

PRESTON YOUTH DANCE COMPANY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



When do the company meet?

Preston Youth Dance Company meet weekly in term time, every Thursday, 5pm – 6.30pm.

Where do the company meet?

The company are based in the Dance Studio at UCLan (University of Central Lancashire) in the Media Factory building (the big green and grey lego looking building!)

We are a Resident Dance Company of UCLan Dance and work really closely with the Dance degree course and staff at UCLan to provide training opportunities for the students and take part in exciting events and projects!

How much does it cost?

There is a non-refundable, one-off fee of £125 to be paid at the start of the year. This covers all classes from September – June, any performance fees we are required to pay throughout the year (there are usually at least two regional performances we take part in), and a company t-shirt. Payment of the fee secures your place in the company for the year.

What happens during class?

Each week class consists of technique exercises, creative tasks, learning set material and working towards performance pieces.

We are really passionate about every individual having the opportunity to develop their skills at their pace, and about the creative and performance work produced by the company being relatable and relevant to YOU the dancers, therefore, all dancers are heavily involved in deciding the themes and creative ideas of the work we make. This is the place to develop your confidence by expressing yourself through dance and have your voice heard!

What age is the company?

The company are aged 11 – 19 years and come from different schools and colleges across Preston and the surrounding area, as well as dancers in the 1st year of the Dance degree at UCLan. The mix of ages and experience is a real strength of the company and allows everyone to share their knowledge and develop individually.

What happens at the audition?

This year's audition looks slightly different as we have to take it online due to current restrictions on numbers of people in the studio space! However, we are still hoping to give you a good snapshot into what PYDC company life is like. Classes will be in person from September.

There will be an online class via Zoom which will include an Introduction from Company Director Sarah, giving you an idea of what we do, what we have to look forward to this year and what we are looking for. We will all then learn a warm up, a set phrase and a creative task.

Don't worry, all of these will be designed to be able to happen in a small space so if you are currently only able to dance in the corner of your bedroom, that's ok!

What are the audition panel looking for?

We are simply looking for potential! We don't need to see special tricks or polished routines. We just look for people who are keen to learn, want to explore new dance ideas and want to join the PYDC family! Enthusiasm and commitment are key!

Do I have to have any previous dance experience?

No! But if you have that's also great! The dancers who join our company each year each have completely different dance experiences and skills and this is what makes the company great! We encourage you all to be individual and celebrate your different strengths, whilst working together as one great big team! Some dancers have never danced before, some have been dancing since they were two, some can do ballet, some can break dance, some are cheerleaders...everyone is welcome. We just want enthusiasm and commitment!

How will I know if I have been selected?

The audition panel will meet and look at the videos you have submitted, along with your registration form, and make decisions on who will join the company this year. We will then send everyone an email 12th July, stating whether you have been successful, unsuccessful or placed on the reserve list. Feedback will be available upon request.

Each year, we have a number of dancers on the reserve list in case any dancers who are offered a place cannot accept it, or if dancers leave the company throughout the year. The company has been running for 9 years and we have taken dancers from the reserve list every year, so there's always another chance!

How many places are there in the company?

We don't have a fixed number, however we usually take between 12 and 20 dancers into the company each year. Each year we also hold a second audition in September/October to invite a small number of 1st year UCLan Dance students into the company, so 2-3 places are reserved for them.

How do I take part in the audition?

In order to take part, you simply need to complete a Registration Form. This allows us to know who you are and that you want to join us! Everyone who completes the form will be invited to the audition. Once the form is completed, you will be sent further information about the audition and how to access the Zoom session.

How do I join the Zoom session?

Once you have completed the registration form, you will be sent instructions on how to download and access the Zoom session. The Zoom class can be viewed through your phone, tablet or laptop (laptop is easiest and you can see more people on it). All you will need is a Zoom account which we

advise you to set up in advance of the audition session on 2nd July. All details and support will be emailed to you as soon as you have registered your place by completing the registration form.

What happens if I have been selected?

Yay! The company year will begin in September 2021 and run to June/July 2022. We will send you a welcome email with information about key dates for the year, guidance on how to pay your company fee and how to keep in touch. We will then remain in touch regarding how classes will commence in September.

What should I wear to class?

Each dancer is given a company t-shirt, and more Moose clothing is available to buy if you wish! We ask all dancers to wear long trousers/leggings and cover up as much skin as possible as we do a lot of floor work and contact work. Floor burn on your belly is never good!

What things do the company get involved in?

Each year we aim to do at least 4 performances locally and regionally and apply to big dance festivals such as UDance and Big Up North. We also perform as part of the Blue Moose Showcase and support UCLan Dance at events they hold throughout the year. Alongside this, we often get involved in other fun projects like creating outdoor performance work and making dance films. And then we always try to have one or two company socials each year!

If the country is still/returns to lockdown...

As it currently stands, we plan to return to classes in the studio from September working in line with government advice. If we return to a lockdown and are unable to be together in person, we will revert to sessions on Zoom (we are very practiced at this now) and return to in person delivery as soon as it is safe to do so.