

Littleton Ballet Academy



Competition and
Coaching Handbook
2026-2027 Academic Year

Littleton Ballet Academy

1169 W. Littleton Blvd

Littleton, CO 80120

(303) 794-6694

www.littletonballetacademy.org

ballerinalba@gmail.com

Please note that we use one email address that goes to the co-directors and staff members

Classical Coaching Team

(Ballet 7 and higher and PTD-not all dancers will work with all coaches)

Talia Boresow

Michelle Dolighan-Rodenbeck

Francisco Estevez

Alison Jaramillo

Tracy Jones

Classical Coaching Team

(Ballet 4A to Ballet 6-dancers will work with all or most coaches)

Talia Boresow

Alison Jaramillo

Emma Rutter

Not all dancers will work with all coaches, but we will collectively work together as a school to get dancers to competition readiness.

Training or coaching with teachers outside the current Littleton Ballet Academy faculty is NOT allowed. Students who do so will be dismissed from Littleton Ballet Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet and all fees will be forfeited.

Contemporary Choreographers

Francisco Estevez

Alison Jaramillo

Tracy Jones

Karina Okoren

Emma Rutter

Sarah Tallman

A Note from the Directors

Congratulations on being invited to be on Littleton Ballet Academy's Competition Team. With the right mindset, coaching and competitions can be so beneficial for your young dancer. They get the opportunity to learn and work on a classical variation over a 7-month period and perform on stage as a soloist and in an ensemble. They might be working with different choreographers, have an original piece choreographed for them, and work more intensively with our amazing faculty. They are seen by teachers and judges and can also receive acceptances and scholarships to schools around the world. But regardless of the results, they will continue to develop their technique and artistry. Competitions can be a fantastic opportunity, and this investment is so valuable to a dancer.

Coaching Information

Coaching is available for dancers who would have been invited to participate in competitions.

All participants need to

- Commit to coaching all season (Week of August 17 to the beginning of March unless going to Finals)
- Follow all the rules in the LBA, LYB, and Competition handbooks and the Dancer Code of Conduct
- Parents must also follow all the rules in the LBA, LYB, and Competition handbooks and the Parent Code of Conduct

Coaching will be offered to dancers who would like to participate in competitions. If you sign up for a competition and then drop out, you will still owe the competition fees. We will advise you which competition or competitions are best for your child. We feel that the coaching process is important for dancers and that these provide extra performing opportunities. We will also use variations in outreach performances.

What Is Coaching?

Dancers work weekly on classical ballet variations and contemporary solos. In a Group Coaching format, dancers will work in small groups alternating with three coaches. For our younger dancers these will be offered on Wednesday nights or Saturday mornings. For older or more advanced dancers, you can also choose to work between 2:00 and 4:30 pm, again in small groups with one or two different coaches. Dancers in the Professional Training Division will receive coaching during the PTD times daily.

For Contemporary solos, dancers may choose a particular choreographer to work with. Some have more availability than others. Most of the time, the choreographers will set the dance in a few sessions and then you will do a couple of check-ins with the choreographer throughout the season. The rest of the team can run the solos on a regular basis. This is always up to the choreographer.

Trusting the Competition Coaches

You will meet other parents, dancers, and coaches from other studios around the world. Some of these parents have become awful stage moms. Other parents may have vastly different ideas about training or competitions. PLEASE don't listen to these other parents (or coaches)! Did you pay for their advice or opinions? If the answer is no, then you shouldn't be listening to them. This also goes for some of our own families. We are always surprised at some of the misinformation that is circulating.

The Coaching Team will be involved in ALL decisions regarding coaching, variations, and competitions. The dancers will work on variations with all the members of the coaching team. All coaches will be involved in choosing which version of the variation each dancer will be performing as well as making sure that each dancer feels comfortable with that version.

Professional Training Division Coaching

The Professional Training Division will be focused on coaching for competitions and performances. There will be an option for private coaching on a need-to-need basis in the 1:30 time slot before PTD begins at 2:30 pm.

Group Coaching (for dancers NOT in PTD)

Group coaching rates for invited dancers are as follows

\$150 per month per dancer billed September through April (8 months of billing)

- Coaching will begin August 17th at the beginning of the season.
- ALL dancers will do coaching from August 17th to March 6th.
- Please let us know ahead of time when you are going to be absent.
- Coaching can and should be made up, but you must arrange that through the school via email.
- Dancers who do NOT show up or cancel at the last minute will still be charged for coaching.
- Dancers need to warm themselves up before coaching so plan on arriving 15 minutes before coaching time unless there is a class before.

