

Center Stage Dance Studio

"Where dance education is paramount."



Donna Leonard, Artistic Director

179 Green St. Melrose, MA 02176 - (781)665-5059

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www.centerstagestudio.org

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Twenty-three year member Dance Teachers Club of Boston/American Society (DTBC/AS), and graduate of the DTCB teacher training program, Donna has a long history in dance education. She served on the class advisory committee for the Dance Education Teacher Training Course for three years. She has performed and choreographed for local theater groups, produced school talent shows, and a Melrose School Arts Festival dance production. Donna spent many years working with Melrose Youth Ballet. Her credits include rehearsal assistant, Ballet

Mistress, Assistant to the Director, and Associate Director in 2001 and 2002. She has been a guest teacher at various summer workshops and regularly attends seminars for teachers and students. Donna approaches her students as young professionals, and receives the utmost respect from her students in return. Her focus in teaching is to have a strong ballet foundation from ages 3 to adult, and her students' performances demonstrate this quality.

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Center Stage made its initial run from 1985-1987. The next ten years were spent developing style and purpose in dance instruction & education. While studying the techniques of some very talented teachers, I found in one a mentor. In 1997, CSDS was re-established as a place where dance education is paramount. Although many dance disciplines are taught, the importance of a foundation in ballet is stressed as an essential part of the training. In our 9th season we continue to teach the basic fundamentals of dance, from the pre-school age to adulthood. Young children, adolescents, & adults can all benefit from experiencing the joy of dance. Thank you for choosing Center Stage Dance Studio.

★ Course Descriptions ★

CREATIVE DANCE: Designed to introduce 3 and 4 year olds to movement and music through creative dance activities and social interaction. Drawing on basic ballet, tap, and jazz concepts, this program develops motor skills, sociability and gives kids a fun, hands-on introduction to the world of dance.

KINDERCOMBO: A program for 5 and 6 year olds, with 30 minutes each of Ballet and Tap combined into one class. This is done to introduce the basic fundamentals of these two dance disciplines, while still incorporating many creative dance aspects of musicality, rhythm, and partner work.

BALLET: The foundation of all dance forms, ballet takes you into the world of classical music and teaches discipline and grace. Vaganova and Cecchetti methods are introduced along with traditional and modern technique-based training. These are offered from a young level stressing correct placement and knowledge of the body as a finely tuned instrument. *Grade 1 to Adult*

POINTE: For the advancing ballet student who is ready to take their ballet training a step further and dance in pointe shoes. Solid strength in the ankles and continued practice of ballet technique are required, as premature pointe work could result in injury. It is the sole decision of the Artistic Director whether or not a student is ready for pointe work. *Age 11 and up*

TAP: An original American dance form, tap emphasizes the beat by making sounds with metal taps fastened to the shoes. The focus is on rhythm, technique and musicality, with an emphasis on learning the roots of Tap and the work of such greats as Buster Brown, Honi Coles, Jimmy Slyde, Gregory Hines and more. *Ages 5 to Adult*

JAZZ: A stylized form of American dance using many rhythms to coordinate and strengthen the body. Various styles include musical theater, traditional, funky, and hip hop. We strive to incorporate the styles of such greats as Jack Cole, Matt Mattox, Gus Giordano, Luigi and more. (Intro jazz for 7 yr. olds enrolled in ballet) *Jazz class for ages 8+.*

HIP HOP: This street style dance form sets upbeat rhythm-based movement to various styles of funky music. Building upon jazz dance, hip hop students build strength, flexibility and stamina through a high-impact warm-up and rhythmic choreography. *Ages 8 +*

MODERN: This 20th century form of dance uses a variety of techniques to enhance strength, control, and exercise the versatility of the upper body. Choreography ranges from slow and controlled to sharp and quick, as it incorporates influential styles from Martha Graham, Isadora Duncan, Twyla Tharp, and the Lester Horton technique. *Ages 10+*

CHARACTER: With ballet based principles, this dance form embraces traditional folk dance and music on an international level. Some popular forms are the Hungarian Czardas and Russian Cossack. Through its interaction with ballet, this discipline makes for very exciting and colorful stage productions. *Ages 8 to adult*

LYRICAL: A poetic style of dance with a lovely flowing quality blending Jazz, Ballet, and Modern dance concepts. *Ages 8 to Adult*

**Ask about our adult program! Our adult class program does not coincide with regular tuition schedule and is based on a class-card system to accommodate your schedule and availability.*

Special Programs

CENTER STAGE YOUTH ENSEMBLE (CSYE)

A stepping stone for young dancers who wish to pursue more technique-based training in ballet and jazz. In addition to required studies in ballet and jazz, CSYE students should take an elective third class in tap, lyrical, modern, or hip hop. Placement in the youth ensemble is by teacher recommendation or audition. CSYE dances may be considered for competition. *Grades 4+*

CENTER STAGE DANCE ENSEMBLE (CSDE)

A rigorous dance education program for high-school students who wish to pursue a technique-based approach to dance and performance. CSDE students must take a minimum of three classes, including ballet and jazz, though they are encouraged to enjoy all available courses of study at Center Stage. Placement is by teacher recommendation only. All CSDE classes will be considered for the chance to compete. *Ages 14+*

Studio Policies

PAYMENTS

Tuition: The year's tuition is divided into 4 equal payments, due on the first lesson of September, November, February, and April. If you pay the full season's tuition by September 30, you will receive an additional 10% discount on the total cost. Tuition rate sheet will be given upon completion of registration.

