



# MelRoe's School of Dance

May 2010

## Recital tickets now on sale

Tickets for the recital, "Movin' On Up" are now on sale! The cost per ticket is \$9. Tickets will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis and we will not hold tickets. Remember, each student gets two free tickets (one Saturday ticket and one Sunday ticket) with the \$45 recital fee that was paid. Please encourage your student to invite family members, friends, neighbors, teachers and coaches. We want the dancers to have a FULL HOUSE to perform for!

If your guest is a small child, they must have a ticket if they use a seat. If they sit on a lap, they do not need a ticket. NO tickets will be sold at the door or saved for anyone the night of the show. You must buy your tickets in advance. Start spreading the news and get your tickets while they last!



For more information on recital, see page 2.

### Ticket incentives and prizes: (winners will be drawn at recital on Sunday)

**Sell 1 - 10 tickets:** Your name goes in a drawing for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place prize

**Sell 11 - 14 tickets:** Your name goes in a drawing for 2<sup>nd</sup> AND 3<sup>rd</sup> Place prize

**Sell 15+ tickets:** Your name goes in a drawing for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> AND 3<sup>rd</sup> Place prize

**NEW THIS YEAR...**Any dancer who sells 15 or more tickets will get a FREE recital stuffed animal (bear or monkey) of their choice!

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** "Party at MelRoe's!" Winner gets a party at the studio with 15 friends!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** "Shake Your Groove Thing!" Winner gets to attend the dance convention "Hollywood Connection" for FREE!

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** "Shopping Spree!" Winner gets a \$50 gift certificate to go shopping at The Dance Shoppe to buy anything you want! ★

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

JUNE 25 - 27, 2010

Dress Rehearsal—June 25

Recital—Saturday, June 26 AND Sunday, June 27

**Excelsior Springs  
Performing Arts Center**

612 Tiger Drive

Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

## MelRoe's School of Dance

1021 Brown Street

Suites L & M

Liberty, Mo. 64068

(816) 781-6989

[www.melroesdance.net](http://www.melroesdance.net)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Important dates

• **May 3**—Recital T-shirt order form due

• **May 20, 4:30 p.m.**—Liberty Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting at the studio. Come enjoy refreshments and get your photo taken for the newspaper! We encourage everyone to attend.

• **May 31**—Studio closed due to the Memorial Day holiday. Enjoy!

• **June 5**—All-studio rehearsal (for all students participating in recital). See page 2 for times.

### Upcoming conventions and competitions

• **May 15 - 16**—Thunderstruck competition

• **May 22 - 23**—Kids Artistic Review competition ★

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*I do not try to dance better than anyone else. I only try to dance better than myself.*

—Mikhail Baryshnikov

# Recital Corner

## Recital souvenirs/gifts

To celebrate our recital, we have several souvenir options available to give as gifts to your student.

**Teddy Bears:** We have adorable teddy bears that wear a matching Recital Souvenir T-shirt with the recital artwork. There are several choices of bears to choose from. A sample of the teddy bear is in the office.

## Recital video/DVD

We have contracted a video company to video our show. Stover Digital will be recording the show and those who would like to have a video or DVD of the show may pre-order. Order forms will be in the front lobby in June. NO personal camcorders or flash cameras will be allowed during the show for the safety of the performers. However, you may record and take pictures (no flash) during dress rehearsal night.

## Recital flowers

The MelRoe's Booster Club will have a flower booth set up at the show so you may purchase flowers for your performer. We encourage you to pre-order your flowers and then pick them up at the show. Order forms will be available in the front lobby later this month.

## Recital music now available

The music for all the classes is now available to order. You may pre-order your copy in the office. Having the music for recital will help the students practice their routines at home. Please see the front lobby for more information on the CDs.



## Backstage moms still needed

We need moms to volunteer to help the dancers backstage during each show. These moms will help with costume changes, hair, make-up, shoes, etc. Please sign up in the front lobby if you can help during ONE of the shows (Saturday OR Sunday). We need two moms per class per show.

