

# Frequently Asked Questions

## McDonald Dance Academy

25 S. Dunton, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 (847) 342-1060

## *Day of Dance 2020*

### General Information

#### 1. What is the *Day of Dance*?

Our *Day of Dance* is our end of year performance for all of our current students. The philosophy of McDonald Dance Academy is to give our students an opportunity to perform what they have learned in the past year and for parents to show their support for their child's effort. We believe in putting on a traditional recital, not a grandiose production.

#### 2. When is the *Day of Dance*?

Our **Day of Dance** will take place on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17, 2020. There will be no Friday evening or Saturday morning classes at the studio on May 15 or 16, due to the Dress Rehearsal and Performance.

#### 3. Which day will my dancer perform?

There is an official show schedule posted online. Simply locate your dancer's class(es) and note the day and time of the performance. Some higher-level classes as well as our Ensemble perform in more than one show. Please read the schedule carefully. Please note this is not the show order.

#### 4. Where will the performance be?

Both the Performance and the Dress Rehearsal will take place at Barrington High School at 616 W. Main St., Barrington, IL 60010.

#### 5. Why did you choose Barrington High School?

To meet the needs of the families and friends who wish to see their dancers perform, we chose a local theater that accommodates approximately 650 guests per performance. We are fortunate to be able to use the Barrington High School's theater as most area high schools seat only 450 guests.

#### 6. Are dancers required to participate in the *Day of Dance*?

Dancers who miss more than three dates of any given class between April 6 - May 14 will not be able to participate in the recital. They will have missed half of the rehearsals for the show and will not be prepared to go on stage.

Dance is a performance art; however, we understand that some students do not wish to participate in the performing aspect of dance. We do not want to pressure anyone to do something they are uncomfortable with. Once your child has committed to the recital, we expect the dancer to attend class on a regular basis. Good classroom attendance is vital to the choreography and to developing a strong working relationship with the other dancers in the piece. This relationship helps the student feel

comfortable, confident and relaxed on stage. Dancers who choose not to participate in the recital will still learn the dance with the entire class. Learning a routine helps the dancer understand sequencing and timing. Additionally, new material from the curriculum will continue to be introduced.

#### **7. Mandatory Attendance Policy**

Dancers who miss more than three dates of any given class between April 6 - May 14 will not be able to participate in the recital. They will have missed half of the rehearsals for the show and will not be prepared to go on stage.

## Performance Information

#### **8. How much of the class time is dedicated to learning the performance piece?**

The performance piece will be worked on during the last part of each class. All the dances will be comprised of steps that the students have been working on in the classroom. We will continue to teach new curriculum throughout the semester and not spend the entire class period working on the recital dance.

#### **9. What time do the dancers need to be at the theater for the Performance?**

**½ hour before the show.**

Please have your dancer at the theater at least a ½ **hour** before show time in costume, shoes and make-up. If you have a young child, please be sure your child uses the restroom immediately before drop off. We will have our Parent Designees, Ensemble Parents and Ensemble Students escort them backstage, help them find their group, entertain them and quiet nerves.

#### **10. Are parents allowed backstage before or during the Performance?**

**No.**

Parents are not allowed backstage. We have appointed one Parent Designee from each class to assist dancers backstage. *No other parents* will be allowed backstage. We find that having parents backstage can be very distracting for the children, can raise their level of anxiety and often sets off a chain of requests for parents.

#### **11. What can my young child expect to happen backstage during the Performance?**

The Parent Designee for your dancer's class, our Ensemble members and Ensemble parents will escort the dancers to their designated area. Your dancer will stay in the staging area with their class and the Parent Designee until the class performs. After the performance, your child will return to the same staging area for the rest of the show. Your child will be supervised at all times.

We do not allow any snacks or juices backstage; however, your child is welcome to bring a book. Please be sure to label everything. If you have a young child, you can help make this a smooth transition by explaining, in a very positive and up-beat manner, what is going to happen on the day of recital.

#### **12. Can I volunteer to help backstage during the Performance?**

No, we do not need any backstage volunteers. We have a Parent Designee for each of the Pre-Ballet classes. This Parent Designee will stay with the class while they are waiting to rehearse and before they perform. *The Parent Designee will join the audience for the actual performance.* The Parent Designee will then assist in the dismissal of the students. This will allow the parents of the performers

to relax and enjoy their child's accomplishments. Additionally, the Ensemble parents will be assisting during the shows. They have a great deal of show experience and can help make sure everything runs smoothly. Each Parent Designee will be issued one complimentary ticket.

**13. How long will each show be?**

All performances are approximately 1½ hours long, except the Saturday Evening Performance which will last approximately 2½ hours. Please remain seated through the entire show. Getting up during the show is both disruptive and disrespectful.

**14. What if my child refuses to perform on the day of the show?**

While we encourage each child to perform, we will not force any child to go on stage. Some children can feel overwhelmed or scared by the setting and the audience. If your child does not go on stage for the performance, please give them your understanding and support.

**15. Where do I pick up my child after the show?**

To ensure a calm and safe dismissal, you will be directed to a specific area of the theater to pick up your child. We are concerned with your child's safety and we will not allow a child to wander out unescorted.

**16. Can I retrieve my dancer at the end of their performance before the entire show is finished?**

**No.**

We *cannot release* any student before the end of a show, for the safety of our students. **Any exception must be addressed with the Director prior to the week of the performance.**

**17. Can I take photographs/video of the performances?**

**No.**

If you wish to videotape your dancer, you may only do so at the Dress Rehearsal. But remember, only one adult (and no children) are permitted at the rehearsal. Profession videographers have been contracted to record the shows and DVDs will be available for purchase. Please check with the office for an order form.

