

STUDIO WEST *Dance Academy*

May 2020 Newsletter
The Social Distancing Edition

Studio West ❤️s Homes First and Homeless Backpacks



It seems so long ago that we had gathered at the Washington Center for the Dance to Make a Difference charity gala. The gala, held on March 7th, was one of the last events held at the center before the stay-at-home directive in Washington State on March 11th. We feel very fortunate to have produced the gala with the Guild timely and safely, and to raise funds and awareness for two very important charities in our community.

Thank you to our Studio West community for your support of the gala and the DTMD charities throughout our 2019-2020 season. We will have more information on the gala results in the coming weeks.



Homeless Backpacks Need Your Help

Homeless Backpacks provide weekend food for low income and homeless students in Thurston County. With schools closed and more families out of work, the need is greater than ever before. Instead of providing an average of 600 bags per week, they are now providing more than 2200 bags per



A note from MC and Stephanie, Studio West Owners

We would like to express to you, our families, how very grateful we are for your continued support through these strange unprecedented times. During this closure, we as teachers and as owners have reflected on the incredible community of students, parents, and staff that truly are the heartbeat of SWDA. You are the energy that brings Studio West to life and you are the people that fill our space with inspiration.

We do feel fortunate to be living in a time where we can stay "connected" via online classes, though this of course is not the same as being in the classroom; where you can feel each other's energy, work more personally with students, and just give a hug! Though, here we are now, and Zoom classes are what we have, and this new way of dancing is truly a great way for students to stay connected with their teachers and to keep on dancing. When logging in to our Zoom classes to teach online, we are filled with joy when we see our students' faces light up our screens and we know how special and important these little connections are for students and our staff. We are planning for the day when we are back in the studio and we can hear the hallways filled with chatter, students running to class and the incredible energy that lives at SWDA! When this day comes, we can't wait to see you ALL and delight in DANCING TOGETHER once again!

♥ Stay safe, stay strong and stay stretching!
Warmly,
Stephanie Wood-Ennett & Mary Cecelia Piper



SWDA Dance Classes Through Zoom

week! They have set up bagging sessions four days a week through the end of the school year and implemented donation drives to keep up with demand. They are considering whether they have enough resources to operate through the summer, which they do not usually do.

If you are able to volunteer or donate, please contact Homeless Backpacks directly at the following link <https://homelessbackpacks.org/contact/>



Swan Lake 2021!

So many upcoming opportunities have been lost during these times of closure and isolation... one of them being the cherished ballet of Swan Lake that Studio West Dance Theatre was set to perform at the end of April 2020. Our Studio West dancers had been working hard for many weeks prior to the closure and the ballet was taking such nice shape. In each rehearsal, you could see and feel the dancers' love and connection to the ballet grow. They were beyond inspired and thrilled to be performing and sharing such a cherished ballet with our community, and they were personally honored to be dancing in such a time-honored ballet. I mean, come on people, it's SWAN LAKE! With this said, our dancers have inspired us to make a decision to actually bring this ballet to the stage in 2021. Studio West will be performing Swan Lake next season! Though we may feel trapped and underwhelmed right now, we hope news like this can bring us excitement for things to come!

We know everyone is stuck at home and looking for something to do! Don't despair - your whole family can still take classes with us! Visit our "Online Zoom Classes" page on our website under the Classes menu – or just click [HERE](#) to see the schedule, get more information, and register. Families will have access to a range of live, online Zoom classes with Studio West instructors for a very affordable price!

We have both "Young Dancer" and "Intermediate/Advanced Dancer" subscriptions. These subscriptions allow dancers to take multiple classes that match their age/skill level and maybe try some dance styles they haven't before - all for one price - whether they decide to take their usual one class a week, or decide to try three, four, or five classes a week! Plus, you only need one subscription for each age-level of dancer in your home. For example, if you have two young dancers, register just one of them for both to have access. Sessions run through June 12th!

And we didn't forget our wonderful parents and adult dancers - check out our three different adult class series options in Hip Hop and Barre Fitness!

Private lessons: For our dancers in levels 2-8 - we now offer private lessons! Only \$25 per 30-minute session; spots are first-come, first-serve. You can grab one or more of these spots through your online SWDA account as well.

Free YouTube classes: If you don't have the extra money to register for online dance classes right now - don't fret! Dance for free with us by visiting or subscribing to our YouTube channel. Just go to YouTube and search for "[Studio West Dance Academy - The Beat Box](#)". Check out what we've already posted and be on the look out for two new classes to be released each week.

Support Studio West through Patreon: If you want to lend some additional support to the studio during this time of closure, please feel free to give a monetary gift through our Patreon Page or you can email us at "info@studiowestdanceacademy.com" and ask us to charge your card on file in your SWDA account!

Congratulations Studio West Graduating Seniors!

