

Preparation for Professional Division Program (PrePD)

This program is a unique, invitation only program designed for young dancers who are considering pursuing professional ballet training.

In the one or two years of the program students begin developing the level of technique and artistry required to pursue professional studies and potentially a professional career in ballet. This



program follows the Alberta Ballet School Professional Division curriculum that was carefully designed by our Director, Ashley McNeil; Artistic Advisor, Diane Van Schoor; and other Professional Division faculty members.

The Preparation for Professional Division program is suitable for students entering academic Grades 5 & 6.

Many children begin taking dance lessons at a young age. In these early years classes will focus on pre-ballet, eurythmics and creative movement. This benefits young children as it develops coordination, gross and fine motor and language skills and promotes physicality.

It is not until ages 8 to 10 when young bodies are ready to begin more formal, classical ballet training. This is a vital stage for those contemplating pursuing dance at a professional level as it allows the students to learn the fundamentals of classical technique from the beginning and ensures their bodies are trained correctly and safely.

In these crucial years of development it is important that students enroll in training



that is designed specifically for each stage of development in order to maximize their coordination, flexibility and strength. Ensuring each student is working to their individual body's potential starts at a young age, for as they grow and complete their physical development it becomes more challenging for children to adapt to the unique specifications of classical ballet training. Students who begin their training during these formative years often see greater success and lower rate of injury than others who delay the start of professional training. Even if students do not continue with professional careers in the future the patience, discipline and work ethic they will

develop during their time in a professional training program will benefit them in any future endeavor.

Students in our program are offered annual assessment opportunities by senior Professional Division faculty members. These assessments are designed to monitor each student's progress and provide feedback to their teacher in order to help each student achieve the most out of their training. Please note that these assessment classes will replace any outside examinations such as Cecchetti or RAD exams as the focus of the program is the Alberta Ballet School curriculum. Students will also receive a progress report from their main ballet teacher twice per year.

Upon completion of the Preparation for Professional Division program, students can be accepted into the full-time Professional Division Program to continue pursuing their professional training while completing their academic studies. Both artistic and academic training takes place at the Calgary location. For students wishing to continue their passion for dance without entering

the professional program can enter into our Intensive Training Program to continue high level training with eventual access to our High School Credit Program where they can receive high school credits for the time they spend training in the studios.

Students also have the opportunity to audition for Alberta Ballet Company's production of *The Nutcracker* and other productions requiring children's roles. Students have performed with Alberta Ballet Company in productions such as *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Students train in ballet, pre-pointe, workshop, and modern dance with the option of jazz at Alberta Ballet School studios.

For more information about Alberta Ballet School visit www.albertaballetschool.com

For information about our Preparation for Professional Division training please contact:

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