*No photography of any kind* is ever permitted – for the safety of your child (it can temporarily blind your child, disorienting your child, causing your child to trip or fall and get hurt.).Also, the light emitted by these devices (screen, red lights, etc.) are *extremely* distracting to audience members. Photos may be taken outside the theater before or after the show or rehearsal.

## Dress Rehearsal Information

**18. When will the Dress Rehearsal be?**

The Dress Rehearsal will take place Friday evening, May 15 and Saturday morning, May 16. Please refer to the Dress Rehearsal Schedule for your dancer's day and time.

**19. What time do dancers need to be at the theater for the Dress Rehearsal?**

Please arrive **15 minutes BEFORE** your scheduled rehearsal block of time. This provides sufficient time for your dancer to be in place when we call their piece. Please note, pieces ARE NOT listed in

the order that they will be rehearsed, but rather by level. Therefore, your dancer needs to arrive 15 minutes PRIOR to their scheduled time block. As most of our rehearsals are scheduled for Friday evening, *please plan for Friday night traffic and add an EXTRA 30 minutes* to your normal travel time.

## 20. What should dancers wear to the Dress Rehearsal?

All dancers should arrive in their costumes with their hair done and **NO** make-up.

## 21. Where should dancers go for the Dress Rehearsal?

The Dress Rehearsal will take place at Barrington High School. Dancers should go to their designated area. Signs will be posted. They will be escorted backstage by the Parent Designee, an Ensemble member or an Ensemble parent.

## 22. Are siblings allowed at Dress Rehearsal?

**NO.**

**SIBLINGS OR OTHER DANCERS** are **NOT** allowed in the theater at the Dress Rehearsal. This includes your other children who dance at the studio. Siblings who are rehearsing on the same day may report to a monitored waiting area in the dressing rooms until their scheduled rehearsal time.

***Please make your own babysitting arrangements for your other children during Dress Rehearsal.*** If you bring siblings, you will be asked to wait in the lobby with your children and you will not be allowed to enter the theater to watch the rehearsal. ***No food, drink or strollers*** are allowed in the theater or backstage at any time.

## 23. What can we expect at Dress Rehearsal?

We will be running each dance once unless there is a technical problem requiring a second run through. We **cannot** run the piece again for dancers who arrive late. Only **one parent** may wait, watch or videotape (***no flash photography***) in the theater. There must be silence in the theater while dress rehearsal is taking place, as a courtesy to the dancers on stage, teachers, technical support staff and other parents videotaping dances. Dancers will be released at the end of their rehearsal time. ***We ask for your patience with the time slots since this is our time to deal with technical problems or issues, which may adversely affect our timing. However, we strive to stay on time.***

## Costume Information

### 24. What type of costume can I expect?

It is the studio's philosophy not to dress dancers in elaborate costumes. We believe in simply highlighting the dancer. We are more interested in showing off our students, and not a costume. Big elaborate costumes have a tendency to distract from what the audience is seeing. Therefore, our costumes are simple and will accessorize the level color leotard. Please make sure you have a clean, level color leotard, shoes and tights. You may check with your child's teacher if you are unsure of your level's color. Pre ballet levels will have a full costume.

### 25. When will we receive the costume?

All costumes will be handed out in class in the middle of April. Teachers will have students try on the costume and explain what they need to do with each costume piece, make-up and hair. If you miss class the week costumes are handed out, please stop by the office between 3:00-6:00 p.m. the week of

April 27 to pick it up. All costumes must be picked up before Picture Day, May 3. Please do not allow your dancer to play with the costume until after the recital.

## Ticket Information

### 26. How much are the tickets?

Tickets are \$ 14.00 each, in advance, \$17 at the door. This covers the cost of the theater, technical staff, and the program. Each audience member must have a ticket.

### 27. Do I need to purchase a ticket for my 2-year old?

A child age 4 or younger may sit on your lap during the performance; therefore, you **will not** need to purchase a ticket for a lap child. Please remember that strollers and car seats cannot be in the aisles. If you would like to leave your child in a portable car seat, you will need to purchase a ticket.

### 28. What are the procedures for the Ticket Sale?

Tickets go on sale 9 a.m., March 30. Purchase your tickets online through TutuTix; see our website for more the link. Families are limited to 10 tickets per show. After April 20, any remaining tickets will be available for sale. Pre-ticket sales end May 10. Only door sales will be available after that, if there are any tickets still available.

## Picture Information

### 29. What is Picture Day?

Picture Day is an opportunity to have professional photos of your dancer in costume, both individually and with the entire class. There is no obligation to purchase pictures. If you do not wish to purchase photos, we would appreciate it if you would still attend the photo session so both the studio and other dancers can have a picture of the entire class. If you feel that your child would be uncomfortable having their picture taken in a group setting, then feel free to skip Picture Day. Picture Day usually runs very smoothly and we often find ourselves either on time or ahead of schedule! Please be on time...in costume, hair done, no make-up.

***Please note:*** for personal safety and that of the expensive equipment, ***the photographers do not allow parents in the studio with their child.*** Please make your child aware of this. If this will distress your child, please feel free to skip Picture Day.

### 30. When is Picture Day?

Picture Day will take place at the Studio on Sunday, May 3. Picture packages can be pre-ordered online; visit Memory Makers.