



Ballet in the City

Master Class FAQs

What is a Master Class?

Ballet in the City Master Classes provide an opportunity for dancers to take classes and learn from professional dancers and masters in the field.

Why are Master Classes important to a dancer / what are their purpose?

Master Classes provide many benefits to dancers. They allow students to expose themselves to other styles of teaching and ways of approaching dance and give the opportunity for burgeoning dancers to make personal connections with accomplished, well-known professionals. Dance students then experience inspiration from professional dancers.

How does Ballet in the City choose its guest artists?

Ballet in the City chooses its guest artists by selecting leading ballet dancers from the top ballet companies in the nation. It presents talented and highly regarded dancers who have unique qualities and expertise to share with dancers at all levels.

How does a dance student prepare for a Master Class?

When preparing for a Master Class, dancers should research the guest artist to gain background and become familiar with him or her. Dancers and parents should also have the **required Ballet in the City waivers** printed and filled out prior to coming to the master class that will be emailed a few days prior to the Master Class, once the dancer is registered (these waivers are also found on the Ballet in the City website). Having these waivers printed and ready creates a more efficient check-in process and allows classes to stay on schedule.

How do I know which Master Class I should take?

Ballet in the City typically provides two Age Groups for Master Classes (ages 8-12 and ages 13+). Although we encourage dancers to stay within their age range it is upon dancer and or parent discretion which class is chosen. We do not ask for ages at the time of registration.

What will the Master Classes entail?

Each Master Class is different, based on what and how the guest artist prefers to teach. However, we typically present a classical ballet technique class for the first half of the class and then something more specific to follow, such as Pas de Deux or Variations. For example, the 8-12 Age Group may have a Jumps and Turns workshop, while the 13+ Age Group may have a Pas de Deux or variations class. Each class concludes with a Question and Answer Session with the professional dancer, at which Ballet in the City always provides an autographed photo of the dancer as a reminder of the experience. These are all part of the cost of the Master Class registration, and what make Ballet in the City Master Class experiences so unique. We also are happy to often be able to provide giveaways at the classes from our wonderful sponsors such as Discount Dance Supply.



American Ballet Theatre's Carlos Lopez and Misty Copeland during a Ballet in the City Q&A Session following Master Classes

Photo by Alexis Ziemski

What about boys attending and 'Guys Dance Too'?

Ballet in the City is committed to quality, meaningful opportunities for dancers of all ages and genders. Male dancers are absolutely welcome and encouraged at all Ballet in the City master classes. Guys Dance Too classes are for males only, regardless of age or experience. They were created to help male dancers/ males interested in trying dance to feel comfortable, welcome, and recognized for the unique role they play in the dance world. All Guys Dance Too classes are just for guys and are taught by male teachers.



New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Amar Ramasar teaches Guys Dance Too Class

Photo by Rebekah Spurlock

How should dancers dress for the Master Classes?

FEMALES

Girls dancing in the 8-12 Age Group classes will wear a black leotard, pink tights and ballet technique class shoes. Girls dancing in the 13+ Age Group may wear colored leotards and or a skirt or knit warm-up shorts. Hair should also be in a secure BUN. PONYTAILS will NOT be permitted for either level. It is a priority of Ballet in the City that all master class participants present themselves in a professional manner to present the best environment for the instructor and fellow class participants.

MALES

Boys dancing in either Age Group classes will wear a white dance shirt, black ballet tights, and ballet shoes (knee-length tights or ballet pants with socks are fine for boys as well). If boys are taking a “Guys Dance Too” class that is another genre of dance other than ballet, they may feel free to wear whatever is most comfortable, that is appropriate for dancing.

Are all dancers expected to be on pointe?

Dancers are not required to be on pointe. During the 13+ Age Group Pas de Deux and Variations classes, dancers are encouraged to wear pointe shoes but can still participate in ballet technique shoes if necessary. Dancers are not to wear pointe shoes during ballet technique class unless the instructor specifically asks for pointe shoes to be worn.

