Dear Company member

Re Auditions for Company places

Thank you for all your hard work this year and for being part of Instep revival !

We are looking towards next year and a plan for recruiting Company. After Covid we extended an invitation for all previous Company members to return… but now that we are a year in we are looking to return to the audition process so that we can remember what a Company place is intended to be about.

Many of you will be wanting to move to another company and some of you may want to stay where you are , others may have decided they don’t want to continue… in order to navigate through your needs and wants the audition process will be the best way to work out where you are best suited.

If we consider a company place is not in the best interest of any students because they don’t seem settled , happy or making progress we would advise our workshop class in order to gain confidence and skill .

At this stage I want to point out that there are other dancers currently in our Junior classes and workshop who didn’t get a Company place this year and I know they would like to be considered. I’d also like to be really clear that we will NEVER turn anyone away from Instep. WE will also NOT penalise any student who cannot pay full fees,. We recognise we are about to move into a difficult time for families and we will honour a place in an Instep class for current members whatever circumstances families find themselves in

It has always been our intention to work for excellence in our Company classes. We’ve learned a lot from Covid and our return since. We know that we need to apply some additional teaching around feedback and resilience which is what Company is about. Since our return we’ve felt the need to take a soft touch with all of our students and now we need to ramp up the feedback to get the best out of them ! This applies to understanding that Company is about attitude and commitment in the weekly class, attendance at residency weekends and in the additional rehearsals running up to a show – all of which is set down in the Company contracts

We’ve also been watching all company members through recent months and considering if they appreciate fully all the additional things we offer Company in terms of the extras- rehearsals and extended sessions which they don’t pay for. Costume support and personal care to support those with particular needs .

Most of our Company members understand their place in company is a privilege and work their socks off each week.. but we would like to get back to a place where we feel all company members really appreciate this place because they’ve had to work hard to gain it!

We wish to return to a sense of appreciation and mutual respect which is the basis for making students and staff happy in their work !

This is a foreword into an explanation of why we will audition in the Autumn and how the audition process will work :

All students should start off be attending the audition which is targeted at their CURRENT COMPANT CLASS

We will then advise whether they should stay to try the audition for the next class

So to be clear students don’t select which company they want to audition for,. They attend the audition with all for the company they danced with in show 22 ad we’ll take from there !

Here’s the plan for auditions so students are aware of what to expect !

Audition fee will be £5 , payable on the night

Students will be taught a phrase which is applicable to the level, age range of the 4 Companies.

Students will then have time to work on that phrase before performing it in small groups

We will then set a Solo choreography task . This will be a development of the phrase they have learnt and will include simple choreography such as re ordering the movement or changing the space in which they work

They will then perform this development in small groups

We will also ask all students to arrive with a written sentence about why they would like a company place

Auditions are held on Wednesday September 28 th see attached flyer for when to attend

I just want to be absolutely clear that we WILL offer everyone a place in an appropriate class. We don’t believe in auditions which reject young people and exclude then . We will approach this process in an inclusive mindset which is all about finding the right class for the right student

Thank you all

Jackie , Sian and the team

Sent from my iPhone