

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Great Gig Dance Ensemble!

Why do we have a performance Ensemble?

Dance is a form of artistic expression, designed for performing. The ultimate goal of dance training is the performance! Until the dance student performs for an audience, their training is incomplete. Many dance students will perform only once a year - on a stage in the recital. These students are known as "recreational" dancers. ***Great Gig Dance Ensemble is a group of more serious dancers who desire more than a once-a-year opportunity to perform. Ensemble dancers LOVE to be on a stage! And being on a stage makes you a better performer and a better dancer. Great Gig Dance Ensemble will provide you with many opportunities to perform and share your talent with others.***

The first step to becoming a successful dancer is to make a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals, and performances. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. Dance FULL OUT, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal, or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do.

Respect for the teachers and choreographers you work with is essential. Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed to you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience.

Performances are your opportunity to show the world the results of your dedication and hard work. Make the most of this opportunity by presenting yourself in a professional manner - and go out there and show the audience how much you love to dance!

Attendance Policies

As an Ensemble member, you are expected to attend your classes and rehearsals. ***This includes additional non-ensemble classes.*** All dancers must attend all classes unless they are sick, or a family emergency arises. These are the only two acceptable reasons for missing class.

A dancer is allowed a maximum of 4 absences (for any reason - we do not consider absences to be "excused" or "unexcused") in an Ensemble class. Any absence after the 4th, the dancer MUST make up the class by attending another class in that genre or schedule a 30 mins private lesson with the instructor at their hourly rate. Missing more may result in removal from all performances in which that class participates (at the discretion of the teacher and director). Continuous absences from a recreational class may result in removal from the class. Poor attendance affects not only your performance, but also negatively impacts the performance of your peers. Respecting your peers (as well as yourself) is an important part of your dance education.

You must notify the studio and your teacher in advance if you will be absent for any reason!

For everyone's benefit, teachers plan their classes according to their predetermined goals (choreography deadlines, technique goals, etc.). When students do not come to class, it disrupts the teacher's plans as well as the progress of the entire class. Please notify the teacher of any planned absences **IN ADVANCE** with a written note in their studio communication box. You may call the studio office and leave a message for the teacher in the event of an unplanned absence. ***Please do not rely on email, Facebook, Twitter, text messages, or other forms of electronic communication to notify teachers of absences. Also, it is not acceptable or appropriate to rely on another dancer to convey any notification of absence to teachers!!!***

If a dancer misses the class or rehearsal that directly precedes an upcoming performance, they may be removed from that performance (regardless of the excuse). The dancer may also be removed from subsequent performances if there is not adequate rehearsal/class time available to adjust the choreography. **If a dancer misses class or rehearsal, he or she is responsible for learning any missed choreography prior to arriving for the next class or rehearsal.**

Rehearsals and Performances

Ensemble members must attend all scheduled rehearsals, performances, workshops, competitions, and parades - no exceptions will be made unless prior arrangements are made with the director.

Great Gig will make all performance and rehearsal dates available as soon as possible. Please check your mailbox, your email (preferred method of communication), our website (www.greatgigdance.com), and our Facebook page for this type of communication.

It is critical that you attend **class and any scheduled rehearsals** prior to the performances, workshops, and competitions. If you are unprepared for any performance as a result of poor attendance (for any reason), the choreographer may replace or eliminate your part.

If a dancer leaves Ensemble, or fails to participate in a scheduled performance, competition or recital, (whether voluntarily or required by the director), a **\$100 re-choreography fee** will be assessed per dance. If a dancer misses a performance and another dancer steps in as a replacement, it is expected that the dancer who is not performing will make his/her costumes available for use.

Each dancer is considered an asset to the Ensemble, and when you are missing your dance is incomplete. Be respectful of your peers, teachers, and choreographers by committing yourself to them and Great Gig Dance Ensemble.

