



**POST-GRADUATE
PROGRAM GUIDEBOOK**

WELCOME

COVER IMAGE:
School Alumna Shiori Otsu,
Alberta Ballet Company



Welcome to Alberta Ballet School. We are excited for you to join us and we look forward to contributing to your personal and professional growth.

Established in 1991, Alberta Ballet School is recognized as one of Canada's leading professional dance schools.

Under the leadership of Alberta Ballet School Director, Ashley McNeil, Alberta Ballet School's professional programs have an annual enrollment of approximately 135 local, national and international students.

It is Alberta Ballet School's mission to inspire all students to reach their potential, achieve success and prepare for their next step in life—whether it is a career in dance or otherwise. Alberta Ballet School is a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that helps all students achieve their best in dance and dance education.

On behalf of everyone here, we are thrilled you are considering our school for your future.

If you have any questions feel free to contact us at registration@albertaballet.com or 403 245 2245 EXT. 722.

Our ballet curriculum is specifically developed for Alberta Ballet School and is overseen by School Director, Ashley McNeil.

Alberta Ballet School introduces students to training in Classical Ballet through its own curriculum which commences in our Pre-Professional Division and carries on through Junior High and High School. It culminates in our 2-year Post-Graduate program.

The Classical Ballet curriculum educates dancers in the art form, with emphasis on a slow build-up of study focusing on body alignment, technique, musicality and artistry. The dance curriculum provides further education in body conditioning, character and contemporary dance. As the levels progress, study includes pointe work, boys' work, solo variations, repertoire and pas de deux. There are performance opportunities throughout the training.

All students learn from experienced, international school faculty, guest teachers and professional dancers from Alberta Ballet Company. These educators provide mentorship and instruction, allowing our students to reach their highest artistic potential.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Alberta Ballet Trainees may be asked to participate in in-house assessment classes throughout the year. These classes are designed to help monitor the students' progress and give the students and their teachers valuable feedback. In some cases, the students may receive a mark in the class which will appear on one or more of their progress reports. Progress reports are distributed two times a year and help our teachers communicate progress to students.



POST-GRADUATE PROGRAM

Our Post-Graduate Program is a two-year program for students who've completed their high school diploma and seek additional dance training before auditioning for professional dance companies. Our program exists to nurture the technical and artistic talents of emerging dancers aspiring to dance professionally.

Through extensive program curriculum, students in our Post Graduate Program will train in all aspects of professional dance life. Within a 35-hour dance week, they participate in the following classes:

- Ballet Technique
- Pointe
- Men's Technique
- Contemporary
- Pas de Deux
- Conditioning
- Repertoire (Classical + Contemporary)
- Variations (Men's + Women's)
- Career Transitions

Through individual advising and collaboration with instructors, guest instructors and choreographers, our Post Graduate Diploma Program works to connect students to avenues in the professional field of dance that fit with their artistic and technical strengths, as well as their future goals.

Alberta Ballet School faculty will assist with the preparation of audition material and dancer portfolio to ensure the best possible outcome for our Post-Graduate's future dance employment.

Year One: Students focus on refining and strengthening their technical and artistic training. Emphasis is on building the strength and stamina required for a full time career as a professional dancer.

Year Two: Students train with a strong focus on auditioning for professional companies in addition to gaining professional performance experience. Continued refinement of technical training through daily class work and performances increases. Students participate in portfolio creation and career mentoring to prepare for auditions with professional companies.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be 17 years or older
- High school diploma (or a similar international designation)
- Confirmation of advanced technical ability and performance level via audition(s)
- Doctor's note disclosing musculoskeletal injuries that could affect performance (upon request)
- International students require a valid passport, study permit and if under the age of 18, a Custodian Declaration Form in addition to a completed ELL Assessment Form
- Applicants agree to participate in all research activities with current and prospective School/ Ballet Company partners within the existing realm of appropriate Medical Ethics

Alberta Ballet School does not discriminate on race, gender or sexual orientation.



School Alumnus Henry Seldon,
Hong Kong Ballet

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Alberta Ballet School is located in downtown Calgary. Our school is over 30,000 square feet and boasts the following: 6 dance studios, wardrobe department, physiotherapy room, student changing rooms with showers and lockers, a lobby and dining area for students, Alberta Ballet School Dance Supply Store, staff offices and reception area.

RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Our Residence, located on the Mount Royal University campus, is a 15-minute drive from the school.

Post Graduate students are eligible to participate in our Residence Program. Students rent rooms from September to the end of June of the following year. Students interested in our Residence Program should contact Admissions at registration@albertaballet.com as early as possible.

Note: Students under the age of 18, residing at Residence are required to participate in the Meal Plan and Transportation Program. For more information about this please contact Admissions at registration@albertaballet.com

ALBERTA BALLET COMPANY

As the official school of Alberta Ballet Company, our students and families receive a 20% discount on all subscriptions and single tickets to any Alberta Ballet production. This discount is valid for both Calgary and Edmonton performances at the Jubilee Auditorium, where Alberta Ballet Company performs. New students of Alberta Ballet School will receive their discount code in September of each year.



“What I am looking for when auditioning dancers, and I have auditioned dancers from all around the world, is exactly what the school is training its students to be – accomplished in all styles of classical ballet and able to adapt. There is no ballet company in the world today that only performs classical ballet and so today's dancers need to be more versatile. The students at Alberta Ballet School receive that training, and I am proud to have them on my stage.”

— **Jean Grand-Maître,**
Artistic Director,
Alberta Ballet

ADMISSION PROCEDURES



POST GRADUATE

We accept 20 students to our Post-Graduate Program per year. It is our goal to notify students of final acceptance by April 30 for a September start.

Students interested in auditioning for the Post-Graduate Program may be asked, or required, to attend an extended audition in Calgary, or participate in our Summer Intensive.

Summer Intensive and/or an extended audition allows our artistic faculty the ability to further assess how a student performs in class, reacts to corrections and adapts to the Post-Graduate environment.

Upon acceptance into the program, a formal response is required in order to officially register for the program. At this time, students will receive an Alberta Ballet School registration package to complete and return in addition to the official student handbook.



"Alberta Ballet School aims to educate and train young developing artists for the dance profession. In my association with the school over the past years, development of technique and artistry is self-evident in the students and in the quality of the teaching at all levels."

— **Diane van Schoor**
FISTD (CB) FRSA
Alberta Ballet School's Artistic Advisor



LEARN MORE

Visit: www.albertaballetschool.com for additional information about our Post Graduate Program.

Alberta Ballet School is an accredited private school.

Students and families are eligible to use funding from a Registered Education Savings Plan towards school tuition.

COME SEE US

We would be delighted to give you and your family a tour of our facility and residence, meet our faculty, allowing you to ask any questions and get to know us better.

Please contact our Head of Admissions to arrange a private tour: registration@albertaballet.com



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Alberta Ballet School

West Annex, 2nd Floor
906, 12 Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2R 1K7

403 245 2274 ext. 722

Ashley McNeil, Director, Alberta Ballet School

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada