

**DANCE est Joie, Inc.**  
**Company Handbook**  
**2023-2024**

## **DANCE est Joie, Inc. 2023-2024 Competition Company Required Events**

The dance company director will be responsible for submitting registrations and payments for all required events.

### **Choreography Week**

July 30th - August 6th, 2023

Fort Smith, AR at Grayce DeWitt Dance Studio

A week of learning dance routines and team bonding activities!

### **Industry Xperience — in-house convention**

September 30th - October 1st, 2023

Fort Smith, AR at Grayce DeWitt Dance Studio <https://www.industryxperience.com/thetourschedule>

### **Hip Hop Holiday Workshop with Barry YoungBlood**

December 9th, 2023 (Late morning/afternoon event)

Fort Smith, AR at Grayce DeWitt Dance Studio

OFFICIAL DETAILS ABOUT THE SCHEDULE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; dancers assigned to Barry's competition group dance should also plan to rehearse during his visit, likely in the morning prior to the workshop begins

### **DANCE est Joie Holiday Party**

December 9th, 2023 (Evening event)

(OFFICIAL DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE)

### **DANCE est Joie, Inc. Competition Rehearsals and Dress Rehearsal**

January 2nd - 4th, 2024

All solos, duos, trios and group routines will participate in rehearsals and a team dress rehearsal. Rehearsals for solos, duos and trios during the winter break will be determined by the choreographer. We will not schedule rehearsals for group routines during the winter break. A more detailed schedule will be announced as soon as possible. Dress rehearsal for all dancers will take place on Thursday, January 4th.

### **Hollywood Dance Jamz (HDJ) — competition and convention**

January 12th - 14th, 2024

Branson, MO at Chateau On The Lake Resort Spa & Convention Center <http://www.hollywooddancejamz.com>

### **Nextstar National Talent Competition — competition only**

February 16th - 18th, 2024

Fort Smith, AR at ArcBest Performing Arts Center <https://www.nexstarcompetition.com>

### **Artist Simply Human (ASH) — competition and convention**

March 8th-10th, 2024

Branson, MO at Chateau On The Lake Resort Spa & Convention Center <https://ashdance.com/>

### **Synergy Performing Arts Competition — competition only**

April 26th - 28th, Fort Smith, AR ArcBest

Performing Arts Center <https://www.synergypac.com>

## **DANCE est Joie, Inc. 2023-2024 Optional Events**

All DANCE est Joie, Inc. company members may choose to enter and travel, if necessary, to additional conventions. Dancers performing solos, duets and trios may choose to enter and travel, if necessary, to additional competitions. Additional competitions, conventions and master classes not listed are also optional for all DANCE est Joie, Inc. members with the company director's approval. Please understand that the dance company director and/or DANCE est Joie, Inc. choreographers may not be available to travel to any or all optional events. The dance company director will be responsible for submitting registrations and payments for all optional events. Registration fees for all optional events must be paid in advance of the registration. Deposits will not be utilized. Early birds fees will not be honored for unpaid fees.

**NUVO** — optional convention for all DANCE est Joie, Inc members and competition for solos/duos/trios with company director approval only  
October 27th - 29th, 2023, Tulsa, OK  
Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center <https://www.gonuvo.com>

**Hollywood Vibe** — optional convention for all DANCE est Joie, Inc members and competition for solos/duos/trios with company director approval only  
January 19th - 21st, 2024, Dallas, TX  
<https://www.hollywoodvibe.com/>

**Dancemakers, Inc. (DMI)** — optional convention for all DANCE est Joie, Inc members and competition for solos/duos/trios with company director approval only February 23rd - 25th, 2024, Branson, MO  
Chateau On The Lake Resort  
<https://dancemakersinc.com>

**Talent On Parade** — optional competition for solos/duos/trios with company director approval only  
March 14th - 17th, 2024  
Fort Smith, AR at ArcBest Performing Arts Center <https://talentonparade.com>

**Revive Dance** — optional convention for all DANCE est Joie, Inc members and competition for solos/duos/trios with company director approval only <https://www.revivedanceconvention.com>

**Stage One National Dance Competition** — optional competition for solos/duos/trios with company director approval only  
<https://stageonedance.com/>