Additional rehearsals may become necessary as we approach certain performance dates. Rehearsal fees will be charged, and all dancers will be made aware of rehearsal dates and times with as much advance notice as possible. Also, some Ensemble members may be selected to perform in dances that will not be rehearsed during class or the regular Monday rehearsal times, but in a separate rehearsal time. Appropriate rehearsal/choreography fees will be charged.

Levels of Proficiency & Classes

All Ensemble members are required to take Ballet. You must remain proficient in your Ballet classes. **Ensemble dancers over the age of 13 must attend 2 Ballet classes each week.** All Ensemble members must be registered for and remain proficient in *at least* two other type of dance class (Jazz, Tap, Contemporary). However, we encourage you to study every style of dance.

All Ensemble dancers must attend **at least** one approved dance workshop during the season. Workshops are extremely important in a dancer's training—they create an environment for exposure to innovative choreographers, other excellent dancers, and a variety of dance styles. Workshops also encourage dancers to learn movement at a very fast pace—training their minds and bodies to become more efficient. Dates, locations, and prices of all workshops will be posted as they become available.

Class placement of students is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex. Our staff meets regularly to discuss the students' progress and/or placement. It is our policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every dancer. Some parents and dancers may compare their progress or class or choreography placement to that of others in the program. **We encourage all dancers to focus on their own accomplishments.** Looking to others for inspiration is a good thing; however, a negative focus or comparison distracts from the energy that could be focused on becoming a stronger dancer. If you have questions or concerns about your child's dance education, please don't talk about it with other parents, but instead make an appointment to speak directly to your child's teachers or the director.

Classroom Attire & Needs

Respect yourself and your talent by dressing like a DANCER!

Proper dance attire must be worn to ALL classes and rehearsals! There will be no exceptions. If you come to class dressed improperly, the teacher may ask you to sit and watch.

Ballet (girls):

- Leotard (solid black)
- Bras are optional, but **MUST** be flesh-colored dance bra with hidden or clear straps
- Pink tights (Capezio #9 in CLASSICAL PINK for performances)
- Pink split-sole ballet shoes
- Pointe shoes as needed (make sure ribbons are sewn properly and tucked in)
- Hair pulled back in a **NEAT** bun (use bobby pins, hairnet, gel & spray—no wisps of hair, no bangs)

Ballet (boys):

- Black footed tights
- Solid black **FITTED** t-shirt or tank (no baggy or long shirts—we need to see your hips!)
- Black split-sole ballet shoes
- Long hair must be pulled away from the face

All BALLETT students should bring a spiral notebook to Robert's and Jamie's Ballet class and keep it in your Ensemble box!

Jazz, Contemporary:

- All dancers in Jazz and Contemporary classes will wear all black, tight-fitting dance attire to classes and rehearsals!
- Girls: Leotard & tights, jazz pants, hot shorts (provided they are not loose-fitting around the thighs, do not ride up inappropriately, and are long enough to maintain modesty when performing kicks, splits and leg extensions)
- Boys: Black jazz pants or shorts, black solid t-shirt or tank
- Shoes for Jazz: Bloch SO495 (Neo-Flex)
- Shoes for Contemporary: dancers should be barefoot for class unless otherwise instructed. For outdoor performances where the stage may be hot due to weather, please be prepared to wear Tan Jazz shoes, Bloch SO495 (Neo-Flex).
- Hair must be pulled back!
- Do not wear athletic shorts (no Nike/Adidas running shorts) in the classroom. Sweatpants should be removed after the warm-up.
- **Do not wear t-shirts of any kind to class or rehearsal! Printed shirts are distracting to the teacher/choreographer and they may ask you to remove them.**
- For Jazz, Robert would like each dancer to bring light weights to class each week (1-3 pounds, depending on age and strength). If you have sensitive elbows, hands or feet and planking hurts any part of your body, bring your own yoga mat!

