

# A2J Crew Competitive Kompany Info Packet

2021-2022



A2J Crew Kompany is a selective team of young dancers who demonstrate excellence in dancing and performing. Being a part of this team asks for a disciplined, hardworking dancer, who is interested in performing in our showcase, competing in competitions, and improving his or her dance skills in a wide range of genres of dance. Being a teammate is for a dancer who desires to focus on flexibility, technique, turns, leaps, timing, style, and performance skills. Joining this part of our Kompany leads to an increase in a child's confidence and train the student for a career in dance, but most importantly, it prepares the dancer for life.

## **What is Competitive Dance?**

Competitive dance is a popular, diverse sport in which competitors from all areas perform dances of several permitted dance styles—such as acro, ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, musical theatre, clogging, and tap—before a common group of trained judges. The competitive dance industry consists fundamentally of dance competition companies that conduct regional and national competitions within their tours. Dancers who compete at these competitions range in age beginning around four years old to eighteen. Dance studios arrange for their classes to compete as solos, duets, trios, or in a small/large group dance routine. Competition season typically begins in January and ends late April, early May. If the studio chooses to compete nationally, those competitions occur in the summer months.

## **Physical Fitness—**

Competitive dancers must be physically fit due to the physical demand that their dances entail. Dancers must train to maintain and improve their technique, balance, skills, strength, and flexibility. Besides holidays and short summer breaks, competitive dancing is a year-round activity. Dancers attend classes during competition season, refine their competitive routines, and during off-season prepare for the upcoming season. Dancers also attend intensives during the summer to improve technique, showcase their previous routines in summer shows and events, and participate in conventions during the colder months.

The A2J Crew Kompany Teams may not be right for every student. Please read over these questions and review the steps and concepts under Curriculum:

- **Does your child want to dance two-four days a week?**
  - Depending on the fall schedule, higher level dancers could be at the studio Monday through Thursday. During competition months, weekend practices could be added as well.
  
- **Does your child realize how many dances that he/she must practice at home when competition and recital times come?**
  - Some of our dancers are in up to six competition routines and seven or more recital routines. That is a lot of routines to remember and be accountable for!
  
- **Does your child like to get up in front of people and perform?**
  - In addition to the recital at the end of the year, dancers will perform at 2-3 competitions and in other performances throughout the season. At these performances, the crowd could range anywhere from 50 to 100 people.
  
- **Does your child realize that even though ballet/jazz may not be his/her favorite class, that it is the most important class?**
  - These classes can be dull for some dancers because of the pace or repetition of skills. However, they are most important and one of the two is required for all competition dancers.
  
- **Are you and your child prepared to face the reality that each student is an individual, and some students may be stronger than your own in certain areas of dance?**
  - There are many varieties of dancers. Not everyone is born with natural flexibility, long legs, high jumps, great musicality, or emotional movement quality. It is important to find what makes you an individual.
  
- **Are you prepared to discuss positive ways of looking at your child's strengths and weaknesses in order to help him/her become a better dancer?**
  - Being a part of the A2J Crew Kompany Teams takes a joint effort from parents, students, and teachers. Parents must realize his/her child's dancing talents and put them in the correct perspective. Together as a team, we can strengthen your child's abilities and confidence to make him/her the best performer possible. We feel that it is important to understand the commitment required to be a member of the Kompany before auditioning. Being a part of this team can be extremely rewarding if each student and parent understands our guidelines.

## 1. REQUIREMENTS

### Summer Intensive

- 8 weeks of technique and training will be offered during the summer months of May-July.
- Younger Kompany members will be required to attend the Mini Intensive and at least six of the eight weeks.
- Older Kompany members will be required to attend at least six of the eight weeks as well.

**\*If you cannot attend the intensive, you will need to make arrangements to discuss this with Jill McDonald, our Competition Director.**

### Choreography

- Begins at the end of September and will continue until the early competition season months.
- All Kompany members are required to attend their group choreography sessions and attend class regularly with acceptable and predictable attendance. Missing due to summer and other excused absences will be taken into consideration.

### Classes

- All Kompany members will be required to take either ballet or jazz and their Kompany class weekly.

### Absences

Dancers should try to attend all classes. It is very important to maintain technique through the required weekly classes. All teachers must be notified by a parent regarding absences. Students must fill out an absence form PRIOR to the missed date and have it initialed by their coordinating teachers.

Any student missing 3 or more required classes September-May must make them up to be eligible to compete. *(Example: A SR Kompany dancer that misses their required ballet or jazz class may make up that class by attending another ballet or jazz class).* If for some reason you cannot make up that class by taking another class, you may schedule a private lesson. *(Example: If a SR Kompany student cannot attend a lower-level class, he/she can schedule a private with the ballet or jazz teacher at A2J).* Each teacher's fees for private lessons will be \$50/half hour. Additionally, for every five weeks of perfect attendance in your required classes, you will receive an absence pass.