What if a dancer has registered and is unable to attend?

Ballet in the City does not refund or transfer master class fees/registrations for any reason, including injury, other than for presenter postponement or cancellation. If a dancer sustains an injury that prevents him/ her from taking the classes, he or she may observe the classes and still take part in the Q&A and Autograph Sessions.



I enjoy Ballet in the City's Master Classes- what if I want more?

Ballet in the City is offering its second annual trip to Saratoga Springs, New York from July 15-22, 2018. Customizable trips within these dates will be arranged for families. Activities include classes with stars of the New York City Ballet, tours of the National Museum of Dance, and so much more. Please email info@balletinthecity.org for more information and to reserve your spot.

Ballet in the City will begin looking for its 2019 Ambassadors in October 2018. If you are interested in being a Ballet in the City Ambassador, please email info@balletinthecity.org, or look out for the latest updates on our social media.

TESTIMONIALS

"I can't say enough nice things about the Ballet in the City programs. Excellence in dance education, and an experience that is meaningful and memorable for the students. Great place to go for Master Classes. We drive almost two hours and it has been worth it every time." **-Mindy Isles**

"What a great opportunity to see such talent grace the stage and the studio, all courtesy of Ballet in the City! Can't wait to see where this organization expands and educates." **-Jessica Kehn**

"I just wanted to say thank you for all you do in the community, with all the passion and support you give the students, and the drive that you have and share with others! My daughter Emily has learned so much. She now not only recognizes how much she loves dance, but that she has much to learn from other artists. I have you and your team to thank for that! I know Emily may or may not become a professional, but dance will always be a part of her because of these Ballet in the City experiences." **-Laura Shafer**

"I watched my niece Rebecca light up when she not only got to see Ashley Boudier dance onstage, but got to meet her in person at her first Ballet in the City event. Since then, she has attended numerous other events, such as their master classes and the summer intensive, and she loves ballet more than ever." **-Scott Zurilla**



Ballet in the City Dancer Ambassador Jaeden Footitt presents National Ballet of Canada Principal Dancer Sonia Rodriguez a bouquet following Ballet in the City's presentation of 'A Ballerina's Legacy'

Photo by Gretchen Noelle Photography

Ballet in the City

MASTER TEACHERS since 2012 Inception

ZIPORA KARZ: Former Soloist, New York City Ballet

ASHLEY BOUDER: Principal, New York City Ballet

AMAR RAMASAR: Principal, New York City Ballet

AMELIA LOWE: Finalist, Season 9, So You Think You Can Dance

CARLOS LOPEZ: Former Soloist, American Ballet Theatre

MISTY COPELAND: Principal, American Ballet Theatre

JULIA ERICKSON: Principal, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

AARON INGLEY: Former Soloist, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

JOSHUA BEAMISH: Director, MOVE: The Company

MICHELE WILES: Former Principal, ABT & Artistic Director, BalletNext

JAY DONN: Flex Dancer, BalletNext

KATHRYN MORGAN: Former Soloist, New York City Ballet

SASCHA RADETSKY: Former Soloist, American Ballet Theatre

SONIA RODRIGUEZ: Principal, National Ballet of Canada

PIOTR STANCZYK: Principal, National Ballet of Canada

DUSTY BUTTON: Former Principal, Boston Ballet

REBECCA KING-FERRARO: Corps de Ballet, Miami City Ballet

MICHAEL SEAN BREEDEN: Corps de Ballet, Miami City Ballet

LAUREN LOVETTE: Principal, New York City Ballet

EMILY KIKTA: Corps de Ballet, New York City Ballet

PETER WALKER: Principal, New York City Ballet

DAVID PROTTAS: Former Soloist, New York City Ballet

CALVIN ROYAL III: Soloist, American Ballet Theatre

ELINA MIETTINEN: Corps de Ballet, American Ballet Theatre