Tap:

- Shoes for Tap: Black oxford-style Tap shoes - Bloch's SO313 Jason Samuels Smith shoe are preferred for Ensemble dancers on an Intermediate level; Miller & Ben Triple Threat or Capezio K360 is *highly recommended* for advanced dancers; purchase shoes most suitable for your feet pending teacher approval. **Absolutely NO split sole tap shoes!**

Please keep the following items in your dance bag at all

times:

Hair elastics, hairnets, bobby pins
Safety pins
Hair gel & hairspray
Band-aids
Blister aids (for Pointe & Tap)
Ace bandage
Emergency ice pack

Small screwdriver (for tap shoes)
Extra screws (for tap shoes)
Toothpicks (to repair stripped screws)
Black tape (hold taps in place in emergency)
Water bottle
Spiral notebook & pen
Small sewing kit
Extra tights

Performance Attire

Make sure you have everything you need for Ensemble performances!

If you do not have the proper attire or costume (including accessories) at a performance, you may not be allowed to perform.

Dancers **MUST** remove any body piercings or jewelry for performances! Visible tattoos are not acceptable. Excessively long fingernails and painted fingernails are not acceptable.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR PERFORMANCES:

Ballet:

- Pink split sole Ballet shoes (girls) or Black split sole Ballet shoes (boys)
- Tights: girls-Capezio #9 in classical pink; boys-black footed tights

Jazz & Contemporary:

- Jazz shoes (black and tan)
- Black hot shorts
- Black sports bra
- additional hot shorts, leggings or bras as needed for costuming

Tap:

- Black tap shoes (see Classroom Attire for specific style)

Hip Hop:

- Adidas Superstar (or Baseline) sneakers - white with black stripes

ALL:

- Black dance leggings (girls) or black jazz pants (boys)
- Great Gig jacket or sweatshirt (black) - for performances/parades in cold weather
- Christmas Costume (girls): Red costume (order from studio)
- Christmas Costume (boys): white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, black dress pants, black belt, black socks
- Crystal earrings (purchase at studio)
- Tights: Capezio or Revolution (to match skin tone), Capezio #9 in classical pink (available at the studio)
- Stage make-up
- Hair gel, hair spray, bobby pins, hair pins**

Dancers may also wish to purchase other Great Gig Dance Co. logo items and apparel including bags, jackets, etc. Our online logo store will be open during the Fall to accommodate your needs so watch for the announcement. NOTE: our logo wear is the **ONLY** acceptable cold-weather gear for dancers - **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

Please make sure you are organized for every performance! Always make a checklist ahead of time and don't wait until the last minute to organize your things. Consider ahead of time how you will transport your costumes, shoes and accessories (suitcase, plastic box, garment bag, rolling rack, etc.). Label every single item with your name!!!

The Ensemble will try to bring a first aid kit to each performance, but you may also want to be prepared in the event of an emergency (Ace bandage, ice pack, bandaids, sunscreen, feminine products, etc.), by anticipating your needs ahead of time.

Image and Behavior

The dancers and parents involved in Great Gig Dance Ensemble participate in many outside activities, each of which becomes a reflection of the studio's philosophy. Please keep the following in mind:

- Never speak negatively about teachers, dancers, or parents from other studios OR Great Gig Dance Co. Always make an extra effort to be positive and helpful to other dance groups.
- Never create or participate in conflicts with the directors of events in which we participate.
- Never create or participate in conflicts with other dancers or parents within our own group but handle any disputes through the Ensemble director.
- The Ensemble director handles all communication with the directors of our outside activities (including workshops, competitions, performances).
- No parent or dancer should call, contact or question the directors of any event. If you have a concern, please contact the Ensemble director.
- Ensemble dancers should always behave in a respectful manner at home, school, and when participating in other social or extracurricular activities. *This includes all forms of social media!*

Fundraising

Great Gig Dance Ensemble is a 501C3 organization - recognized by the federal government as an official not-for-profit group.

Fundraising opportunities will be made available through the Ensemble's non-profit organization. Take advantage of all fundraising activities available to help ease costs associated with all dance-related expenses as noted in Ensemble bylaws.

