



## TEAM VIVA 2011/2012 INFORMATION AND CONTRACT

We are so excited that your dancer would like to be a part of Team Viva, our competitive dance program. The information below will give a basic overview of what to expect for the upcoming year, should your child accept a spot on our team.

Competition is a fun experience for both the performer and the parents, but it is also a commitment and responsibility for BOTH of you as well. Please carefully read this outline to ensure that you are willing to follow all requirements before auditioning to you fully understand the commitment and expectations for the upcoming year.

### COMPETITION TEAM OPTIONS

**Performance Group** is mix between recreational/competitive styles. The Team Viva Performance Group is more intense than our recreational program, yet not as strenuous as our full competitive Company. It is a great way to obtain the competitive experience without the more serious time and financial commitment.

- Attend performance classes 1-2 days per week from September 7<sup>th</sup> - June Recital
- Compete with 1-3 routines, 2x per year (March-May)

**Company-** is our full competition dance program. Being a part of full Company requires a bit more time and financial commitment than the Performance Group.

- Attend Team Master Classes August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 9am-3pm (\$75 per dancer due by 8/10/2011)
- Attend a ballet class weekly in addition to company classes 2-3 days per week September 7<sup>th</sup> – June Recital
- Compete with at least 2 group routines, 2-3x per year (March-May).

### PLACEMENT

Placement on Team Viva is based on the following criteria: technique, style, potential, ability to pick up and execute the choreography they have been given, commitment level, enthusiasm, attitude and behavior in class, attendance, and stage presence. Company members will be placed in groups based on ability, with age consideration. We place students in groups we feel will work the best together in rehearsal and performance.

Miss Nicci and the Viva Dance Co. staff who have been asked to judge auditions will choose and place all Team members. Dancers will receive a notification of their acceptance within 48 hours of their audition. Instructions on obtaining your class list will be provided in the email. ALL PLACEMENTS ARE FINAL! Please do not attempt to challenge your child's placement in hopes of getting them moved. We will place the dancers where we, as professionals, see best fit and ALWAYS have your child's best interest at heart. It is not fair to them to be struggling in classes to keep up or to the others who end up being held back for a student who is not ready for the class. If a dancer chooses to audition for the Company and is not selected this year, they will be placed in a Performance group based on their age, as long as they have demonstrated good attendance and work ethic the previous year. Should they choose, they can re-audition for full company the following year.

### ATTENDANCE AND TIME COMMITMENT

- Team Viva is a TEAM. Just as sports teams require all players to attend practices, dance teams require their dancers to attend all classes and rehearsals. Absences will hold back not only the individual, but the entire team!
- Company members are allowed 5 absences per class and Performance members are allowed 8. Any missed class thereafter may be cause for removal of the team or group. This includes medical absences, school functions, family obligations, etc. No absence is considered "excused".

- Please inform the receptionist or Miss Nicci if you are going to be absent. A no call/no show absence will count for two absences rather than just one.
- Missing practice the week of competition, dress rehearsal and/or a performance will count as 2 absences. All dancers are responsible for learning the material from missed practices BEFORE they come to their next class!
- If you are unable to dance due to injury, minor illness, etc. you are encouraged to attend class to observe to avoid gaining an absence. However, we do not expect or want anyone to come who may pass their illness to others!
- If you acquire your allowed absences you will, at minimum, be required to sit out one competition. We also have the right to remove you from the team.
- All students are required to enroll in AND attend their designated ballet class regularly. After 2 absences in ballet, class time will have to be made up.
- Excessive absences in your supplementary dance classes may also affect your competition attendance record. (You will receive a verbal warning if you are reaching that point.)
- BE ON TIME! Anyone who is more than 10 minutes late for his/her class will be considered absent. If you are going to be late, please call the studio to inform the instructor. Dancers warm-up at the start of class and missing this class time prevents them from getting a proper warm up and may lead to injury. Those who are late will be required to sit aside and warm up properly for 5-10 minutes on their own.

### **CLASS DRESS CODE**

- Dancers must wear dance attire that will simplify the process of perfecting choreography. A solid colored leotard, black/brown/gray booty shorts, and tan tights will be required for all team classes during the week! Saturdays will be "Free Days" and dancers will be allowed to wear any appropriate dance attire they choose. All dance attire must be FITTED and cannot include tee shirts, baggy pants, or street clothes. We will continue to have "Free Day" on Saturdays as long as the rules do not get abused.
- Students may wear a maximum of TWO solid colors, one being a dark basic on the bottom (black, brown, gray) and one color of choice for their leotard. This includes their bra, sports bra, etc. A nude sports bra would be a good investment for those needing extra support under their leotard. If your child does not NEED extra support, they do not NEED to wear a sports bra under their leotard. Most leotards have lining built in them, which provides plenty of support for most of our younger students.
- Hair must be tied back and secured. Please do not put bows and/or headbands in that will not stay in for the entire class session. All headbands must go around their head completely and must be secured with snap clips or bobby pins. If your child is using their class to "fix" their hair, clothes, or shoes they may be asked to leave class and risk getting an absence for the day.
- Proper shoes MUST be worn for each class. We have a No Barefoot Policy at Viva to help insure that we are not spreading things such as athlete's foot, warts, etc. We sanitize the floors weekly, but this policy has made a huge difference once in place last year. Dancers must have "Practice" jazz shoes. They cannot wear their tan jazz competition shoes for class. We have Bloch Super Jazz shoes in black for sale in the store for anyone who needs practice shoes. Many dancers choose to wear last year's performance shoes for practice the following year.