## Backstage dads still needed

We need dads to volunteer to help with props backstage during BOTH shows. Please sign-up at the front desk if you can help during Dress Rehearsal and BOTH shows (Saturday AND Sunday). ★

# All-studio rehearsal

We have scheduled three extra rehearsal dates (one Saturday per month) to help "polish" recital routines. These rehearsals are held at the studio and are MANDATORY of all groups participating in recital.

During these rehearsals, students will have the opportunity to get extra practice with the MelRoe's staff and prepare for performing in front of an audience. It is essential to have everyone at these practices for the dancers to go through choreography and formations.

The date of our third mandatory rehearsal is **Saturday, June 5.**

**10 - noon:** All tumbling levels

**3 - 4 p.m.:** All ballet levels

**12 - 1 p.m.:** Lunch break

**4 - 5 p.m.:** All Hip Hop levels

**1 - 2 p.m.:** Tiny Tots and Levels 1, 2 & 3

**5 - 7 p.m.:** All productions

**2 - 3 p.m.:** All Company classes

For a more detailed listing of times by specific class, check the bulletin board for the schedule. The costs of these Saturday rehearsals are \$8 per hour, per student. If your dancer is in more than 4 classes, the maximum one family pays is \$32 per month. ★

## AROUND THE STUDIO

### New merchandise on sale

New items are now on sale: duffle bags, garment bags, tote bags, shirts and shorts, to name a few. Orders must be placed by May 24. Ask at the front desk for order forms and prices. ★

### MelRoe's Summer Dance Camps in July

We will be hosting two Summer Dance Camps! These camps are a week PACKED FULL of fun dances, crafts, games and making new friends. Continue to check the front lobby for more information or see the website to download a flier.

#### MelRoe's All Star Cheerleading Camp (dance and cheerleading)

July 6 - 9

9 a.m. - noon

Cost \$125

Registration deadline: June 18

#### MelRoe's Rock Star Camp (dance)

July 6 - 9

1 - 4 p.m.

Cost \$125

Registration deadline: June 18 ★

### Spread the word about our studio

The MelRoe's Referral Program gives our current students a chance to earn FREE classes. If you tell a friend or family member about MelRoe's and they enroll in a dance/tumbling class, **you get \$10 off your tuition that month.** The new student MUST tell us that YOU referred them to the studio.

Here's the best part...if you have 5 friends enroll at MelRoe's, you get \$50 off your next monthly tuition—there's NO LIMIT! So, start telling everyone you know about our new classes and remind them to mention your name when they enroll! ★

# Booster Club Corner

## Water and snacks

The Booster Club has water bottles, Gatorade and snacks available for purchase in the office. Sales from these items help fund the **Peggy Crum Scholarship Fund**.

## About Booster Club

The MelRoe's Booster Club is a GREAT way to fundraise money for extra dance expenses. Each family at MelRoe's can establish an account through the Booster Club and participate in various events throughout the year that can add money to help pay for "extras." This is also a great opportunity to help take care of recital and competition expenses!

There is a Booster Club bulletin board in the lobby that has all the current and upcoming events posted.

You can find forms for the Booster Club next to the bulletin board. Also, please turn in all order forms and payment request forms to the box labeled "Booster Club" in the lobby. If you would like to become a member, please see the front desk for information. ☆

## CURRENT BOOSTER CLUB ACTIVITIES

- **Price Chopper/Hy-Vee coupon books - \$5**
- **Cookbooks - \$8**
- **Trash bags - \$10**

# Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to the following students celebrating a birthday this month. Be sure to stop by the office to pick up your birthday goodie bag.