**Absences must be made up within 2 weeks of the absence. Dancers who have 3 or more absences between January-May, will NOT be permitted to compete with their team.**

This level of training may or may not enable dancers to participate in extracurricular activities. While we understand musicals, clubs, and school teams are fun, they add a great deal of time/work. Please do not over commit. Kompany requires many rehearsals and when students miss, it is frustrating for teachers and other students who come to rehearsals every week.

**Please consider conflicts with other outside activities before committing to the team.**

## **2. DANCE/COMPETITION/CONVENTION REQUIREMENTS**

**Mini Kompany** will compete at one local competition and attend one convention. If they would like to compete at more competitions, they could have that option.

**Petite Kompany** will compete at two local competitions and attend one convention. If they would like to compete at more competitions, they could have that option.

**JR and SR Kompanies** will compete at all scheduled competitions (up to three) and attend all conventions (up to two).

**JR Kompany**—One group dance and Production

**SR Kompany**—One group dance and Production

ADDITIONAL DANCES AVAILABLE (May accept or decline):

- Solos—will be chosen by audition only (Please see Solo Rules and Regulations)
- Duets/Trios/Small Groups—We will select small groups/duets/trios after auditions. If dancers do not accept the small group, duet/trio, groups may be reworked to add dancers at a later date.

**Please consider all financial responsibilities and weekend rehearsal commitments before making a decision.**

## **3. REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS/OPPORTUNITIES**

**Saturday Rehearsals—**

- We will plan to begin Saturday practices beginning the first week of January, once we are back from Winter Break. When competition season arrives, these will be set and scheduled on our studio calendar for your convenience.
- Kompany members are required to attend all extra rehearsals. Special circumstances will be considered at the discretion of the Competition Director, Jill McDonald. Conflicts should be in writing and given to Jill at least one month in advance. Some rehearsals from January-May are mandatory and all major conflicts must be submitted 1 month prior to the event (i.e. ACT, family weddings, anniversaries, confirmation/religious events). Failure to attend a mandatory rehearsal, camp, or class may result in ineligibility to perform in an upcoming performance/competition. Sick dancers must make an effort to learn what they missed in rehearsal and must have their dance(s) and corrections videotaped and sent to them.

**Competitions—**

- We will attend 2-3 required competitions as well as 1-2 conventions per season. Most competitions are on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from January through May.
- Community performances may be scheduled throughout the year as well as our annual showcase performance.

#### 4. FINIANICAL COMMITMENT

Parents should note that there are many expenses involved with the Kompany such as team fees, competition fees, uniforms, dance shoes, costumes, accessories, and the cost of required dance classes. Competition Fees can be broken up into monthly payments made on top of regular tuition payments August-May, separate payments made approximately one month before competition, or all at once at the beginning of the year.

##### Audition Fee

- There is no fee to audition. However, there is a \$10.00 per dancer fee per solo audition. This is a non-refundable fee due on or before the audition date.

##### Supplies

- Each Kompany member will be required to purchase certain supplies throughout the year, which include but are not limited to uniforms, shoes, bags, ballet/jazz bands, jewelry, makeup. **All uniforms, shoes, and jewelry are mandatory and must be purchased through the studio at the beginning of the season.**

##### Choreography Fees

- There are no choreography fees at this time.

##### Competition/Convention Fees

- ⇒ These fees will be due approximately 60-75 days before each competition, unless you have decided on a different payment option. Entry fees vary depending on if it's a solo, duet/trio, or group dance.
- ⇒ Fees must be paid by the due date communicated in our specified PRIVATE app
- ⇒ Fees are to be paid directly through the A2J Crew Dance Kompany
- ⇒ All correspondence(s) concerning competitions and conventions is to be communicated through the A2J Crew Dance Kompany
- ⇒ Fees are non-refundable

##### Fundraisers

- This will be a parent-driven task, so any parents willing to help organize please let Jill McDonald, the studio director, know as soon as possible. This money will help with your costs throughout the year. A2J Crew will hold all money earned during the fundraisers in a separate fundraising account and a spreadsheet will be kept for each student and updated as the funds are used. If you have an idea for a fundraiser, please contact us first to get the idea approved. Then, you may begin taking steps to put the fundraiser into action. Jill McDonald and Heather DeGarmo must approve all fundraisers before they are started.

#### 5. CODE OF CONDUCT

Each member of the Kompany should strive to be the best dancer that he/she can be. This requires hard work and the willingness to take corrections and apply them daily to his/her technique. Each dancer must also have a positive, healthy outlook on his/her strengths and weaknesses.

No A2J Crew Kompany member is to compete or take regular classes with any other studio unless approved by the Studio Director, Jill McDonald.