Costume Deposit:

A \$40 deposit for each recital costume is due before the winter holiday break. A costume cannot be ordered until the deposit is received. Studio newsletters contain specific information.

Registration Fee:

\$10 per family payable at time of registration. Registration fee is non-refundable.

ATTENDANCE

Students should arrive at least 10 minutes before the class begins. If you are going to be absent, please call ahead of time so the teacher can plan accordingly. There are no refunds for missed classes, and make-up classes can be taken in a comparable class until recital work begins. If a student misses 3 or more consecutive classes, it may affect the student's ability to participate in a recital piece.

HOLIDAYS

Columbus Day, Thanksgiving Recess (Thurs. - Sat.), Winter Holiday Break (coincides with Melrose Public Schools), MLK Jr. Day, February and April Vacations, Good Friday, Memorial Day.

NEWSLETTER

A monthly newsletter is distributed to all students upon the first class of each month.

Newsletters contain pertinent information in regard to class scheduling and events throughout the year. Please read and save. For your convenience, the newsletters are also posted on our website each month.

CANCELLATIONS

Weather cancellations coincide with Melrose Public Schools. Call 781-665-5059 to confirm. Make-up classes will be given when the allotted snowdays have been used.

CLASS OBSERVATION

The first week of each month is "open curtain", at which your child's class may be observed. Please be patient, sit-back, and enjoy the progress you see from month to month.

GENERAL INFO

If a parent or a student has any problem regarding the school please bring it to the teacher's attention in private so we can resolve it in a positive manner.

Dress Code

BALLET: Girls must wear a black leotard and pink tights for all ballet and pointe classes. Hair should be in a bun. Pink ballet slippers. *Grade 3+ wear split-soled.*

Boys wear a plain white t-shirt and black dance pants. Black ballet slippers.

TAP & JAZZ: Girls may wear any leotard. Tights must be worn. Skirts and jazz pants may be worn at the teacher's discretion. For tap, capri length pants are preferred to allow the ankle & foot to be visible. Boys: Black jazz pants and white T-shirt. *K-2: white tap shoes. Gr. 3-6: beige tap & jazz. Age 14+: black tap & jazz.*

LYRICAL/MODERN: Leotard and convertible or footless tights are necessary to dance barefoot. Sandsoles and Dance Paws allowed. Shorts, skirts and/or capris at teacher's discretion.

HIP HOP: Jazz pants and form-fitting t-shirt. *Jazz shoes for ages 8-11. Students 12+ should purchase jazz sneakers.*

DANCE BAGS: In addition to your proper dance shoes, please keep a water bottle, hairbrush and hair-ties in your bag. Pointe students need a sewing kit.

ANNUAL REVUE: An end-of-year dance recital is presented in a performance venue. Although participation is not mandatory, performing is a natural progression of dance study. Dates to be posted.

CSDS FACULTY

Jaclyn Capozzi recently graduated from UMass Amherst where she was a dance major. She participated in many companies at UMass, including Balanchine's *Serenade* under the direction of Victoria Simon, and has received the finest of training. A graduate of the Dance Teacher's Club of Boston teacher training program, Jaclyn has been teaching for six years and is Artistic Director for the 2005 production of Melrose Youth Ballet's, *The Nutcracker*.

Christina Leonard has been dancing for 19 years and has extensive training in ballet, pointe, tap, and jazz. She spent six years dancing with Melrose Youth Ballet as both a soloist and a member of the corps de ballet. After graduating from the DTCTB teacher training program, she taught dance while earning her B.S. in Journalism at Boston University, and continues to attend master classes in and around Cambridge. She has been an active member of DTCTB since 2001, and regularly attends meetings and conventions. She also teaches young teens at *The Dance Inn* in Lexington.

Elizabeth Leonard has been dancing since the age of three, studying ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, and pointe. In August, 2005 she completed the Dance Teacher's Club of Boston's 3-year Dance Education Training Course. Elizabeth has performed with Melrose Youth Ballet's *The Nutcracker* in various roles, and with New England Civic Ballet in *Sleeping Beauty*. In April, 2005 she performed in Melrose High School's musical production, *Broadway: Our Time*, in which she was also the Choreographer. Center Stage is thrilled to welcome Elizabeth to the faculty.

Joie-Ann Ruocco has been dancing for 14 years, and has the strength, style, and grace of an experienced young dancer. She first came to CSDS in 1999, and in August 2005 completed the DTCTB's Dance Education Training Course. From 2002-2004 Joie was on the Cheerleading team at Bishop Fenwick where she took part in several cheering competitions. She has been a teacher assistant for three years, and will make a wonderful addition to the staff at Center Stage Dance Studio.

Denise Slane is a long time member of the Dance Teachers Club of Boston/American Society and a graduate of their Dance Education Training Course. She began dancing at the age of three and has been teaching for over 20 years. Denise attended the Boston Conservatory where she studied all aspects of dance and production, and has extensive training in ballet, pointe, tap, and jazz. The unique opportunity to travel overseas came her way when she performed in Iceland with the U.S. "Hoop Troupe Dance and Cheering Team". Denise regularly attends dance seminars and conventions for teachers and students.

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Learn more about Center Stage Dance Studio's dance education program at: www.centerstagestudio.org