<b>Savannah Vinyard</b>	May 18
<b>Domniana Giurraputo</b>	May 19
<b>Mataya Smith</b>	May 29
<b>Shelbi Ethington</b>	May 30
<b>Jordan Hayes</b>	May 30 ☆



## Birthday packages available

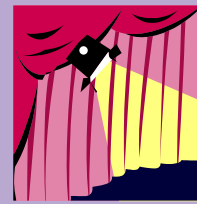
We offer fun birthday party packages to have your child's birthday party at the studio. What a great way to celebrate your event—we set up the cake and decorations, entertain the guests and clean up! You show up, play with your kids and have tons of fun and go home. If you are interested in having a birthday party at the studio, please leave your name and number at the front desk or call (816) 781-6989. ☆

# Spring cleaning?



Wanting to clean out that closet and just don't know what to do with your old costumes? MelRoe's will take them...we are looking for gently used costumes/princess dress-up clothes to use at our birthday parties. If you have accessories such as hats, scarves or anything that little girls would LOVE to dress up with, we would love to use these items for our parties! ☆

# In the Spotlight



We are very proud of our students and would like to recognize their accomplishments. Please let the office know

of any school awards or achievements that are dance or school related and we will spotlight them in our monthly newsletter.

**Molly Carroll**—made the Dance Team at Truman High School

**Shannon Carroll**—made the Dance Team at Truman High School

**Rachel Gilpin**—made the Dance Team at Truman High School

## MelRoe's Dynamite Dancers

Congratulations to the MelRoe's Dynamite Dancers (Competition Company) for a GREAT JOB at Talent On Parade and Stage One Dance Competitions. We are so proud of all of you!

Our Company Members are:

**Jessica Armstrong, Morgan Ashby, Rosie Bennett, Jaci Caldarella, Molly Carroll, Shannon Carroll, Malorie Colby, Kallie Cowens, Edith Cruz, Tanner Frisbey, Rachel Gilpin, Angelina Glorioso, Anna Hansen, Jordan Hayes, Morgan Hayes, Alexis Humm, Kristen McCulley, Kristen Morris, Stephanie Morrow, Katie Ortiz, Isabelle Rizi, Tasia Saye, Elizabeth Schonfeldt, Chelsea Standifer, Samantha Vinyard, Savannah Vinyard and Ashley Wuerfele.** ☆

# Topic of the Month: HOW TO CHOREOGRAPH

Choreographing a dance routine can seem like a daunting task, whether it is for the final of a national dance competition or for the school dance troupe. Starting out with nothing but a piece of music and a vague idea of what the dance should be, it seems like there is a long way to go before achieving that idea. Even though everyone has their own ways of forming a solid routine, after years of struggling to choreograph effectively I have learned the right ways and the wrong ways of going about it. Whether you are choreographing for hip-hop, jazz, ballet or slow-dance, these tips could help you to focus on exactly what you need to do to create an exciting and effective dance routine.

## 1. Pick the music before you start making up the dance.

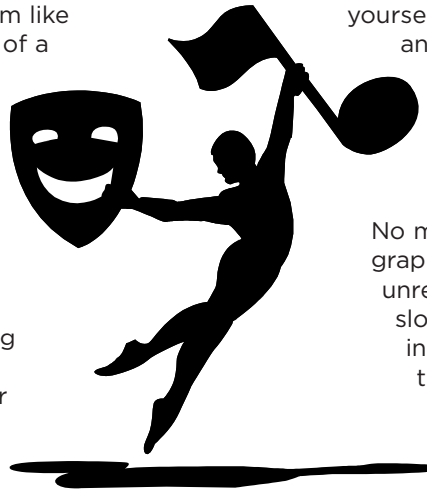
Some people would argue that if you are counting right, your routine should go with any music. Technically, that is usually true but it disregards the fact that there must be some rhythm and flow to your routine and the best way to achieve this is to create moves that really speak to the music you're using. Pick a song that you love, that is relevant and, most importantly, that has a clear and distinct beat. If you're just starting out, try a song with a more obvious rhythmic beat. As you become more advanced at choreography and at really feeling the music, you can begin to dance to more obscure, interesting songs.