Participation in certain fundraisers will be mandatory. All Ensemble dancers will be expected to sell a minimum amount of tickets to our holiday performance "Sights and Sounds of the Season." In addition, all Ensemble families will be expected to purchase or sell 1/2 page of advertising in our Showcase Program by mid-May.

You may withdraw money from your account to pay for dance expenses by making a request in writing to the Treasurer (use the appropriate forms provided by the Ensemble). Checks drawn on the Ensemble account will be made out to Great Gig Dance Co. only and applied to your account according to your instructions.

Communication

Each Ensemble member will have their own mailbox, located in the front lobby of the studio. Please check your mailbox each time you are at the studio for important information. Teachers also have a mailbox in this area for you to communicate with them.

Please also provide us with at least 1 email address where we can send important information directly to the parents and dancers! Check that email address for any communication. The staff is not responsible for missed communications due to your failure to check or maintain your email address.

Our website (www.greatgigdance.com) is a good resource for communication and we will also post important information on the Ensemble's Facebook page. Check the website and Facebook page often for updated information on rehearsals and events, as well as current photos. The Ensemble Facebook page is accessible through invitation only. Email Lindsay Fritz at lindsay@greatgigdance.com to be added to this group. We will also utilize REMIND texts for last minute updates.

You may reach Lindsay personally at lindsay@greatgigdance.com, or at the following numbers: 770-218-2112 (studio) 770-337-7027 (cell)

Financial Obligation

We offer our Ensemble dancers and families a large tuition discount:

- Ensemble dancers may enroll in unlimited dance classes for a maximum monthly tuition of \$225.
- Ensemble families living in the same household may enroll collectively in unlimited dance classes for a maximum monthly tuition of \$300.
- Ensemble dancers and families are not eligible for additional discounts on tuition.

Tuition is due by the 15th of each month. Tuition payments are late after the 22nd of each month and accounts will incur a \$15 late fee on the 23rd. Please make immediate arrangements with our office to pay all account balances. Any dancer whose account is more than 90 days past due may be removed from Ensemble unless payment arrangements have been made.

Ensemble dancers must remain up-to-date with all accounts at Great Gig Dance Co.

We expect all Ensemble families to maintain financial responsibility regarding tuition, fees for costumes, competitions, workshops, choreography and rehearsals. Participation in Ensemble classes and performances may be denied if fees are more than 30 days past due unless the student is granted access to class under a "Hardship Exception". In order to apply for a hardship exception: 1. The parent must make an appointment with the Director/ Owner to discuss the reason for the bill becoming past due. 2. The case is reviewed on an individual basis and a specific payment plan will be devised to help get the account back on track. The studio reserves the right to prevent admittance of any student to class whose fees are not current. In the event the student is granted access to class under a hardship exception and the account goes 60 days past due without compliance to payment arrangements, the hardship exception may be revoked and the child will not be allowed to take classes of any kind, receive costumes, or participate in competitions or performances. Please note that this includes competition/workshop fees not paid prior to competition. If this happens, please do not bring the dancer to the studio and force the instructor to turn them away. ***The Ensemble maintains a fund for tuition for families experiencing extreme hardship. They have their own application/approval process. Seek out an Ensemble Board member for more information.***

Extra expenses:

Ensemble dancers will have extra expenses. Some families have found that making extra payments monthly can help cover these expenses. We strongly advise all families to consider adding an additional amount to their monthly tuition payment to avoid facing a future balance. The following is an estimate of additional Ensemble expenses: • Shoes: approximately \$25-\$190 per pair (tap shoes for advanced dancers can be as much as \$400)