Each team member must listen and respect his/her teachers and fellow students.

Each team member should set a good example to all students. A student will be asked to leave class/rehearsal if inappropriate behavior occurs.

When at competitions/conventions or when performing in a public place, each team member must be on his/her best behavior and remember that he/she is representing the A2J Crew Dance Kompany. Each member of the team and parents of the team member should also be supportive of fellow students as well as set good examples by applauding and cheering for other groups at competitions.

As a Kompany member, he/she must come to each rehearsal knowing the choreography. Music will be uploaded to your student's parent portal account so that all dancers can have access to it. Occasionally, parents/dancers may be asked to videotape your dance to aid in practicing at home.

Each team member should realize that doing your best is more important than winning. Every competition is different, with varying levels of difficulty. Each team member should realize that sometimes he/she may win the platinum or bronze, but striving to do one's own, personal best is more important than any trophy. Each competition is a challenge. **Conquer the challenge and do not let the challenge conquer you.** Being a team member is a privilege that should not be taken for granted. The students and teachers form a unique family, which builds confidence and betters the child as a dancer. Please consider your loyalty to commitment to the A2J Crew Dance Kompany before you audition.

## 6. DEMERITS

### A. Purpose:

To maintain discipline, promote reliability, and uphold fairness for all by setting an example of good behavior, unity, and pride.

### B. Guidelines:

1. Only the coach can give demerits
2. Assistants may only suggest demerits to the coach
3. Fifteen demerits accumulated during the season constitutes removal from the team
4. Dancers on suspension, due to demerits, are still required to attend all practices and performances in uniform including hair and make-up.
5. Regardless of where a child is placed on a competition team, it is the coach's discretion to move them to a different team at any time throughout the dance season. Parents do NOT reserve the right to question the coach's decision.

### C. Point System:

#### a. 1 Point Demerits:

- i. Any tardy to class or performances (more than 10 minutes tardy) (\*Your tardiness must be cleared through **ALL** coaches that you will have class with that day\*)
- ii. Inappropriate dress code (to class or performance)
- iii. Failure to limit socializing at practice or performances
- iv. Failure to obey coaches when asked to put food, drink, or devices away, or asks to use the restroom excessively during class time
- v. Failure to wear competition jewelry when required
- vi. Failure to wear competition make up at performances

- vii. Does not maintain a good attitude during classes/performances
- viii. Failure to participate with teammates
- ix. Failure to wear proper attire or bring the proper shoes, etc. during class time
- x. Failure to arrive to class prepared with proper shoes, and/or hair pulled back neatly
- xi. Consistently coming to class not knowing new choreography
- xii. Failure to bring a dance bag to the studio for practices (for the purpose of ensuring our hand-outs make it home to your parents)  
\*Please be sure to always check your child's dance bag\*

**b. 2 Point Demerits:**

- i. Any tardy beyond 10 minute NOT cleared through your coach(es)
- ii. Missing practice/performances once (any reason other than excused absences). More than one occasion will result in additional demerits, at the coach's discretion
- iii. Leaving class/performances early without prior approval (This must be approved at least one day in advance to not receive a demerit)
- iv. Failure to meet deadlines (i.e. turning in money, having proper shoes, costume deposits, paperwork, or other assigned projects.
- v. Failure to wear the proper tights, undergarments, socks, warm up jackets, etc. to performances and events
- vi. Public display of affection while in costume/uniform
- vii. Failure to perform "FULL OUT" when asked by your coaches or assistants
- viii. Unnecessary scenes at practices/performances (arguing with another dancer, parent, sibling(s), boyfriend/girlfriend, coaches, etc.)
- ix. Failure to have clean shoes and a tidy uniform (wrinkle/dirt free)
- x. Failure to obey our requests at competitions/performances while other teams are performing. (DANCERS AND PARENTS MUST REMAIN SEATED DURING EACH AND EVERY PERFORMANCE REGARDLESS OF WHICH STUDIO IS PERFORMING AT A SHOW OR A COMPETITION. YOU WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED TO EXIT THE DANCE AREA IN BETWEEN DANCES, NEVER DURING PERFORMANCES. YOU MUST REMAIN SEATED AND BE POLITE TO ALL TEAMS PERFORMING AT ALL TIMES.)
- xi. Failure to obey your coach/parent/or assistant during class or performances. You must uphold a positive attitude.

**c. 5 Point Demerits:**

- i. Disrespectful behavior or gossip regarding a team member, coach, another dance team, or anyone. This behavior will NOT be permitted. This could result in an automatic dismissal from the team.
- ii. Unexcused absences regardless of whether it's a practice or performance
- iii. Any dancer choosing NOT to perform without a doctor's note or prior coach approval
- iv. Lying or stealing of ANY KIND.
- v. Referrals concerning repeated disciplinary action
- vi. Failure to arrive ready to take the stage 2 hours prior to competition. This is a competition rule and we can have points deducted or disqualified if we are not prepared 2 hours in advance.