*****Payment will automatically be deducted from the card on file at the start date of each month beginning in September and going through April. If dancers go to ADC/IBC, YAGP, or if we choose to do UBC Finals, you will be billed through May. This is to recoup the cost of our teachers being there at various competitions to support the dancers.*****

Private Coaching

Private coaching with any of our teachers or approved guest teachers with Littleton Ballet Academy is allowed and can be scheduled through the school. Please ask permission before you ask to work with any guest teacher employed by Littleton Ballet Academy or Littleton Youth Ballet. **Training or coaching with teachers outside the current Littleton Ballet Academy faculty is NOT allowed. Students who do so will be dismissed from Littleton Ballet Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet and all fees will be forfeited.**

Rates vary from \$50 to \$115 per hour depending on the coach. Private lessons may also be scheduled with guest artists we are bringing in for the 2026-2027 season, and those rates range from \$115 to \$200.

All scheduling will be arranged with the coach and must be either onsite at Littleton Ballet Academy or dancers may schedule a private lesson through Ballet Private. All fees must be paid directly to the coach prior to the start of the coaching session. Any students who violate these rules will be dismissed from the school.

Communication Between Coaches and Families

- If you need to communicate with a specific faculty or coach, please reach out to the office staff first and we will assist you.
- Please do not stop instructors in between classes as they are most likely scheduled to teach another class and need to transition to that class immediately.
- To maintain professionalism and transparency faculty and staff **are not** to contact your student through their individual personal social media accounts. This includes but not limited to: Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, Twitter/X, YouTube, WhatsApp, Snapchat, Discord, and other messaging apps.
- Many faculty and staff do maintain public professional social media accounts. We encourage all families to monitor their dancer's social media accounts and if a parent feels that an unprofessional boundary has been crossed to notify the Directors and Studio Manager immediately.
- Since some of our faculty members offer private lessons, we understand the need to coordinate with families and students via text or email.
 - Email: Our faculty is instructed to include a parent/guardian email AND CC the school (ballerinalba@gmail.com) into the group thread for transparency and scheduling purposes.
 - Text: Our faculty is expected to include a parent/guardian into the group text. You are also welcome to add Ali (303-915-8058) in the text.
 - This is only for scheduling purposes and faculty will only discuss scheduling for that student, clarify questions about what they are working on or topics related to services they are providing. At no time will a faculty discuss other students and families' schedules or personal information.
- We use Google Calendar to schedule private lessons at Littleton Ballet Academy, so we don't overbook studios.

Cancellation Policy

Dancers must provide a minimum 24 hour written cancellation notification for all coaching sessions to avoid fees. Dancers will be charged the full amount for all missed or late noticed cancelled coaching sessions.

Classical Solo

A classical solo (called a variation) is a set solo that comes from a classical ballet such as Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, or Giselle. These ballets were choreographed mostly in the late 19th century, and these ballets are still performed today with the original choreography passed on from generation to generation. Our team will assist your child in finding a variation that is the right level and plays to your child's strengths. Some solos are more difficult and require more strength, more flexibility, or requires more classical technique. For some dancers we will just focus on one classical variation.

Contemporary Solo

A contemporary solo is a solo that is choreographed for the dancer to exhibit their strengths and move in a different way. Contemporary covers a broad range of movement and can be on pointe or not, barefoot, in socks, include lots of floor work, or even include props. Depending on who the choreographer is, dancers may be allowed to choose their own music, which can range from classical to pop, to even poetry or opera.

Dancers who are new to coaching will not do a contemporary solo until they have more experience. Different choreographers have different rates. Any coach can coach a different choreographer's contemporary solos.

Rates for Contemporary Choreography and Coaching

Choreography & Coaching Solo Pricing with Emma Rutter

- \$350 for solo choreography level beginning-intermediate (Ballet 4A, 4B, 5)
 - Includes edited music & 3.5 hours of choreography creation time
 - Must receive 2 coaching sessions per month with LBA coaching staff
 - Additional check-ins are \$50 an hour
- \$425 for advanced solo choreography (Ballet 6, 7A, 7B, 8)
 - Includes edited music & 4 hours of choreography creation time
 - Must receive a weekly coaching session with LBA coaching staff
 - Additional check-ins in are \$50 an hour
- \$650 for duet choreography level Intermediate-Advanced (Ballet 6, 7A, 7B, 8)
 - Includes edited music & 5 hours of choreography creation time
 - Must receive 2 coaching sessions per month with LBA coaching staff
 - Additional check-ins are \$50 an hour

Choreography & Coaching Solo Pricing with Tracy Jones

- Tracy charges a \$350 choreography fee which includes 1 hour of setting the piece. Any additional privates are at \$85/hour to continue to finish the choreography. Additional coaching could be covered under coaching at LBA. You may also schedule a private through Tracy and Fran's business Ballet Private.

