

Vaganova Teachers Training Program-

Dear Dance Community, Families, Dance Students, Friends:

Vaganova Ballet Training System is pleased to announce a new and challenging element to its ongoing dance programming and one which we hope will represent the 21st century’s standard for Russian ballet training here in America.

During the third quarter of 2009 we will be launching the first West Coast, United States based **Vaganova Teachers Training Program** for ages 14-25. This new course is being established in order to keep pace with the highest existing educational and artistic standards for our profession, and the ensuing worldwide demand for quality trained dancers, performers, and teachers, all who come from a variety of cultural and artistic disciplines.

The Vaganova Ballet Training System courses are the only Vaganova training system in North America fortunate to be the sole recipient of an official endorsement from The **Vaganova Ballet Academy, and the Russian Ministry of Culture, St. Petersburg, Russia**. We encourage K-12 and University organizations and dance companies to consider hosting and promoting a **Vaganova Ballet Training System** programs at their campus. This Russian ballet curriculum is designed for “standardized” purposes of instruction.

“Dance is a profession requiring talent, knowledge, skill, and dedication. Employment depends almost entirely on demonstrated competence. Success is based primarily on work rather than on credentials. Experience tells us that dance, though dependent on talent, inspiration, and creativity, requires much more to function as a significant spiritual and educational force. Talent without skills, inspiration without knowledge, and creativity without technique can account for little but lost potential” **An excerpt from the National Association of Schools of Dance website.**

Whether or not you plan on attending a college with a dance department, Vaganova Ballet Training System and Masterpiece Dance Theatre Ballet Academy hope to give young dancers the skills they require in order to attain the highest level of dancing ability humanly possible. For additional information about our dance curriculum please read through our website carefully at your convenience. Programs and courses offered by Vaganova Ballet Training System may not be suitable for all individuals.

TEACHERS TRAINING PROGRAM

The **Teachers Training Program** is approximately a two year or more **advanced ballet studies program** for students and adults between the ages of 14 – 25. This program is also open to former professional dancers. The **Teachers Training Program** is now undergoing a “standardization” process and we hope that it will be fully available by 2010. One of the primary pre-requisites of the program is that a student must have recently completed a minimum one-two years Vaganova Ballet Training System training.

We will be happy to review a students previous dance training and or performing experiences if they believe that they have already acquired sufficient ballet knowledge and skill in order to pass our entry auditions and exams. Given this situation, when the student has shown themselves to be qualified, then they would be formally accepted into the TTP directly without having to undergo any other additional preparatory training, given that the other prerequisites have all been met. (age, experience, and the ability to meet the financial obligations of the program)

TEACHERS TRAINING PROGRAM *(components)*

- The program is being devised to complement annual academic “semesters” of coursework. (Example) Three days or greater per week of graded technical training (*barre and center practice explained in depth*); graded workbook assignments (*as provided or recommended*); DVD/video study, performance preparation, and other instructional methods to be announced.
- The teacher in training will learn how to instruct the fundamental movements described in the *Preparatory Levels* (*which are contained in instructional manuals and or handouts*) which are taught prior to *Level One*, however, the Preparatory Level methods may also be instructed to teens or adults. Preparatory level training can be initiated as early as age seven years old, however, Level One begins generally at age ten
- The teacher in training will learn and experience what it feels like personally to execute the balletic movements correctly and in their precise order. The study and training of “*musical theory*” and or the playing of an instrument is also a mandatory part of the training. This knowledge will undoubtedly assist in areas such as “character interpretation”, and the musicality
- Additional studies related to Music, Dance History, and Health (*Nutrition and Anatomy*) will all be touched upon

The majority of enrolled students will participate in Modules (I-II), including related “lesson plans”.

- **Module (I)** is the first of the ISC and will entail the learning of two assigned dance roles (*one classical and one contemporary*). This year’s classical repertoire has been chosen from the ballets “*Sleeping Beauty*” and “*Nutcracker*”. Module (I) will need to be completed by August 29, which will include a review by members of the faculty (Parental observation will be allowed).
- **Module (II)** of the ISC will include both a written test (multiple choice) covering materials studied in regular open and private classes (“lesson plans”) and including information provided as handouts or additional reading materials related to the assigned repertoire. As an additional “elective” to Module (II) will be the study of original Choreography for DVD portfolio purposes.
- **The Pre-professional, Module (III)** is geared to the serious dance student (16 years to Adult) seeking a higher level of attainment both artistically and academically, however, over a fewer number of years. This Module (III) potentially leads to a “certificate of achievement signed by the directors/ballet masters. This Pre-professional level is considered “intensive” and will entail a minimum of five days per week practical training including, but not limited to: barre and center practice, pointe, repertoire, pas de deux, performance, dance history, and music appreciation. If you believe that you conform to this category of training, please make an appointment with the directors as early in the year as possible.

TUITION FEES: *To be announced in September*

GRADING & SCREENING (subject to change)

Modules (I-II) will be graded on a scale of between “A-C”, with “A” representing the highest level for this category of assignment. Written tests may be taken for a maximum of two consecutive times. In general, students will be placed into an appropriate level(s) based upon their demonstrated ability at the time of the screening process (*which normally occurs as a byproduct of attending their first group or private class, and or audition*) or anytime thereafter as decided upon by the directors. Screenings may be completed randomly by the directors during any group or private class.

In addition to completing Module (I-II), students will be given the option of learning and or dancing “original” Contemporary/Modern dance repertoire which they have either personally choreographed and or co-choreographed (as part of a group). Students may submit requests from a member(s) of the dance faculty in the event they require assistance with the creation and design of a piece of choreography, however, this will be at an additional expense and subject to the faculty members’ availability.

Students will have the option of either completing these assignments individually or as part of a cooperative effort (group), given that the group as a whole is able to show the faculty (MDT) that they can manage their rehearsal and study time wisely. Each student will be given their own duplicate “copy” (DVD/VHS format) of the assigned classical repertoire and the dance studios at MDT will be made available (generally free of charge, so long as the frequency and number of hours are carefully managed) at non peak hours for those students interested in working through the repertoire at their own/group pace.

It must be noted that each level (including related Modules/S-ISC) of the nine year level curriculum are to be graded prior to any level advancement.

There will be four semesters taught for each calendar year comprising of ten weeks each. The point system is in effect for all semesters and for all students who are enrolled in each level. Please note that all students will receive a written grading for the work completed in each semester.

For the “preparatory” levels the students do not need to audition, however, a screening process will occur in order to determine which level would be appropriate for each student who wishes to attend the school. In general, students will be placed into an appropriate level(s) based upon their demonstrated ability at the time of the screening process (*which normally occurs as a byproduct of attending their first group or private class*) or anytime/frequency thereafter as decided upon by the directors.

In some situations, and for the benefit of each student, a return to a previous, but lower level may become a necessity.

Upon successful completion of the annual ISC (I-II), a copy of the students grades, including additional remarks by the faculty, will be kept on file as part of each students permanent artistic and academic record.

Lesson plans remain the sole property of Vaganova Ballet System, Ltd. In addition, the specific technical requirements for the “preparatory” levels will also be offered to those students between the ages of four through eight years of age.