- Costumes: \$65-\$100 each (costume deposits of \$60 per costume are due in October and the balance is due prior to costume distribution). Fall costumes will be ordered immediately and must be paid for prior to pick-up. • Competition fees: approximately \$65 per group dance (solos are about \$135 and duets/trios are about \$85)
- Workshop fees: \$150-\$300 per workshop, depending on the length (at least one workshop is mandatory).
- Travel expenses: out-of-town performances, workshops, competitions • Miscellaneous costume accessories or props (hats, earrings, gloves, skirts)
- Rehearsal fees: Rehearsal fees will be charged as needed. Dancers who are absent from any rehearsal will still be charged.
- Additional student-only rehearsal time in a studio for all specials may be booked for \$15/hour.
- Choreography fees (our own staff) for solos (\$350), duets (\$200 per dancer), trios and small groups (\$150 per dancer). Fees include 5 hours of rehearsal time with the choreographer. Additional rehearsals will be billed at the choreographer's hourly rate. ***Please note: a 50% deposit is due on all solos, duets, trios and small groups prior to the first choreography session! The balance will be due upon completion of the routine.*** (Routines choreographed by outside choreographers must be paid in full to the choreographer and studio rental fees of \$30 per hour will be charged. A \$50 administrative fee must be paid to Great Gig Dance Co. for all outside choreography. ***An outside choreographer is defined as one who has not been employed by Great Gig Dance Co. in any capacity in the past 2 years. All outside choreographers require prior approval of the Director.***)

****Solos, duets, trios and small groups are a privilege and will be arranged at the discretion of our staff. To be considered for one of these special pieces, dancers MUST demonstrate a great attitude in their regular classes, as well as dedication to dance at Great Gig Dance Co. They must be willing to rehearse as directed by the choreographer and must also practice and rehearse independently. These special pieces may not perform at our Ensemble Show recital in June, but at a separate, special showcase to be announced. Costumes for these extra dances should be purchased through the studio if possible. All costumes not purchased through the studio must be approved by the choreographer AND the director in advance.***

Competition

Since it is our goal to instill a passion for performing rather than merely a desire to win awards, Ensemble dancers will have more performance opportunities than competitions. We will participate in many performances, but only one competition will be mandatory for the entire group. Additional competition opportunities will be available for those interested.

We believe the lessons learned through performance are more valuable than the competition experience.

Our solid reputation for quality reflects our attitude toward competition and our goal to develop in each student a genuine respect for dance as an art form. With the right focus, the experience gained in dance competition can be an excellent source of self-confidence. Through participation in a competition, we hope to instill in our dancers an appreciation for other dancers and studios. We are not out to beat anyone; instead, we hope to motivate both dancers and faculty by exposing them to the highest caliber of talent available. Only then can we produce the best dancers and teachers possible. For us, competition is an education.

When a competition runs over the entire weekend, we expect our Ensemble dancers to attend the full event whether or not they are competing on a particular day. We work together as a team, always available to support each other.

Competition fees will be billed through Great Gig Dance Co. and must be paid at least 1 month prior to the event. Your \$300 Ensemble deposit will be applied first to all mandatory fees. Optional competitions must be paid in full prior to registration. **Competition fees that are not paid 1 month prior to the competition will incur a 10% late fee.**

Dancers may not compete in dance competitions as independent entries without the permission of the Ensemble director.

All awards (including monetary awards) received at competitions should be returned to Great Gig Dance Co.

Workshops

Each Ensemble member will be required to attend a regional dance workshop. Additional workshop opportunities will also be available, and we encourage dancers to participate in as many as they can! Tap dancers must also attend the Totally Tap in-house workshop in the Fall.

Workshop fees will be billed through Great Gig Dance Co. and must be paid at least 1 month prior to the event. Your \$300 Ensemble deposit will be applied first to all mandatory fees. Optional workshops must be paid in full prior to registration. Workshop fees that are not paid 1 month prior to the workshop will incur a late fee (in accordance with the workshop policies).

Dancers are expected to participate fully and enthusiastically in every class and event offered at the dance workshops, including auditions. Your behavior at a workshop is a reflection on Great Gig Dance Co. Dancers are not allowed to sit out of any class or event for any reason! Yes--the classes are difficult and challenging. Accept the challenge and you will be a better dancer for it. If a dancer is found not participating, they will be asked to leave the workshop.