Choreography & Coaching Solo Pricing with Francisco Estevez

- Francisco charges a \$350 choreography fee which includes 1 hour of setting the piece. Any additional privates are at \$85/hour to continue to finish the choreography. Additional coaching could be covered under coaching at LBA. You may also schedule a private through Tracy and Fran's business Ballet Private.

Choreography & Coaching Solo Pricing with Sarah Tallman

- Sarah charges an \$800 choreography fee which includes 3 hours of setting the piece. Additional coaching could be covered under coaching at LBA.

Choreography & Coaching Solo Pricing with Ali Jaramillo

- Ali charges a \$350 choreography fee. Additional coaching outside of LBA times are \$75 an hour, \$60 for 45 minutes or two dancers for \$120 per hour.

Choreography & Coaching Solo Pricing with Karina Okoren

- Karina charges a \$350 choreography fee. Additional coaching outside of LBA times are \$60 for 1 hour, \$30 for 30 minutes, \$15 for 15 minutes. She would like to work with dancers at least once a week.

Coaching Solo Pricing with Talia Boresow

- Talia charges \$75 an hour for private lessons.

Competition Expectations

We want this to be a wonderful experience for our dancers. Dancers who are participating should look at competitions as an extra performance opportunity and coaching as an opportunity to grow, while preparing a variation. Please do not put all the focus on winning or base your year's success on whether you won an award. Remember that ballet competitions are a matter of opinion and judging will vary from year to year based on judges' opinions. Competitions can be very political. We have seen beautiful dancers not place, and we have seen not so wonderful dancers do very well. Also, some judges look for the ideal ballet body type.

Parents also need to be on their best behavior and support their children in the best way (which might just be letting them have their own space). You may not understand the judging, but that is not your job. Please do not cry politics or make it about some unknown conspiracy, particularly in public. (And please don't cry in public!) Dance competitions breed dance moms, and we are not interested in being on TV with some dance moms of our own!

Putting extra pressure on your child does NOT help. All our dancers that we have selected to do coaching are high achievers and want to do their very best. Our coaches are encouraging but know that putting extra expectations to win will not help them. This may not be the approach that other studios have, but we feel this is the best to keep our dancers physically and mentally healthy.

And although it is wonderful to place in competitions, please understand that there are MANY professional dancers who are currently working, that NEVER placed in competitions. And there are some dancers who have placed consistently in competition that never find professional jobs. We want our students to make sure that they are enjoying the process of coaching and competition.

BAND and LBA app

We will be using Band again this year to schedule lessons and for communication.

We will also be using the LBA app more this year. Make sure you have enabled push notifications.

Costumes

- LBA and LYB will provide all costumes for classical variations and ensembles. We charge a \$50 costume fee for the year. Costumes need to be maintained and cleaned every year. Unfortunately, over the last few years we have costumes that were misplaced and some that were not returned in good condition. But costumes also need to be maintained and cleaned every year. If a costume is damaged OR lost, you will be responsible for replacing the costume. This is in addition to the \$50 costume fee.
- **NEW this year:** We understand that dancers get their period sometimes at the worst times. Accidents do happen. But if you are having issues with your period such as a heavy flow and you return the costumes consistently with stains, we will need you to supply your own costumes, including tutus. You can find solutions to prevent damage. Thank you for your understanding.
- Contemporary costumes will be at the discretion of what we already have, or you may purchase your own.
- ALL costumes that we provide will be checked in and out at the front desk. If anything is missing or damaged, you will be responsible for replacing the missing items.
- Costumes need to be brought back AND turned into the front office within 3 days of the end of the competition. Do NOT leave your costumes on the hooks near the back room.
- All plastic garment bags or tutu bags are required to be used for all costumes. PLEASE do not drag the garment or tutu bags on the ground.
- Tiaras will need to be transported carefully in the plastic boxes provided by LBA. **The plastic boxes should NOT be transported in the tutu bag.**
- **Please understand that we are the ONLY studio or dance program in town that does not require dancers to purchase their own costumes.** If any dancer is rude about our costumes or they do not take care of the costumes, they will need to provide their own.
- All dancers need to treat costumes and tiaras with care!
- Please make sure you wear deodorant and that you are aware that no one wants to wear a costume with any stains.
- Again, if you get your period in a costume, PLEASE let us know as soon as you can. It is easily fixable if you let us know ASAP. **If you do not tell us, you will be charged an additional fee and your costume privileges will be revoked.**

Ensembles and Pas De Deux

Ensembles are a wonderful way to participate in competitions. **All competition team dancers are required to participate in ONE ensemble.** They can be classical, contemporary, or even more theatrical. YAGP tends to love large ensembles and we will do at least one large ballet ensemble, and some contemporary ensembles as well. We will also be inviting a few other choreographers to do pieces, and we will be setting some classical trios and pas de deux, as well as at least one contemporary pas de deux.