## 2. Don't dance to the words of the song.

Despite what I said in the first point, it is extremely important that the dance routine does not just 'go' with the music. That is, don't create a move for every word of the song because what you'll end up with is a static routine and lots of standing-still while your dancers wait for the next move. Lyrics are important, but you dance to the music. Every beat should have a move set to it. Don't break up the flow of a dance by stopping for every break in the lyrics. In fact, for your first few routines it might be better to choose a piece without lyrics. That way you will be forced to concentrate solely on the music and this will make it easier when it comes to songs with lyrics.

## 3. Count!

Some of the best dancers in the world refuse to count, choosing instead to listen to the rhythm of the music and dance from that. Michael Jackson was such a dancer. However for most of us, it is virtually impossible to manage a routine without using counts. Firstly, you will confuse yourself at the beginning and forget which move came where. If you are just half a second out of sync with the music, it could mess up your whole routine and simple 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8 counts is the only way to prevent this. Also, for very fast pieces you will avoid getting completely lost in your own dance by using half beats: 1-&-2-&-3... When you get to that frustrating point where you've just done an amazing move but you can't seem to remember what it was (this will happen) counts will jog your memory and put you back on track. Of course, it is not just for



yourself that you use counts. There is nothing more annoying than being taught a routine without counts. It makes it a hundred times harder to learn and it is impossible for a group to stay in-sync without counting. So please, just count!

## 4. Have a vision.

No matter what style of dance you are choreographing for, any routine with a string of random, unrelated moves set to music is going to look sloppy. There needs to be a story mapped out in your head which your dance will aim to portray. If it is a group routine, take advantage of the number of dancers. Alternate between synchronized moves and moves in canon. Incorporate partner work, lifts, jumps - these are the things that make your dance

stand out. Make sure your routine has a good height range - standing poses, sitting poses, floor poses. The position of the dancers should change - try not to make three lines of dancers and keep it that way for the whole routine. Use new formations; for instance a diamond formation, a circle, two separate groups etc. Above all, use variation in your routine. This is what makes dancing so exciting: it always flows well, yet it is fluid and nothing stays the same for long. If a move is too complicated for your dancers, cut it. Simple moves are the key. As long as it is danced well, it will look great.

## 5. Don't depend on tricks

Finally, there are always 'dance' routines that actually have very little dancing in them. They depend on tricks - turns, splits, walkovers. This looks great and used sparingly can be very effective. However, much of it is gymnastics more than dancing and often, it is only a small minority of the dance team who do these tricks while the others shake their hips a bit and watch. This is not a sign of a talented team that works together to create an exciting and innovative dance routine. There should be no need for tricks if your dance is strong enough. If the whole team can do the splits, great, have them do it. But if it's one girl in the front who spends the whole routine sitting in a split, it doesn't say much about her as a dancer or about you as a choreographer. The point is to dance - if there is anything extra you want to bring to the dance to enhance it, then that is fine. But don't turn it into a gymnastics routine.

If you follow each of these tips, you will have the basis for a brilliant dance routine. However, these are only starting ideas; the hard work is up to you. The bottom line is to be creative, be logical and never ever choreograph a dance that you are not completely in love with. Always remember that what you dance and what you teach others to dance says something very significant about who you are. Let it be something you are proud of.—*Written by Marese Heffernan*

## May challenge

Students are encouraged to try their skills in choreographing a short piece...be creative! Any student who does so will be invited to share their work in front of the class.★

# ALL-STUDIO REHEARSALS

We have scheduled three extra rehearsal dates (one Saturday per month) to help “polish” recital routines. These rehearsals are held at the studio and are MANDATORY of all groups participating in recital.

During these rehearsals, students will have the opportunity to get extra practice with the MelRoe’s staff and prepare for performing in front of an audience. It is essential to have everyone at these practices for the dancers to go through choreography and formations.

