



Rappin' & Tappin'

March/April 2009

NOTES:

- Studio Pictures will be on May 2nd this year.
- Father-Daughter rehearsals: April 19, May 3, May 31.
- Recital is on June 6th!

Competition Dates:

Encore at Chabot	Feb 27- Mar 1
Thunderstruck at Chabot	Mar 21-22
Odyssey in San Jose	Apr 4
KAR in Alameda	May 15-17
KAR Nationals in Las Vegas	July 5-10

“COMPETITION” what does it all mean?

Your child just started taking classes at the studio and you notice, along with their classes, there is a lot of craziness that goes on in the studio.

This is the Joanne Brown Dancers competition team getting ready for their competition season.

The competition team is made up of students ages 3 & up. Throughout the dance year I observe all my students to see who might be ready to join the team. You don't have to be dancing any certain length of time to join; you just need to have a good sense of rhythm and the ability to pick up steps. We will do the rest. I like to make competition an experience that is not for a chosen few.

Once you make the commitment to join the team in a tap and/or jazz group, ballet and technique classes are added because these classes strengthen a dancer's abilities. For those who only compete in hip hop, there are no other classes required.



I use competition as a way to instill in my students the love of dance. It's exciting to see them on stage performing to their best ability. We do stress that although winning is fun, it is not the most important thing; it's about doing your best and having fun.

We start our competition classes during the summer session. I will be passing out letters that your child is invited to join the competition team at the end of April. - Joanne



The “adults” at competition, dancing to “We’re Not Gonna Take It!”

Choreography by Aubrey Martinez

Choreography is an artistic interpretation to music, lyric or words. There are many different ways to interpret a song or word, which is why you can have one song with many iterations of choreography.

I feel my ideas for choreography are inspired by emotions. My jazz and lyrical are choreographed to express the intensity of the song and the emotion within, whether it is anger, flirtation, craziness, or just having fun. I challenge the students to pull from their own experiences. As I choreograph, I am constantly giving examples of real life applications to apply the feelings or the dance step to. For example, in "When I grow Up", at the end of their dance they do a turn sequence. When I was teaching the step I called it the smack down turn. They do a chenne turn and take the back of their hand and pretend to smack it down on a table. I give the visuals that stick in their minds. In "GoldenEye" the girls strike a Sports Illustrated Swimsuit model pose! This visualization helps the dancers understand the feeling and the intensity that needs to be portrayed.



"GoldenEye"



"MLK" is a lyrical dance choreographed by Aubrey. The dancers are aged 11 to 17. It is performed to an audio recording of Dr. Martin Luther King's speech, "I Have A Dream." The dance was performed at the Newark Black History Month Celebration and at competition. Aubrey received "Choreographer of the Weekend" for this dance at Thunderstruck.

MLK was the biggest challenge for the girls as well as me this year. There is no music to utilize the special accents. But yet, if you listen to the speech, you can hear the flow of the lyrics. Dr King was an amazing public speaker and had a unique gift to inspire. His words in the "I have a Dream" speech have so much meaning even today. The piece was choreographed to portray the pain and anguish of the early 1960's. The girls struggled to relate initially. I found old pictures of that era depicting life in the USA for people of color. It had a profound effect on the girls.

Choreography isn't always about the technical component. There is a huge emotional connection to it as well. For example, a 9 year old dancer could not possibly relate to a song about struggling in life. But they could relate to wanting to be a Rock Star. As a choreographer, it is our jobs to find the right song choice for the respective group. This is not always an easy task. You have to find a piece of music that is reflective of those dancing and that will appeal to an audience. Our studio has always been proud to produce dances that are entertaining for all audiences whether you have years of dance experience or are watching for the first time!

- Aubrey Martinez

The Rules of Competition

It has become very clear that many have forgotten the rules. Just want to review briefly.

1. Bring all your costumes, make-up, accessories, and hair stuff you will need.
2. Be on time. This means a minimum of 2 hours before you are scheduled to dance.
3. Be respectful. Please do not walk up and down the aisles while there are dances going on. Do not talk loudly while in the theater watching. It is courtesy to us and to others dancers.
4. NO NAIL POLISH ON FINGERS OR TOES. Please remove all polish the night before competition. We don't carry nail polish remover!
5. Be flexible with your dance time. Many times in competition there are unexpected actions by our studio or other studios that will cause a dance to perform earlier or later than their call time. Please be flexible!
6. Please eat before you dance. Please make sure each dancer has food before or just after the normal meal times. This makes for a happier dancer and teacher backstage.
7. Bring water. Many times, there is water provided, but on occasion we have been without water. Please bring a water bottle with you.
8. Be Positive! Negativity brings negative outcomes. Stay positive! It is okay to compliment other dancers on a great performance, even if they are not with our studio.
9. Be Responsible. Remember, you are responsible for your own stuff. Teachers often are the last to leave and find lots of "goodies" left behind. Please throw away all your trash before you leave. This includes the back side of tape, bobby pins, food trash and water bottles.
10. When you leave a competition, please immediately hang up your costumes and make sure all your accessories are accounted for. Don't assume everything made it in your bag!!!

These are some simple rules to follow that will make everyone's life a little easier. Please also make sure any guests who attend to watch are made aware of rule number 3. This is one of the biggest complaints from any dancer. It is very rude to a person on stage! Thanks and enjoy KAR!!!!

Father-Daughter Dance:

Rehearsals for this year's father-daughter dance have begun but it's not too late to join! Fliers with signups are still around at the studio.

We always have a lot of fun with this dance, both at practices and at the recital.

There's no need to feel intimidated, the daughters do all the dancing, the dads mostly just stand there ... really! This year's theme is The Blues Brothers so grab your hats and Ray Bans and join us!



Father-Daughter Dance rehearsal schedule:

April 19th

May 3rd

May 31st

Other dates to be added as needed/

Don't forget picture day is May 2nd!

Birthdays and Bulletin Board

April

Lisa G. (over 21)	April 6th
Naomi (3)	April 9th
Calyx (14)	April 10th
Galila (11)	April 12th

May

Imani (13)	May 3rd
Sasha (12)	May 4th
Sophie (9)	May 5th
Cassidy (11)	May 6th
Charmaine (over 21)	May 8th
Ashleigh P. (18)	May 11th
Isabelle M. (8)	May 12th
Serena E. (6)	May 15th
Victoria G. (9)	May 20th
Ashley K. (8)	May 20th
Thea (8)	May 20th
Alyssa T. (4)	May 20th

Ellie M. (6)	May 22nd
Anna K. (13)	May 24th
Ada P. (4)	May 24th
Michaela G. (17)	May 25th
Stephanie G (22)	May 28th
Lauren (7)	May 30th
Alicia O. (14)	May 31st

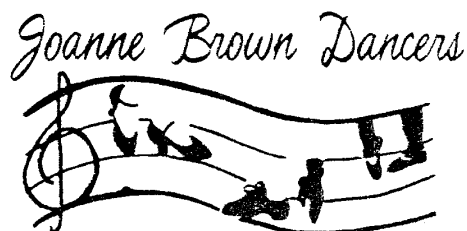


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