Casting for these pieces is at the discretion of the entire coaching team and co-directors. Some dancers may be chosen to be understudies only.

Ensemble Rehearsals

Ensemble rehearsals are on Saturdays from 12:15 to 1:30 pm AND/OR during regular rehearsal hours which are Tuesday from 7:15 to 8:45 pm (generally Ballet 6, 7A, 7B, 8), Fridays from 6:45 to 8:45 pm (any level), and Saturdays from 2:00 to 6:30 pm.

Ages for Competition

For YAGP, UBC, Ballet Championships, and ADC/IBC the age category is set by the age you are on January 1st. For Denver Ballet Guild Young Dancers Competition, the age category is set by the age you are on February 26th.

Additional Competition Registration Information

- LBA will handle all registration for YAGP, UBC, ADC/IBC, and Ballet Championships.
- For the Denver Ballet Guild Young Dancer's Competition, YOU will complete the registration yourself because you need to provide proof of age.
- LBA will submit all music for all competitions (except Denver Ballet Guild Young Dancer's Competition, which uses set music).
- Once you have committed to a competition, there are NO refunds for any reason.
- For YAGP, UBC, ADC/IBC, and Ballet Championships you will complete the google form (s) and we will enter all registration and pay all fees on your behalf for both soloists and ensembles. Please fill out the Google Form by July 31st.
- Casting for 2025 Ensembles will be figured out during the Open House Week rehearsals.

Competition Breakdown (in calendar order)

Universal Ballet Competition (UBC) Information

2027 Regionals: January 15-17, 2027

Location: Newman Center for the Performing Arts, Denver

- This is a newer competition with different levels. We need to know by August 7th. if you are competing in UBC. Ali needs to complete registration on behalf of the school and will register the dancer by paying at least the registration fee to hold the dancer's place. These fees will be passed on to you.
- **The fees will be charged to the credit card on file on September 15th.** If you are injured or decide to quit after committing to UBC, there are NO refunds.
- The competition schedule is provided to us only about a week and a half before the competition begins. It changes every year.

Soloist Information

- We highly suggest you compete two or three solos (for the Junior and Senior categories Ballet 6 and higher). This can be two classical variations or one classical variation and one contemporary solo. Advanced dancers should do three solos. For Pre-Competitive dancers and dancers in level 5 or below, we suggest one or two solos, but this will be based on experience and readiness.
- Registration fee is \$30 per dancer.
- Mandatory Masterclass fee is \$160 (compulsory for all soloists, optional for Ensembles)
- Each solo is \$125 for each dancer.
- Final deadline to commit to UBC and how many solos or variations you'd like to do is **August 7th**. We will enter all solos as TBD (to be determined), so don't worry if you don't know which variation or solo you'd like to do.

Ensemble Information

- If you are invited to compete or choose to compete in UBC as an Ensemble member **only**, your fees will be \$70 for one Ensemble piece, \$140 for two Ensembles, \$210 for three Ensembles, a registration fee of \$30, and an optional Masterclass fee is \$160
- If you are competing in 3 or more solos, we will pay for ONE Ensemble fee at \$70. If you are in multiple ensembles, you will need to cover the cost for the additional Ensembles.

UBC Levels

There are two different levels for UBC. Intermediate and Competitive. The Intermediate level is for less experienced dancers. Competitive level is harder and for dancers who are more experienced, more advanced for their age, and have competed more. Our faculty will decide what level a dancer should be placed in.

UBC Finals

There is a UBC Finals. If you are interested in going, we can have a conversation about that. The Finals are May 26th to May 30th in Iowa City, IA.

Click [here](#) to read the UBC Rules and Regulations for 2027

ADC/IBC Information

2027 Regionals: Friday, February 5th to Sunday, February 7th

Location: Pinnacle Performing Arts Complex at Pinnacle Charter School
1001 W 84th Ave Federal Heights, CO 80260

This is a more competitive competition, but we really love this one. There are not two separate levels for this competition so we will be selective on who is invited to participate.