During workshops, dancers should be respectful to the teachers and their peers at all times. **Dancers should always take the time to personally thank the teacher after class!**

NOTE: Workshop and competition payments may include credit card processing fees if charged by the event organizers; Great Gig Dance Co. will no longer pay for any scheduled events by check as a means of defense/protection against cancellations.

A Note to Parents

We believe that children's success depends on the support of their parents. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be a part of your child's dance education.

As a parent, the financial support of your child is important, but of equal and perhaps even greater value, is your emotional support!

Spend time each week just watching your child in class or rehearsal—even if you're only watching a video of them. Take a few minutes to ask your child about their experiences at the studio. Get involved in Ensemble. Your DAILY PARTICIPATION in your child's life is so special and essential!

Our program relies on a positive atmosphere for our faculty, Ensemble dancers, and their parents; it promotes a positive learning experience for all involved. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect for the other parents, along with the students and faculty, makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child in how to interact with others in a professional setting.

Your child's presence at all classes, rehearsals, and performances is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our studio's educational process.

Parents and teachers may look at a child's learning from different perspectives. However, they share a common goal: to ensure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect between our faculty and our dancers' parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

Understanding Dance Education

Great Gig Dance Co. is assuming the role as supervisor of your child's dance education. With this role, we fully commit to challenge each dancer in an appropriate manner. We encourage all dancers to seek outside educational opportunities, but ask that you inform us of those opportunities. If your child is taking a class outside of Great Gig Dance Co., or attending a workshop or audition, **PLEASE TELL US!** We want to build on those experiences!

Always encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be without regard to what *OTHERS* may achieve. Dance is an individual art form; each dancer needs to achieve at a pace that's comfortable for him or her. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It's important to encourage the dancers to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Dance education encompasses far more than technique or the steps the dancers will learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment by offering them the chance to learn, experience the spirit of teamwork, and understand what hard work can accomplish. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, to teach them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

We are very excited to have your family as part of our Ensemble family!

Great Gig Dance Ensemble Dates and Events 2023-2024

Fall Dates, Rehearsals & Performances:

- August 18 (Friday) August 19 (Saturday) - Pigs & Peaches Festival performance: Friday 6:40pm-7:20pm & Saturday 4pm-4:40pm
- September 18 (Monday) - Dress Rehearsal for Fall Performances- 6pm-9pm
- October 1 - North Georgia State Fair - 4p and 5p
- October 7 (Saturday) - Taste of Acworth (downtown Acworth)- 12:30p- 1:15p and 2p-2:45p
- October 22 (Sunday) - Angels of Life – (Level 5) – This is an all-day event and evening performance
- October 29 (Sunday) - Totally Tap Atlanta (All Ensemble tap dancers) – 8:00am- 4:00pm
- November 4 (Saturday) – Taste of Kennesaw (Downtown Kennesaw) – 1:15p- 2p and 2:45p-3:45p

Christmas Performances:

- November 27 (Monday) - Dress rehearsal for Christmas performances – 6pm-9pm at the studio * AFTER THANKSGIVING BREAK
- December 1 (Friday) - Acworth Arrival of Santa (downtown Acworth) - evening performance TBA
- December 2 (Saturday) - Kennesaw Day with Santa – (downtown Kennesaw) - parade and performance TBA
- December 3 (Sunday) Sights and Sounds of the Season (Northstar Church) – Starting after 12pm
- December 9 Christmas at Piedmont Church – 2:30p-3p and 4p-5p
- December 14 (Thursday) Christmas at Hollbrook Retirement Community 7pm *NEW THIS YEAR

Winter Workshop

- January 5 (Friday) - January 7 (Sunday) Schedule TBA. Please leave the weekend open for dancers to learn new choreography for spring. Schedule will be available before Christmas break. (\$75 rehearse fee)

Spring Performances:

- Big Shanty Festival – April 20 & 21 (Saturday & Sunday) – downtown Kennesaw; parade on Saturday morning and performances both days (usually 12:00-1:00pm each day)
- Great Gig Dance Co. Showcase 2022 – June 5 - 8, Kennesaw Mountain High School