### **STUDIO PERFORMANCES**

All Team members will be required to participate in our studio performances in addition to their competition performances. The Team Showcase is going to be held on Saturday, March 10th. We will have a staging rehearsal from 9am-3pm, take a short break, and then hold the show in the evening at 6pm. This will provide our dancers a great opportunity for a practice run, while keeping the team showcase opportunity for your family and friends to view ALL of your child's group routines in a single show. Dancers will also be required to participate in the Holiday Showcase December 17<sup>th</sup> and all 3 spring recital shows on Saturday, June 9th. Dancers, who do not fulfill this requirement, may not be invited to join the team the following year.

### **COMPETITION COMMITMENTS**

- |                    |                                  |  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| ➤ March 17-18      | VIP #1 (Lake Orion HS)           | Optional Solos, Duet/Trios, Small Groups |
| ➤ TBA              | Bravo (TBA)                      | Optional Solos and Duet/Trios            |
| ➤ April 30 - May 1 | VIP #2 (Toledo)                  | ALL Company and Performance Routines     |
| ➤ May 18-19        | Revolution (Walled Lake)         | ALL Company and Performance Routines     |
| ➤ July 16-21       | VIP National (Sandusky/Kalahari) | Optional Solos, Duet/Trios, Small Groups |
- \*Rehearsals for Nationals will likely be 1-2 nights a week June 18<sup>th</sup>-July 17<sup>th</sup>*

Estimated Competition Fees (PER competition): Groups- \$30-\$40 per group, Trios- \$30-\$45, Duets- \$40-\$50, Solos- \$75-\$95. Competition fees will be due approximately 2 months prior to the competition and all fees paid are non-refundable, unless the competition is cancelled. You will receive a competition worksheet via email and it will be your responsibility to turn it in by the date due to avoid late charges. The late charge is \$10 per routine, and all late charges are non-refundable!

Please be aware that competitions are held on the weekends and it is your responsibility to reserve the entire weekend, as we do not receive a detailed schedule until 5-10 days prior. Once we receive the schedule, you will be notified via email and it will also be posted on the Team Bulletin board in the back hallway near your mailboxes. Dancers must ALWAYS be completely ready to perform 90 minutes prior to your estimated performance time. If your child is not there and ready when it is time to perform, we will perform without them. The competition company has the right to move us up if needed, so we must be ready early! Please allow for extra travel time in case of traffic, construction, detours, accidents, etc. All dancers are also REQUIRED to stay for their assigned awards session, unless arrangements with Miss Nicci have been made in advance!!!

## **WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES**

All of our company members are invited and encouraged to attend our In-House workshops when available. It is great for them to take class from others, a great way to keep up on the latest styles, and often inspires them to push themselves to improve and impress the guest teachers we bring in. We will be offering studio workshops at least once every other month. The cost for the class time is usually \$10/hour or less depending on the cost of the instructor. Dates and Sign-Up Sheets will be posted on the Team Bulletin Board in the back hallway/mailbox area.

## **COSTUMES**

Each competitive class your child enrolls in will require a costume. Costumes can range from \$25-\$125 in cost. Costumes may be store bought, book ordered, or custom made. We will decide on a costume for your child's routine by October 1<sup>st</sup>. EVERY STUDENT MUST SUBMIT A \$25 PER COMPETITION GROUP ROUTINE, NON-REFUNDABLE COSTUME DEPOSIT BY SATURDAY, AUGUST 20<sup>th</sup> AT MASTER CLASSES. This deposit will be deducted from the costume total. Group book costume balances will be due by October 15<sup>th</sup> and Group Custom costume balances will be due by February 1<sup>st</sup>. You will receive your balance via email with at least 2-3 weeks notice. All costume fees are Non-Refundable! Solo, Duet/Trio costumes will be due sooner and will be billed separately. Do NOT include your solo, duet, or trio routines in this August deposit.

Book ordered and store bought costumes may need alterations as they are made to fit a size range, not your specific child. We order them based on their measurements, but that doesn't mean they always fit when they come in. It is your responsibility to make sure that their costume fits properly. You will be given instructions when the costume is distributed on any alterations and/or stoning that needs to be done to the costume. All group costume prices include the cost of stones, gloves, hats, and/or other accessories that are required. Alteration costs will be the responsibility of the parent.

Please make sure you keep your costumes hung neatly when they are not in use. All costumes should be stored and hauled in a garment bag to avoid any damage being done to them. Be sure to label ALL costume pieces and shoes with your child's full name and Viva Dance Co. If lost, it will make it far easier to return if they know the owner of the item and the studio they belong to.