- **The fees will be charged to the credit card on file when we register you.** If you are injured or decide to quit after committing to ADC/IBC, there are NO refunds.
- The competition schedule is provided to us only about a week and a half before the competition begins. It changes every year.

Soloist Information

- We highly suggest you compete at least two solos (for the Junior and Senior categories). This can be two classical variations or one classical variation and one contemporary solo. Advanced dancers should do three solos. For Pre-Competitive dancers, we suggest one or two solos, but this will be based on experience and readiness.
- Administrative fee \$125 per dancer.
- Each solo is \$125 for each dancer.
- For dancers who are competing three or more solos, will pay for ONE Ensemble fee at \$60. If you are in multiple ensembles, you will need to cover the cost for the additional Ensembles.
- Final deadline to commit to ADC/IBC and how many solos or variations you'd like to do is **August 7th but registration is now open so it may be first come, first served.** We will enter all solos as TBD (to be determined), so don't worry if you don't know which variation or solo you'd like to do.

Ensemble Information

- If you are invited to compete or choose to compete in ADC/IBC as an Ensemble member **only**, your fees will be \$60 for one Ensemble piece, \$120 for two Ensembles and \$180 for three Ensembles, and an Administrative fee \$125 per dancer.

ADC/IBC Finals

- The Finals are a week in Saint Petersburg, Florida, March 30th to April 5th
- If any soloist is invited to the Finals, we HIGHLY suggest you go. This is a huge honor, and students can learn a lot from the experience. The fee is \$450 which includes: 3-4 performed solos (4 if pass to Final Round), all open & scored master classes, repertoire classes, company audition for ages 16+, direct access to over 300 scholarship opportunities, sponsor gifts, event all-access pass, and Final Round Gala ticket. There is also an administrative fee of \$125
- If any Ensembles are chosen to for Finals, the Ensemble fee is \$70 per Ensemble, \$90 per Duet/Trio dancer, or \$135 per Pas De Deux dancer, There is also an administrative fee of \$125
- The travel expenses can be cost effective by sharing rooms, cars, and traveling in groups. The overall expenses however pale in comparison to the chance to compete in this wonderful opportunity

Click [here](#) to read the ADC/IBC Rules and Regulations for 2027

Ballet Championships of America (BCA) Information

2027 Regionals: February 12-14, 2027

Location: Pinnacle Performing Arts Complex at Pinnacle Charter School

1001 W 84th Ave Federal Heights, CO 80260

- This is a newer competition. We need to know by August 7th if you are competing in BCA. Ali needs to complete registration on behalf of the school and will register the dancer by paying at least the registration fee to hold the dancer's place. These fees will be passed on to you.
- **The fees will be charged to the credit card on file on September 15th.** If you are injured or decide to quit after committing to BCA, there are NO refunds.
- The competition schedule is provided to us only about a week and a half before the competition begins. It changes every year.

Soloist Information

- You can ONLY compete ONE classical variation and have the optional of competing ONE contemporary solo. However, you can compete a classical variation, a classical ballet solo (original), or a classical solo from the BCA repertoire. For contemporary you can do a contemporary solo, a cultural solo, or a contemporary solo from the BCA repertoire.
- Categories are broken down by age
PETITE (Age 7-8) APPRENTICE & COMPETITIVE
PRE-JUNIOR (Age 9-10) APPRENTICE & COMPETITIVE
JUNIOR (Age 11-12) APPRENTICE & COMPETITIVE (no pointe shoes allowed for classical)
PRE-TEEN (Age 13-14) APPRENTICE & COMPETITIVE (pointe or ballet shoes for classical)
TEEN (Age 15-16) APPRENTICE & COMPETITIVE (pointe shoes for females for classical)
SENIOR (Age 17-21) APPRENTICE & COMPETITIVE (pointe shoes for females for classical)
- Registration pass is \$121 per dancer and includes all registration fees, unlimited spectator passes, all photos and videos of dances (for registered dancer)
- Fees are \$126 per solo and the master class fee is included in the solo price. You could compete six different solos in this competition.
- Duet/Trio/Pas de Deux fees are \$155 per group and Ensembles are \$265 per group. The price will be divided among the members in the group.
- Final deadline to commit to BCA and how many solos or variations you'd like to do is **August 7th**. We will enter all solos as TBD (to be determined), so don't worry if you don't know which variation or solo you'd like to do.
- Dancers who place are eligible for scholarships.

