For Sept 2015-May 2016

TO BRIXHAM REPERTORY MEMBERS AND PARENTS

Attached is the Brixham Repertory Handbook. You should take your invitation and placement into the Repertory Company seriously. You are expected to uphold the requirements stated within the handbook. If you feel you cannot take part, please let us know immediately so that we can make the necessary adjustments. Let us know if you have any questions as well.

Being a member of Brixham Repertory Company is an honor and also a commitment for both the student and the parent. **Please be sure you are aware of the requirements within before signing below.**  The form below **must** be completed and returned to the office by the Monday, Sept. 14th .

 Thank you, Nicki, Cheryl, Leah & Jenny

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(student) I,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the information in the Brixham Repertory Handbook. I agree to participate in the Brixham Repertory Company under the terms in the Handbook

S*ignature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

(parent) I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the information in the Brixham Repertory Handbook. I support my child’s decision to participate in the Brixham Repertory Company.

 *Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**BRIXHAM REPERTORY COMPANY HANDBOOK**

**FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

Congratulations! You have been selected to be a member of the Brixham Repertory Company. The first step to becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals, and performances. Strong technique is a key ingredient and in class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. Dance full out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

All rehearsals are dedicated to choreography or “cleaning” the choreography. A dancer who misses a rehearsal holds back the progress of the entire group. Repeating the choreography from a previous session for those who were absent takes up valuable rehearsal time, which could result in a performance that is not up to par.

Respect for the teachers and choreographers you work with is essential. Talking amongst yourselves during class is disrespectful. Listen to every correction given, whether it’s directed to you or another dancer. A correction is an honor: it shows you that the teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers’ knowledge and experience.

***\*True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal, or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do\****

**For the parents: “We’re in this together”**

We believe that a child’s success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be a part of your child’s dance education.

Our program relies on a positive atmosphere for our faculty, students and their parents: it promotes a positive learning experience for all involved. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect for the other parents, along with the students and faculty, makes an important impression on the children. We are all role models for your child in how we interact with others in a professional setting.

Your child’s presence at all classes, rehearsals, and performances is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our educational process.

Parents and teachers may look at a child’s learning from different perspectives. However, they share a common goal: to assure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect between our faculty and our dancers’ parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

**Understanding Dance Education**

As a parent, the financial support of your student is important, but of equal - perhaps even greater- value is your emotional support. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be without regard to what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form; each child needs to achieve at a pace that is comfortable to him or her. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It’s important to encourage the children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Dance education encompasses far more than technique or the steps your children will learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment by offering them the chance to learn, experience the spirit of teamwork, and understand what hard work can accomplish. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, and to teach them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

**Class or Choreography Placement**

Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching experience. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class where he or she will feel confident in order to promote the development of self-esteem. We want to see the dancers push themselves to work harder and to succeed rather than always trying to keep up. We do not want them to lose their passion for dance by continuously struggling.

***\*Class and/or choreography placement of students is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex\****

**Dos and Don’ts**

Some parents may compare their child’s progress or class or choreography placement to that of others in the program. Watch for this behavior in your children as well, and encourage them to focus on their own accomplishments. Looking to others for inspiration is a good thing; however, a negative focus or comparison distracts from the energy that could be focused on becoming a stronger dancer. In addition, speaking negatively about a teacher, a parent, a classmate, or any other student within the school could result in problems far beyond your original concerns. \*\*If an issue occurs, it will be addressed and discussed by the directors, parents, and student. Those dancers involved will be put on “probation” for a one month time period and if the issue is not resolved, those involved will not be allowed to participate in the Repertory Company.

If you have any concerns about your child’s dance education, don’t panic-- and please don’t talk only with other parents-- please speak to one of your child’s teachers or go directly to Nicki with those concerns.

**For Dancers and For Parents**

**Image**

The children and parents involved in the Brixham Repertory Company participate in various outside activities, each of which become a reflection of the school’s philosophy. Each one of you is a representative of Brixham Danceworks. Please keep the following in mind:

--We should not speak negatively about teachers, dancers, or parents from our school or any other school!

--You are now part of a team. Team members support each other, so dancers and parents should work together for the best of ALL company members.

--You should be very proud to be a member of the Brixham Repertory Company, but you should not be boastful. Please refrain from talking about Rep. Company performances, rehearsals, etc in non-Rep classes or the waiting room where other dancers and parents may feel excluded.

-- No parent or dancer may call or question the directors of any outside event we attend. If you have a concern, please contact your teacher.

**Classes and Rehearsals**

All dancers are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes in addition to all rehearsals and performances. A total of **five regular scheduled CLASSES** may be missed per dance year. Any member with poor attendance may be dismissed from the company at the discretion of the teacher.

All rehearsals are an important part of the commitment to the Repertory Company. When additional rehearsals are scheduled by the teacher/choreographer, all dancers are required to participate. We will try our best to give you proper notice when these are to be scheduled so that you may make arrangements. No dancer may miss more than **THREE rehearsals** during the dance year. Failure to abide by the policies will result in dismissal from the company. **Dancers who need to be excused for any reason are required to notify the office 24 hours prior to the scheduled rehearsal. In the case of an illness, please call as soon as possible. Do not rely on one of the other dancers or parents to give a message to the teacher.**  Any dancer excused from a rehearsal is responsible for learning any missed choreography prior to arriving at the next rehearsal.

All dancers must attend all rehearsals in proper dance attire and appropriate shoes! All dancers are expected to work hard and *arrive early enough to give themselves time to be ready and warm up.*

***\*\*It is expected that all dancers will be on their best behavior during rehearsals and work as team players at all times\*\****

Along with being part of the Repertory Company comes the responsibilities. Be ready for all classes and performances. This includes clothing, shoes, hair, costumes, and makeup. You are the role models for younger dancers. We expect all company members to show professionalism at all times. There may be additional classes, including master classes, in which it is expected that all team members participate. There may also be an additional charge for some master classes.

**Performances**

Everyone in the Repertory Company is expected to participate in each performance that is scheduled. We will do our best to give proper notice as to when they will be. Sometimes a venue will call us and ask us to perform on short notice. We would like to do our best to take advantage of every performing opportunity that arises, so you need to be flexible.

**Costumes**

Costume payments are the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian. Repertory costumes are in addition to your child’s regular class costumes. Additional costumes may be required for any additional dance your child is involved in. We will do our best to keep the costs down.

**Fundraising**

We ask that each Repertory parent do their part by organizing or co-organizing a fundraiser at recital time or during the year. Every Rep family should be involved in at least one recital fundraiser, and if anyone would like to organize a fundraiser during the year, just let us know. All funds are to be used to offset costs incurred by outside master classes or workshops. Financial assistance is for educational purposes only. We have a separate Repertory Account which is overseen by Cheryl.

**A FINAL NOTE**

We believe that being part of the Brixham Repertory Company is a privilege and should be taken seriously. Many students strive to attain this goal. We want all dancers involved to be dedicated to furthering their dance education. Using the opportunity to take classes with master teachers will only enhance your knowledge.

Every performance can be an exciting learning opportunity. Your enthusiasm for dance can be shared by all!

***Welcome to Brixham Repertory Company!***

***We look forward to an exciting season!***