As we come to the end our school year, we regretfully have to send off our graduating seniors to their post high school adventures. Although we are not able to hold our Spring Showcase, we are producing the end of year video to honor our Performance Division senior graduates, so look for more info on that in the coming weeks. It has been a pleasure to watch these young individuals grow into the people and dancers they are today. We will miss watching these artists light up our stage. Merde and congratulations!



Alaina Calquhoun - Hip Hop Performance Division (PD). Alaina has been taking hip hop classes at Studio West for the past 4 years. She graduated with an AA from Centralia College and will return for the next two years to pursue her bachelor's in business and marketing. Alaina also plans to continue dancing with Studio West in the fall.



Asuka Conyer - Hip Hop PD. Asuka started with Studio West 4 years ago in ballet and has found a love of hip hop along the way. She will attend the University of Washington Tacoma to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice and Law. She plans to continue club activities such as the Black Student Union through the university.



Congratulations Naomi!

We are excited to share with our studio community that our alumna, Naomi de Jesus, has been accepted to the BalletMet Trainee Program in Columbus, Ohio. Naomi has been training with the Joffrey Ballet Conservatory in Chicago this past year. She will begin training on scholarship with BalletMet in their Summer Intensive Program before entering the Trainee Program in the fall. Good luck in your new adventures and the next step in your training Naomi! Merde and congratulations!



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Mon 5/4 – Fri 5/22

Session 2 – Spring Zoom Classes

Mon 5/25

Studio closed for Memorial Day

Tue 5/26 – Fri 6/12

Session 3 – Spring Zoom Classes

Mon 6/15 – Thu 6/18

10:30 am - 11:30 am or 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm.



Anna Edwards - Hip Hop PD. Anna has been dancing with Studio West for the past 7 years, taking classes in ballet, pointe, jazz, contemporary, and hip hop. She was a member of the Ballet PD for 4 years and is currently a member of EDGE. She will be attending Eastern Washington University to study Dental Hygiene. She is also excited to try out for Eastern's hip hop team, Kode Red!



Claire Hindrup - Ballet PD. Claire has been dancing with Studio West for the past 11 years, taking classes in ballet, pointe, jazz, and contemporary. She will be attending Boise State University in the fall, majoring in marketing and minoring in dance.



Megan Jackson - Hip Hop PD. Megan started at Studio West 12 years ago in ballet and jazz, and is currently focusing on hip hop. She will be attending Gonzaga University to study communications and leadership.



Anna Johnson - Anna has been dancing with Studio West for the past 12 years, taking classes in ballet, pointe, jazz, and tap. She was a member of the Ballet PD and currently takes dance classes with Studio West while focusing on musical theater. Anna will attend Columbia College of Chicago as a musical theater major next fall. She has been awarded the Dean's Scholarship and was accepted to the Honors College at Columbia.



Olivia Kline - Ballet PD. Olivia has been dancing with Studio West for the past 12 years, taking classes in ballet, pointe, jazz, and contemporary. She will be attending San Diego State University to major in marketing with a possible minor in learning design and technology.

Dance with Disney Virtual Workshop. Ballet and tap, ages 4-8.

Mon 6/15 – Thu 6/18

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm. Musical Theatre Dance Virtual Workshop - Intermediate/Levels 3-4.

Mon 6/15 – Thu 6/18

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm. Modern Dance Virtual Workshop - Advanced/Levels 5-8.

Mon 6/22 – Thu 6/25

10:30 am - 11:30 am or 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm.

Dancing with Trolls Virtual Workshop. Hip hop and jazz, ages 4-8.

Mon 6/22 – Thu 6/25

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm. Musical Theatre Dance Virtual Workshop - Advanced/Levels 5-8.

Mon 6/22 – Thu 6/25

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm. Modern Dance Virtual Workshop - Intermediate/Levels 3-4.



Annah Krause – Annah has been dancing with Studio West for the past 6 years, taking classes in tap. In the fall, Annah will attend California Baptist University to study communication sciences and disorders.



Katherine Munnecke – Ballet PD. Katherine has been taking ballet classes with Studio West for the past 4 years. She will be attending Occidental College in Los Angeles to study political science.



Mara Neary - Ballet PD. Mara has been dancing with Studio West for the past 8 years, taking classes in ballet, pointe, jazz, contemporary, and modern. She will be attending Gonzaga University, double majoring in human physiology and dance with a minor in music.



Brisa Sabel - Ballet PD. Brisa has been dancing with Studio West for the past 12 years, taking classes in ballet, pointe, jazz, and contemporary. She will be attending Oregon State University, double majoring in engineering and sustainability.



Joslyn Sieling - Hip Hip PD. Joslyn has been dancing with Studio West for the past 12 years, taking classes in hip hop, ballet, jazz, and contemporary. If everything works out, she plans to move this fall to a small town near Madrid, Spain to become an Au Pair (nanny). She will be able to follow her dreams of traveling the world while also getting to take care of two beautiful quirky kids named Rut and Jan. She plans to return after being abroad for 9 months and hopes to continue teaching at Studio West!

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