Ensemble Information

- If you are invited to compete in BCA as an Ensemble member **only**, Duet/Trio/Pas de Deux fees are \$155 per group and Ensembles are \$265 per group. The price will be divided among the members in the group.
- Registration pass is \$121 per dancer and includes all registration fees, unlimited spectator passes, all photos and videos of dances (for registered dancer) and the master class fee is \$70

BCA Levels

There are two different levels for BCA: Apprentice and Competitive. The Apprentice level is for less experienced dancers. Competitive level is harder and for dancers who are more experienced, more advanced for their age, and have competed more. Our faculty will decide what level a dancer should be placed in.

BCA Finals

There is a BCA Finals. If you are interested in going, we can have a conversation about that. The Finals are April 15 to 18th in Las Vegas.

Click [here](#) to read the BCA Rules and Regulations for 2027

2026-2027 Competition and Coaching Handbook

Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) Information

2027 Regionals: February 19-21, 2027

Location: Newman Center for the Performing Arts, Denver

- Due to the popularity of YAGP, the semi-finals have begun to close quickly. We ask that if you decide to participate, please let us know ASAP. Ali needs to complete registration on behalf of the school and will register the dancer by paying at least the registration fee to hold the dancer's place. These fees will be passed on to you.
- **The fees will be charged to the credit card on file on August 15th.** If you are injured or decide to quit after committing to YAGP, there are NO refunds.
- The competition schedule is provided to us only about a week and a half before the competition begins. It changes every year.

Soloist Information

- We highly suggest you compete at least two classical variations (for the Junior and Senior categories). All dancers ages 12 and older should also compete a contemporary solo as well. For Pre-Competitive, we suggest one to three solos, but this will be based on experience and readiness.
- Registration fee is \$135 per dancer.
- Each solo is \$135 for each dancer.
- Final deadline to commit to YAGP and how many solos or variations you'd like to do is **July 31st**. We will enter all solos as TBD (to be determined), so don't worry if you don't know which variation or solo you'd like to do.

Ensemble Information

- If you are invited to compete in YAGP as an Ensemble member **only**, your fees will be \$70 for one Ensemble, \$140 for two Ensembles, \$210 for three Ensembles and a registration fee of \$135.
- For dancers who are competing three or more solos, will pay for ONE Ensemble fee at \$70. If you are in multiple ensembles, you will need to cover the cost for the additional Ensembles.

YAGP Finals (In Tampa this year)

- If any soloist or ensemble is invited to the Finals, we HIGHLY suggest you go. There is now the option to opt into a shorter 3-4 day option. This is a huge honor and students can learn a lot from the experience. There IS a cost to compete. Soloist fees are \$390 per dancer (Junior and Senior) and \$345 (Pre-Competitive). Ensemble fees are \$240 per dancer. There is an additional fee of \$65 each to compete in additional ensemble pieces. Pas de deux fees range from \$120 to \$360. These fees include admission to all the events, lectures by guest artists and directors, and admission to nearly daily master classes. LBA cannot cover everyone's fees. The travel expenses can be pretty cost effective by sharing rooms, cars, and traveling in groups. The overall expenses however pale in comparison to the chance to compete in this wonderful opportunity!

Click [here](#) to read the YAGP Rules and Regulations for 2027

Denver Ballet Guild Young Dancer's Competition Information

2027 Competition: February 26th to February 28th, 2027

Location: Mapleton Arts Center, Denver

- This competition will again be led by Francisco Estevez and Tracy Jones. Therefore, they will not be coaching any of our dancers for Guild. (They can for the other competitions).
- Fun fact: This competition has been around since 1979
- Category I: females ages 10 to 11 and is just a class, however they may do awards if they feel dancers are deserving.
- Category II: females ages 12 to 13 and is a judged class AND a variation
- Category III: females ages 14 to 15 and is a judged class and a variation
- Category IV: females ages 16 to 18 and is a judged class and a variation
- Category V: males ages 12 to 18 and is a judged class and a variation (age 12 to 13), (ages 14 to 15), ages 16 to 18)
- There are four variations with set music (two tempos) per year (Four different rotations)
- This competition awards monetary scholarships to the school of your choice.

THIS IS THE ONE COMPETITION THAT YOU WILL REGISTER FOR ON YOUR OWN!

Registration opens October 1st. We will send information as soon as we get it.

Click [here](#) for more information, including variations list.

Information for ALL Competitions

Arrival Times

Please arrive 30 minutes before your class time and 1.25 to 1.5 hours before your competition time to warm up (unless you have a master class before).

Sometimes dancers are assigned dressing rooms. We are ALWAYS sharing a dressing room so please bring limited stuff and don't expect Ali to bring back everything left in the dressing room. Please keep your costumes locked in your car when you are not using them, rather in the dressing room. People can easily steal them. Write your name on ALL belongings!