**d. Penalties of the Demerit System:**

- i. 5 Demerits: Suspension from the team for two weeks and parent notification that the dancer is in jeopardy of dismissal.
- ii. 10 Demerits: Suspension from the team for four weeks and notification to parents in writing that the dancer is in jeopardy of dismissal (Parent meeting will be requested).
- iii. 15 Demerits: After administrative and coach review, there will be an automatic dismissal from the Kompany with written notification to the parents.

\*Coaches reserve the right to issue immediate demerits for the following: smoking, drinking alcohol, possession of illegal drugs or paraphernalia, stealing, fighting with other teammates, bullying of any kind, foul language, and use of cell phones or any devices by the coaches during class time, unkind behavior to anyone on social media while in the studio or otherwise\*

\*If a dancer misses any mandatory practices without a doctor's excuse or prior approval from the coaches, REGARDLESS OF DEMERITS PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED, they will NOT be permitted to perform in the following show/competition. Coaches may use their discretion during these occasions.

\*Please note that any parent(s) that causes disruption among our team in ANY WAY (i.e. fundraising issues, gossip, contributing to minors with ANY ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE ON OR OFF OUR STUDIO PROPERTY, contributing to our dancers making poor decisions, causing undue arguments among yourselves, or with other dancers or parents (including our staff) will NOT be welcome back into the studio.

We expect our dancers to uphold a professional image, they deserve to learn that behavior from us. Any parent who chooses to be disrespectful to ANY member of our studio or staff (or any other member of our dance family) will NOT be permitted into the studio, which will cause your child to also NOT be a part of our studio consequently. Please work with us to help shape and mold these kids into honest, amazing, employable young adults!

### **OTHER ASKED QUESTIONS:**

- What will be required to be placed in any of next year's dances?
  - Many factors are considered: age, height, ability, class work throughout the year, flexibility, dedication, stage presence, proper technique (to name a few).
- How many dances can I be in?
  - There is no set number for a dancer's particular age or ability.
- What if I wasn't chosen for a dance that I really wanted to dance in this year?
  - First talk to Jill and voice your wishes/concerns. Then, we can discuss ways to achieve the goals that you have set for yourself for the following year. Our spotlight program is also a wonderful option, as well as our dance instructor internship program. Any and all experience helps in these situations.
- How do I become a better dancer?
  - Ballet/Jazz and Technique!
  - Also setting weekly goals helps to keep you on task. Keep the goals simple and achievable. Set quarterly goals that are a little more difficult and require more muscular development. Talk with your teachers about what your goals are and ask them how you can attain them.
  - Find idle times that you can strengthen your skills. A strong dancer is a disciplined dancer that is able to manage his or her time well and work on his or her goals.

# A2J Crew Kompany SOLO

## Rules and Regulations 2021-2022

Please understand that a solo is designed to better dancing skills and technique, in addition to building confidence.

**Each month, all solos must have at least two ½ hour privates- \$30/each**

**OR**

**1 hour private- \$50**

**With the choreographer or Choreographer's Choice (Jill must approve)**

All students benefit from exposure to different techniques, styles, and skills. Varying teachers makes a dancer more diverse.

1. I will arrive 5 minutes prior to my private lesson and be ready to work. I will come to my lesson prepared and stretched. This includes having appropriate attire and shoes.
2. I will practice at home and come to each session ready to continue or ask questions about a difficult section of the dance.
3. I agree to rehearse/work technique with my choreographer or private lesson instructor in order to compete or perform. I realize the teacher/studio will be keeping track of how many times I rehearse and will not permit me to compete or perform if I have not met these guidelines.
4. All dances choreographed by the A2J Crew staff must be presented under the A2J Crew Dance Kompany name.
5. Cancellations/no shows will be handled as follows:
  - a. If the student does not show, his/her account will be charge for that time. In case of an emergency or illness, contacting the teacher via her cell phone must occur to avoid charges. Weekend messages left via text message or voice mail are NOT an acceptable form of notification.
  - b. If the teacher does not call to cancel his/her private lessons for the day, the student's next private lesson is free.
6. All A2J Crew soloists must be a part of our A2J Crew Dance Kompany and attend competitions or conventions approved by the studio.

**SOLO PRIVILEGES (INCLUDING COMPETITIONS) WILL BE SUSPENDED IN ALL ACCOUNTS ARE NOT CURRENT.**

# Competition Policy

ANY discrepancies will be handled by the studio owners, at the owner's discretion.

*By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to these terms and conditions put forth in this handbook.*

*Dancer's Signature:*

*Date:*

*Parent/Guardian Signature:*

*Date:*