A shoe and tight list will be available in January. We will offer a group discount rate if ordered during a specified time period, details will be provided in January when the list of shoes/tights goes up. All dancers must have the proper shoes and tights required for his/her performance by March 1<sup>st</sup>. We will have all of the shoes and tights you need available for purchase in the Viva Dancewear Boutique. All Team dancers will also need to purchase a rhinestone necklace (\$15), earrings (\$6), and some a rhinestone pony band (\$10). All of these items are available in the Viva Dancewear Boutique.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**

July 11 <sup>th</sup>	6 Week Summer Classes Begin... highly recommended for ALL dancers who Plan to audition for Team Viva for the upcoming dance season!
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Early Bird Audition Application Deadline... Save \$5 off your dancer's audition fee!!!
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Team Viva Auditions 5:30-7:00 Ages 5-8, 7:00-9:00 Ages 9-11
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Team Viva Auditions 5:30-9:00 Ages 12-18
July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Team Viva Make-Up Audition/Call-Back (Times TBA)
Aug. 18 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Miss Angela in... Solo, Duet, Trio, and Troupe Choreography Sessions
Aug. 20 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Team Master Classes 9am-3pm... \$75/dancer Mandatory for Company Dancers. Recommended but not required for Performance Dancers.
Aug. 29 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup>	Back To Dance Sale in the Viva Boutique 6-9pm
Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Classes Begin
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. Ryan in... Advanced Tap Master Class
Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	Miss Christie in... Funk/Jazz Master Classes and Choreography
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	Miss Denise in... Contemporary Master Classes and Troupe Choreography
Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Studio Closed... Happy Halloween
Early Nov. (TBA)	Miss Angela in... Company Choreography
Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Show Rehearsals and Performance (MCCC)
Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup> -Jan. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Studio Closed... Winter Break (Miss Angela will be in for Master Classes and Choreography Clean-up Classes)
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Team Staging Rehearsal 9am-3pm, Team Showcase 6pm (MCCC)
March 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	VIP Competition #1 (Lake Orion, Michigan)
April 6 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	Studio Closed... Spring Break
April 28 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>	VIP Competition #2 (Toledo, Ohio)
May 18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	Revolution Competition (Walled Lake, Michigan)
May 25 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup>	Studio Closed... Memorial Day Weekend
June 8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Recital Rehearsal and Performances (MCCC)

\*Be sure to check the Team Viva News page on our website and also the Team Bulletin Board for any changes and/or updates.

## TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT

*Membership on Team Viva is a privilege, it is not a right. Miss Nicci, studio director, will have the final say in any and all matters regarding Team Viva.*

### **We understand and agree that:**

- Competition team members may not take class or study with any other dance teachers or at any other studios without written permission from Miss Nicci.
- We will be committed to Team Viva thru June 2012 and will always put forth our best effort to meet the demands, requirements and goals of Viva Dance Co. and the competition team unless dismissed by the directors. Should I choose to leave the team mid-season, I must pay a \$200 fee to cover expenses related to replacement if necessary. I will also be required to allow the alternate/replacement to use my costumes if needed, and they will be returned in the condition in which they were borrowed.
- It is my responsibility as a parent to be sure that I check my email, the Team Viva page online, and the Team Bulletin board regularly to be sure that I am fully aware of fees due, extra rehearsals, items needed, etc. By accepting a spot on the Team I am agreeing to take on the responsibilities that come along with it.
- Competition team dancers are expected to set an example in class and while on studio grounds. Dancers are also expected to act appropriately and respectfully ANYTIME they are wearing Viva apparel, regardless of whether it is at a dance event or not.
- Competition team dancers must behave appropriately and conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Inappropriate behavior will result in removal from the class and a telephone call will be made to the parents. Disrespecting teachers, staff, or students will NOT be tolerated!
- Competition team dancers must maintain excellent grades as determined by their parents. Team Viva will also operate on a ZERO TOLERANCE policy in regards to drug and alcohol use. This includes smoking. Team members who are caught smoking, drinking, or using drugs will automatically be dismissed from the team with absolutely NO REFUNDS!!!
- All choreography is the sole property of Viva Dance Co. Competition team members and/or former members may not perform routines outside of Viva Dance Co. without express written permission of the director.
- All publicity for the competition team and individual team dancers must be submitted and approved in writing by the directors.
- All competition team members must have or purchase a team jacket.
- Competition team members and their friends and relatives are never to degrade or put down any other dancer's ability, performance, appearance or personality. Talking about others is not appropriate and will not be tolerated. Accomplishment and achievement can never come at another's expense. WE SHALL TREAT ALL OTHERS WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT AND KEEP OUR OPINIONS TO OURSELVES!
- Competition team dancers are required to follow all rules and regulations set forth by Viva Dance Co AND Team Viva. Failure to comply with these guidelines or those established by Viva Dance Co. will result in a warning, penalties or dismissal from the competition team with NO REFUNDS or other recourse at the sole discretion. The directors of Team Viva have the final say in ALL competition team matters.