Check In

You are responsible for checking in your own child for solos except at StarQuest. We will be watching the competition and will see your dancer during Open Stage. Each dancer is responsible for getting themselves dressed and to class or to the dressing room. If you have questions, you can text Ali or use the Competition Team Band app.

Master Class

Most competitions have master classes.

- For YAGP, ADC/IBC, and UBC Regionals you are assigned to classes automatically.
- For YAGP Finals YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REGISTERING YOUR OWN DANCER FOR CLASSES.
- UBC and BCA require a black leotard
- ADC/IBC and YAGP allow colored leotards
- NO JUNK ALLOWED over your leotard and tights for ANY master classes. No jewelry allowed either other than small earrings.

Costumes

Everyone is responsible for bringing their own costumes to competition. To protect the costumes, they are required to be brought in the garment bags provided. You will need to pick up the costumes from the studio one to two days BEFORE the competition begins.

If any costumes or costume pieces are lost, damaged, stolen, or left behind you are financially responsible for replacing that costume or piece. If you get your period in a costume, you **MUST** tell us so we can help you get out the stain or you will be charged the expense of replacing the costume.

ALL costumes must be brought to the front office, three days after the last day of competition. Anna and our front staff will check and make sure everything is returned and in good condition.

Hair and Makeup

A classical, performance bun in the middle of the head is required for all dancers for Ensembles and Classical. No parts and no bangs. Please use hair spray. Contemporary solos can have different hair styles. Sometimes contemporary ensembles will also have different hairstyles such as a French twist.

Dancers need stage makeup for solos and ensembles. They do not for classes.

Awards

For awards, please bring something nice to wear such as a dress or skirt and don't forget your underwear and nice shoes. ALL dancers need to attend the awards for BCA, UBC, YAGP, and ADC/IBC. Dancers are NOT required to attend the Awards ceremony for YAGP Finals OR ADC/IBC Finals.

Also, after ALL awards dancers will be required to meet in a designated place to take pictures as a team.

Dancer Expectations & Code of Conduct

As a member of the Littleton Ballet Academy's Competition Team, all dancers are expected to adhere to all rules and policies listed in the Littleton Ballet Academy Family Handbook, the Littleton Youth Ballet Handbook, and the Competition Handbook at all times. The Dancer Code of Conduct is a set of conventional principles and expectations for all Littleton Ballet Academy Competition Team dancers to follow. All dancers are bound to the policies described below:

Behavior

- Please show respect for your coaches, team (regardless of race, gender, religion, etc), other dancers from different studios, parents, judges, officials and audience members.
- You are representatives of the team, school, and company and must exhibit appropriate behavior during master classes, coaching sessions, competitions. Be polite, courteous, and respectful to coaches, parents, master teachers, guest artists, dancers on your team regardless of level, competition staff, theatre staff, and other competitors. Please greet your coaches and make sure to answer questions respectfully.
- Do not listen to, participate in or instigate any idle, worthless gossip. This includes but is not limited to gossip about other dancers from different studios, and/or internal gossip about LBA dancers, coaches and parents.
- **Show good sportsmanship and class before, during, and after competitions and practices by maintaining a true "team" mentality.**
- Be proud of your team and support all your team members and coaches, including all social media. If you cannot say wonderful things about our team, studio, coaches, and other dancers then this is not the place for you.
- Be modest when successful and be gracious if you do not place.
- Do not participate in and/or instigate bullying. This includes all possible forms of bullying such as electronic, verbal, physical, mental, social media based, etc.
- Bullying of any kind is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program at the discretion of the LBA directors and coaches.

- We do not permit use of drugs, tobacco (including e-cigarettes 'vaping'), alcohol, and abusive language. This behavior will result in termination from the LBA Competition Team.
- Remain mindful that all decisions reflect on yourself, your family, your team, and both Littleton Ballet Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet.
- During awards, dancers are expected to:
Applaud all other dancers as they receive awards, regardless of studio and congratulate other dancers on their success.

Social Media

- You are a representative of Littleton Ballet Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet. Photos or videos that depict you or people you associate with doing anything of an 'inappropriate nature,' (drinking, smoking, the use of offensive language, participating in provocative TikTok dances, making obscene gestures, etc) are not permitted at any time.
- No dancer or parent may post inappropriate or disparaging messages, photos, videos or other types of content on a social media platform (Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, SnapChat, YouTube, etc.) about other programs, individuals, themselves, Littleton Ballet Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet, or any coach from the studio.
- Refrain from using any social networking, messaging services or electronic media to distribute negative or inappropriate information that could be detrimental to yourself, your family, the Littleton Ballet Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet, or any coach from the studio in any way. This is grounds for immediate dismissal from the team.
- Do not engage in comments or posts about any competitions or Littleton Ballet Academy and/or Littleton Youth Ballet in a negative light.
- **PLEASE DO tag us in your photos with pride. @littletonballetacademy**

I understand that violation of any of these policies could result in dismissal from Littleton Ballet Academy and/or Littleton Youth Ballet.