The following dates and times are mandatory rehearsals for recital routines:

- **Saturday, March 27**
- **Saturday, May 1**
- **Saturday, June 5**

**10:00 - Noon**      Mon 5:45 Tumble Tykes  
Tues 6:30 Level 2 Tumbling  
Tues 7:30 Level 3 Tumbling  
Tues 5:00 Level 4 Tumbling

**Noon - 1 p.m.**      **LUNCH BREAK**

**1 - 2 p.m.**      Mon 5:00 Tiny Tots Combo  
Wed 5:45 Tiny Tots Combo  
Thurs 5:00 Level 1 Combo  
Mon 7:15 Level 2 Combo  
Mon 8:15 Level 3 Combo

**2 - 3 p.m.**      Wed 6:30 Mini Company  
Wed 8:30 Junior Company  
Wed 7:30 Teen Company  
Wed 8:30 Senior Company

**3 - 4 p.m.**      Mon 6:30 Pre-Ballet  
Tues 5:00 Level 1 Ballet  
Thurs 5:00 Level 2 Ballet  
Thurs 7:00 Level 3 Ballet  
Thurs 6:00 Teen Ballet  
Mon 6:00 Level 4 Ballet  
Mon 7:30 Level 5 Ballet

**4 - 5 p.m.**      Tues 5:30 Level 1 Hip Hop  
Tues 6:30 Level 2 Hip Hop  
Tues 8:30 Level 3 Hip Hop

**5 - 7 p.m.**      ALL Production Routines

The costs of these Saturday rehearsals are \$8 per hour, per student. If your dancer is in more than four classes, the maximum one family pays is \$32 per month. ★



## MelRoe's School of Dance Policies

• **Tuition**—February tuition is now due. Tuition is due by the 10th of each month. Any tuition paid after the due date will automatically have a \$15 fee added to their monthly tuition. Tuition **MUST** be paid in full in order to continue taking class the following month. January tuition must be paid before a student can take February classes.

• **Dress Code**—Appropriate dance/tumbling clothes **AND** shoes are **REQUIRED** to participate in class. No student will be allowed to take class without proper dance attire and shoes. Please **NO** jewelry or baggy shirts or pants.

**Ballet Classes:** All ballet students need to wear a solid **BLACK** leotard with pink tights and pink ballet shoes. Ballet skirts are optional. Hair **MUST** be in a tight bun.

**Combo / Tumbling / Hip Hop classes:** All students need to wear a leotard/tights/lycra shorts/or dance pants with the appropriate shoes. Absolutely **NO** baggy T-shirts or baggy pants! Hair must be pulled back off face and neck. Boys may wear fitted T-shirts and sweat pants or shorts.

**Dance/Tumbling Shoes:** Please check with your child's teacher for the required shoes.

• **Attendance Policy**—Attendance in class is expected. Any missed class due to sickness, weather, or holidays may be made-up by attending another class. Missed classes must be made up within the semester. The Spring Semester is February - May. Any class missed during this semester, may be made up until the end of May. Please check with the front desk for make-up times.

• **Weather Policy**—In case of bad weather, please call the studio and listen to the message to see if we are holding classes. We usually close when the Liberty School District cancels school, however, there are some cases where the weather changes before MelRoe's classes begin. You can also go to our Web site to check studio closings.

• **Change Class Request Form**—If your child is adding or dropping a class in their tuition schedule, please see the front desk to complete a Class Change Request Form. This form **MUST** be completed before your tuition payment schedule can be changed. Class change requests will be determined according to current enrollment in the class.

• **Parking**—Parents may park in the spaces in front of our studio and in the back of the building. We have been asked by the local businesses next to us to keep the parking spaces in front of their store for their customers.

THANK YOU! ☆

*MelRoe's School of Dance*

1021 Brown Street

Suites L & M

Liberty, Mo. 64068

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