Tap
- Second Steps Ballet/Tap

### Lavender

- Beginning Ballet
- Beginning Tap

### Royal Blue

- Beginning/Intermediate Ballet
- Beginning/Intermediate Tap
- Beginning Modern & Choreography

### Hunter Green

- Intermediate Ballet
- Intermediate Jazz

- Intermediate Tap
- Intermediate Modern & Choreography
- Intermediate Lyrical & Contemporary

Navy Blue

- Advanced/Intermediate Ballet

Black

- Blue Heron Dance Company
- Advanced Classes

## HYGIENE

As a courtesy to staff, faculty and fellow students, please use deodorant. It works on your feet too. Personal hygiene will be confidentially addressed if needed, but as it will be uncomfortable, please do what you can to avoid the need.

Dance apparel should be laundered on a regular basis. It is suggested that multiples of each dress code item be purchased so that clean items can be worn to each class. Tights with holes and stains are frowned-upon as we are studying a classical art form, though we do understand that *life happens*.

Ballet shoes can become smelly. Canvas ballet shoes can be machine-washed on a cold, delicate cycle with liquid detergent. Allow them to air dry in a warm place. Pointe shoes should be hung to air-out on a regular basis.

## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

**VCD is proud to offer its curriculum and adult students the following performance opportunities:**

*The Nutcracker*: December 5-8, 2024 (Second Steps Ballet/Tap-Advanced)

*Original Works*: March 14-15, 2025 (All dance styles, Intermediate+ are invited)

Spring Concert: June 6-8, 2025 (All Students)

**A note about performing opportunities:** Performing is optional. If you opt to participate, please plan to **participate in all the performances** of a show series.

## YOUTH DIVISION

Creative Movement and First Steps Ballet/Tap students have the opportunity to participate in an annual spring performance June 6-8, 2024. Participation is voluntary. Rehearsals will be held during class time until the week of the show. During Show Week, additional rehearsals and a Dress Rehearsal (June 5) will be held in the Katherine L White performance hall. Students must be currently enrolled and attending all classes in order to

perform. For this group, we make exceptions to our rule that everyone must commit to all shows as we understand these little ones may not have the stamina for an entire show weekend.

## **STUDENT DIVISION**

All students in Ballet classes starting with Second Steps Ballet/Tap are offered roles in *The Nutcracker* (Dec 5-8, 2024) and the Annual Spring Concert (June 6-8, 2025) at the Katherine L White Performance Hall. Participation is voluntary. Dress Rehearsals are December 4 for the Nutcracker and June 5 for the Spring Concert. If a student wishes to opt out of performing, please inform the teacher by Oct 1 for *The Nutcracker* and March 1 for the Annual Spring Concert so they can adapt the choreography accordingly. If the student decides to perform, they must attend all classes and rehearsals regularly, may not miss the Dress Rehearsal, and be able to commit to all the shows (Pre-school and Kinders are the exception).

Ballet students in Beginning/Intermediate and up will have additional rehearsal times every week. All other classes will learn their choreography in class. Solos, duets, and some other roles will require additional rehearsal times to be scheduled between the choreographer/coach and the specific dancers/parents involved. Classes and rehearsals during show week and the week prior may be held in the Katherine L. White theater. Every attempt is made to maintain the regular schedule but shifts in times and days may be necessary. Dress rehearsals are held on the early evening prior to Opening Night, and attendance is mandatory for all performers.

VCD Students at the Advanced/Intermediate levels and higher are invited to submit work for our annual *Original Works* show, March 14-15, 2025. VCD teachers and choreographers may invite VCD students and students from other schools to participate in their choreographic works.

## **RECREATIONAL DANCE DIVISION**

All students enrolled in Recreational Dance Classes (adult classes) at VCD may perform in our shows. If interested in performing, please inform Ms Vadne or the class teacher.

Additionally, invitations to perform may be extended to students enrolled in the Recreational Dance classes. There is always a need for Party Guests in *The Nutcracker*, for example. Rehearsals will be aligned with the Student Division students in the same scene, so rehearsal commitment outside of class time will be required.

Recreational Dance students are invited to participate in Original Works (see below).

### ***The Nutcracker***

Vashon Center for Dance performs *The Nutcracker* every year. This ballet, aside from being a holiday tradition for people all over the world, is greatly anticipated by the students of VCD. As they progress through the levels, they are awarded more difficult roles or have the opportunity to perfect a role they have danced previously. In this way, they are able to

measure their progress. The roles in VCD's *The Nutcracker* may morph year to year depending on the abilities of the performers. Please be careful not to assume that particular levels or individuals will always dance a particular role. Casting is at the discretion of the Director, and decisions are made based on what is best for ALL the dancers, staff, volunteers, costumes, number of performers, etc.

The 2024 Nutcracker dates: Dec 5-8, 2024

Monday November 18-Thursday November 21, Theater Rehearsals (Schedule TBD)

Monday November 25, Theater Rehearsals (Schedule TBD)

Tuesday November 26, Theater Rehearsals (Schedule TBD)

Monday December 2, Tech Rehearsal, Act I

Tuesday December 3, Tech Rehearsal Act II

Wednesday December 4, Evening Dress Rehearsal

Thursday December 5, Evening Performance

Friday December 6, Evening Performance

Saturday December 7, Matinee Performance

Sunday December 8, Matinee Performance

Monday December 9, possible Matinee Performance for CES

*\*Dates subject to change*

## ***Original Works***

Original Works is an opportunity for professional and budding choreographers to get their works on the stage, it is a cornerstone of our program and has provided training and experience to many Vashon dancers over the years. VCD Students at Advanced/Intermediate and up, members of the Vashon community of artists, and choreographers from all over are invited to submit choreographic works for consideration to a panel of adjudicators beginning in October. There are several rounds of showings before the pieces are finalized. The shows are scheduled for March 14-15 in the Katherine L. White Hall. Choreographers will work with VCA's Lighting, Sound, and Production Directors in order to gain valuable production experience.

## **ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT**

The annual Spring Concert provides an opportunity for all VCD students to participate in a professional production. Rehearsals begin in February.

The annual spring concert dates: June 6-9, 2025

Tuesday May 27-Friday June 30, Theater Rehearsals (Schedule TBD)

Monday June 2, Theater Rehearsals (Schedule TBD)

Tuesday June 3-Wednesday June 4, Tech Rehearsals (Schedule TBD)

Thursday June 5, Evening Dress Rehearsal

Friday June 6, Evening Performance

Saturday June 7, Matinee and Evening Performance

Sunday June 8, Matinee Performance