Parent Expectations & Code of Conduct

As parent of a dancer at Littleton Ballet Academy, you are bound to the same level of expectations as your dancer. You represent our program and your child, and your behavior should not be a distraction to either. All parents and guardians of our competition dancers are bound to the policies described below:

Behavior

- Any parental outbursts will result in immediate suspension and possible removal from the Littleton Ballet Academy Competition Team and possibly the school and company as well.
- Encourage good sportsmanship and behavior by demonstrating positive support for all dancers, coaches, staff, and judges during all classes and competitions.
- Be proud of your team and support all your team members and coaches, including all social media. If you cannot say wonderful things about our team, studio, coaches, and other dancers then this is not the place for you.
- Ensure that your child understands what is expected of them as a member of the Littleton Ballet Academy Competition Team in regards all policies in the handbooks.
- Place the well-being of your child before your own personal desire to win.
- Defer to the coaches' discretion regarding all decisions.
- Not listen to, participate in or instigate idle, worthless gossip. This includes, but is not limited to, external, non-LBA related gossip and/or internal gossip about other dancers, staff, coaches and parents.
- We will not tolerate pettiness, gossiping, or cliques that attempt to slander the Littleton Ballet Academy, Littleton Youth Ballet, or any directors, coaches or guest artists. Parents displaying improper behavior will be dismissed from the program immediately and will not be allowed to return the following year.

- Remember that while sitting in the audience others can hear anything you say. Be respectful, don't talk about others, and always be on your best behavior while at competitions. You are representing our school, company, and team.
- Parents should not hold athletes from practices as a form of punishment. Doing so not only keeps your athlete from progressing, but also negatively impacts their team's ability to improve and prepare.
- Refrain from discussing intent to join another studio program in the future with other dancers and parents. Doing so will result in immediate dismissal from the program.
- Parents, relatives, friends, etc. are not allowed to approach a coach with disrespectful comments at a competition or at the studio.
- ALL Littleton Ballet Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet directors, staff, and coaches reserve the right to excuse any parent for disrespectful or inappropriate behavior.
- Parents and guardians must always conduct themselves in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner. Causing a scene, including but not limited to aggressive behavior, shouting, and using inappropriate language, is strictly prohibited and may result in immediate dismissal from the program.

Social Media

- You are a representative of Littleton Ballet Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet. Photos or videos that depict you or people you associate with doing anything of an 'inappropriate nature', (drinking, smoking, the use of offensive language, participating in provocative TikTok dances, making obscene gestures, etc) are not permitted at any time.
- No dancer or parent may post inappropriate or disparaging messages, photos, videos or other types of content on a social media platform (Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, SnapChat, YouTube, etc.) about other programs, individuals, themselves, Littleton Ballet Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet, or any coach from the studio.
- Refrain from using any social networking, messaging services or electronic media to distribute negative or inappropriate information that could be detrimental to yourself, your family, the Littleton Ballet Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet, or any coach from the studio in any way. This is grounds for immediate dismissal from the team.
- Do not engage in comments or posts about any competitions or Littleton Ballet Academy and/or Littleton Youth Ballet in a negative light.
- **PLEASE DO tag us in your photos with pride. @littletonballetacademy**

I understand that violation of any of these policies could result in my child's dismissal from Littleton Ballet Academy and/or Littleton Youth Ballet.

Illness and Injury

- Illness and injury are never great but of course they do happen. We will do our best to work with each family when they do arise. Our number one priority is the safety of the dancer. Because of this, changes to a piece will be made if a dancer cannot perform due to an injury or illness.
- In the event a dancer is out for one week or more, an alternate may be placed in the injured/ill dancer's place OR the choreographer has the right to rework the piece without the dancer.
- Once a dancer is cleared to return from injury or illness by a doctor or physical therapist, we will try to have the dancer return to the same place in the ensemble they were in when they went out.
- The dancer **MUST** be cleared by a doctor or physical therapist for participation two weeks **PRIOR** to the upcoming competition to be allowed to perform.
- Every competition has different policies on injuries and illness. It is up to you to contact the competition to see if they will refund your fees.
- If you are injured or ill, please let us know **IMMEDIATELY**.

Thank you for being a part of LBA's Competition Team!