Student Choreography Project

- Friday February 9 – Auditions 5:30pm
- Saturday February 10 – Sunday February 11 – Rehearsal and showcase (All in 1 weekend)

Mandatory Workshops/Competition:

- Totally Tap Workshop - October 29 (all Ensemble tap dancers) - cost approximately \$160
- In10sity Dance Competition – January 26-28, Birmingham, AL— (our mandatory competition for the entire Ensemble)
- KSU High School Dance Festival - February 3-4 (high school age only) - cost approximately \$150
- Revive Dance Convention – May 3-5 – The Hotel Avalon (our mandatory workshop for the entire Ensemble)—Workshop fees: Sparks (ages 5-7) - \$195 with 30 -day advance registration or \$240 if less than 30 days in advance; Minis (ages 8-10), Juniors (11-12), Teens (13-15), Seniors (16-19) \$285 advance registration or \$325 if less than 30 days in advance; See www.revivedanceconvention.com for more information

*Some groups may be asked to compete; solo, duet, trio & small group competition available to everyone

Other optional but RECOMMENDED workshops/competitions: (contact Lindsay at least 60 days in advance)

- REVEL Dance Convention - Avalon/Atlanta - January 12-14; www.dancerevel.com
- Velocity- Orlando - February 16-18 <https://www.velocitydanceconvention.com/>
- Hollywood Vibe (Montgomery, Al) – February 23-25 www.hollywoodvibe.com
- Radix Dance Convention- Atlanta- February 23-25 <https://www.radixdance.com/>
- NYCDA (Savannah, GA) – March 1-3 www.nycdance.com
- ASH (Artists Simply Human) - Avalon/Atlanta - March 15-17; www.ashdance.com

Studio Closings:

- Thanksgiving Break – November 19-26
- Winter Break – December 18 - 31
- Spring Break – March 31- April 7
- We will conduct classes/rehearsals on all other holidays (including Monday holidays AND September and February school breaks) unless otherwise notified.

SAVE THE DATE: Next year's Ensemble Choreography Camp will be July 15 – 28, 2024

Great Gig Dance Ensemble - Contract Agreement, 2023-2024

_____ I have received and read the Ensemble Handbook for 2023-2024.

_____ I am making a commitment of time and talent to Great Gig Dance Ensemble. This is a commitment to my fellow dancers, my teachers, my parents and myself.

_____ I recognize that I have been chosen to be part of an elite group that is well respected in the dance and civic community, and I will not degrade that reputation by my actions, behavior, or demeanor. I understand that in my daily life I am a representative of Great Gig Dance Ensemble and Great Gig Dance Co. and will seek to present myself always in a positive light.

_____ I agree to put dance as my first priority among extracurricular activities.

_____ I understand that my absence from class or performances adversely affects the entire Ensemble. I have read the attendance policy and agree to abide by it.

_____ I agree to dress according to the dress code as set forth in the Ensemble Handbook, setting a positive example for other studio students.

_____ I agree to maintain a positive attitude in all things associated with Great Gig Dance Ensemble, and to contribute to the group in a positive manner.

_____ I will not participate in gossip, any type of slanderous speech, or any negative written, spoken, or electronically published communication.

_____ I will respect my teachers, parents and peers at all times.

_____ I will remain dedicated to superior performance in school.

_____ I will continually seek to improve my skills and talents through dance, always recognizing that I can achieve my goals only through hard work and dedication.

_____ I acknowledge that my teachers and the director have my best interests in mind at all times.

_____ I will remain grateful to my parents for supporting me in my pursuits through dance.

_____ I agree to accept all terms and conditions of the Ensemble Handbook and to adhere to the stipulations therein. I understand that failure to follow the rules in the Ensemble Handbook will result in the consequences stated, and ultimately in dismissal from Great Gig Dance Ensemble.

Ensemble Dancers: please read and initial each statement above.

Ensemble Dancer & Parent: Please sign below and return to the office by Aug. 31, 2023.

Ensemble Member

Parent _____ ***Date*** _____