

Dance Genres/Styles

Creative Dance is a form of “free” dance to expose children to the art of dance. Classes will include singing and use of props, and a variety of music. The aim of this dance is to preserve a child’s spontaneity of movement while using basic concepts of dance to form simple choreography.

Preschool Ballet is more structured than “Creative Dance”, but is geared for an “age-appropriate” level. Children will learn basic ballet technique, and steps, but also use props and dance creatively to the traditional ballet music.

Preschool Jazz is structured like Preschool Ballet. Children will learn basic Jazz technique and steps, but will dance creatively to pop music.

Ballet is a formalized type of performance dance, which originated in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century French courts, and which was further developed in England, Italy, and Russia as a concert dance form. It has since become a highly technical form of dance with its own vocabulary. It is primarily performed with the accompaniment of classical music. It is a poised style of dance that incorporates the foundational techniques for many other dance styles.

Jazz dance is an umbrella term that can refer to several related dance styles. All of them are connected via common roots, namely tap, ballet, jazz music, and African-American rhythms and dance. It is present in many different forms and venues, and usually danced to pop music. Jazz dance is based on Ballet Technique, but often uses bold, dramatic body movements, including body isolations and contractions. It continues to be an essential element of musical theatre choreography and music videos.

Tap dance is an exciting form of dance in which dancers wear special shoes equipped with metal taps. Tap dancers use their feet like drums to create rhythmic patterns and timely beats. Tap was traditionally danced to Jazz music, but can be performed to any musical genre with a good solid beat.

Hip-Hop is a highly energetic street dance style, usually danced to hip-hop/rap music that has evolved from the hip-hop culture. Hip-hop includes various moves such as **breaking, popping, locking and krumping, and even house dance**. Improvisation and personal interpretation are essential to hip-hop dancing. Hip hop is mostly seen in music videos, and on many streets around the world.

Modern dance is a dance style that rejects many of the strict rules of classical ballet, focusing instead on the expression of inner feelings. Modern dance was created as a rebellion against classical ballet, emphasizing creativity in choreography and performance. Today, the most current trend in modern dance is not to isolate the movement into its own dance form, but instead to fuse its elements with other genres, even ballet.

Musical theatre is a form of theatre combining music, songs, spoken dialogue and dance. The emotional content of the piece – humour, love, anger – as well as the story itself, is communicated through the words, music, movement and technical aspects of the entertainment as an integrated whole. Since the early 20th century, musical theatre stage works have generally been called simply, "**musicals**".

Ballroom dance is as old as the middle ages, its modern variations are still enjoyed all over the world. In this style, the symbolic union of two partners who perfectly complement and mirror each other showcases a unique grace and beauty. Ballroom offers the poise of ballet, the excitement of disco, and the romance of the "golden age" of Hollywood. With the exception of the tango, all of the ballroom dances known today originated in the royal courts of Europe, where they emerged from highly stylized folk dances. The tango came from Buenos Aires, Argentina, where it was originally considered a dance for the lower classes.

Acro Dance is a style of dance that combines classical dance technique with precision acrobatic elements. It is defined by its athletic character, its unique choreography, which seamlessly blends dance and acrobatics, and its use of acrobatics in a dance context. It is a popular dance style in amateur competitive dance as well as in professional dance theater and contemporary circus productions such as those by Cirque du Soleil. Acro dance is known by various other names including acrobatic dance and gymnastic dance, though it is most commonly referred to simply as acro by dancers and dance professionals.