## **Expectations of DANCE est Joie, Inc Members**

### **Rules for a good relationship**

When a dancer is accepted into the dance company, the dancer and the parents must make the choice to accept and follow the rules and guidelines set by DANCE est Joie, Inc. These rules are as follows:

Speaking about our studio, a student or our staff in a negative voice puts your child in a tug of war between us and their teammates. Negative conversations inside our school are unacceptable. For every action, there is a reaction. Let's teach our dancers to accept decisions with dignity and grace. By creating responsible dancers, we are also contributing to their growth as responsible human beings. Dance education cannot always be a "feel good" experience. To discuss any situation concerning your dancer, email [danceestjoie.inc@yahoo.com](mailto:danceestjoie.inc@yahoo.com) or call the studio to set an appointment. Do not contact a staff member by text message, phone call, personal email or social media messaging accounts.

All GDDS classes and DANCE est Joie, Inc. rehearsals (solos, duos, trios and groups) are closed. Classes and rehearsals may be viewed from outside the classroom and the viewing windows.

All trophies, videos, audio clips, score sheets and critiques are the property of DANCE est Joie, Inc. Trophies earned for solo performances may be kept by the soloist.

Bullying of a student or a teacher is unacceptable and is grounds for dismissal.

Dancers prepare and rehearse their competition routines with DANCE est Joie, Inc. staff members only, unless an approved guest choreographer is available.

DANCE est Joie, Inc. company members dance exclusively at Grayce DeWitt Dance Studio. Participation in school sponsored teams is acceptable.

A completed DANCE est Joie, Inc. Member Agreement for the 2023-2024 dance school year will be required for all dance company members. The agreement will be mailed following the DANCE est Joie, Inc. 2023-2024 team auditions and announcement. The agreement is due by Tuesday, June 13th, 2023. Please return agreements in person at Grayce DeWitt Dance Studio.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory for all dance classes and rehearsals. We do our best to be flexible and accommodating with conflicts due to school and/or important family activities. However, by becoming a member of a team, you have agreed this is a priority in your schedule. Missed classes for any reason other than illness or family emergency must be brought to the company director's attention at least 24 hours in advance. This can include but is not limited to school events and academics, athletics, family celebrations, etc. Notification of the dancer's absence is acceptable by calling 479-783-7748 during business hours or emailing [danceestjoie.inc@yahoo.com](mailto:danceestjoie.inc@yahoo.com) or [graycedewitt@yahoo.com](mailto:graycedewitt@yahoo.com). Texting a staff member is not an acceptable form of communication. Failure to communicate an absence will immediately result in a dancer being required to attend additional Saturday technical class(es) and will count towards the dancer's total absences allowed per semester. Absences due to an illness or family emergency will be excused and won't count towards the semester limit if the dancer can provide documentation that supports the absence. Please do not ask if it is okay for your student to miss a class or a rehearsal. This decision must be made by the parent and dancer. Student absences will be recorded. Details about attendance are listed below:

Studio Class AND Company Rehearsal Attendance: Dancers will be allowed three (3) total absences per dance in each semester. Any additional absences other than the three (3) total absences per dance per semester will require Saturday technical class attendance. Any time an absence occurs, the dancer is responsible to learn what was missed before the next rehearsal, either with a private lesson or from a teammate. If more than 1 absence, excused or unexcused, has occurred, and the dancer has not met with the instructor/ choreographer or teammate to learn the missed material, it is possible the dancer may be removed from the

competition routine. In addition, tardiness is unacceptable. If a student is consistently late to rehearsal, it may be classified as an unexcused absence. Missing the first part of a rehearsal causes the students to become behind on stretching and warming up which can lead to injuries.

**Event Attendance:** Each dance company member must attend all required conventions, competitions, and additional scheduled performances. Any dance company member who does not attend a scheduled competition, convention or performance will be dismissed from DANCE est Joie, Inc. A doctor's note is required for any illness during a competition or convention that effects a dancer's participation in any or all of the required event. Any dancer with an unexcused absence for a scheduled rehearsal two (2) weeks prior to competition will be removed from the dance for that competition. A doctor's note is required for any illness that effects a dancer's participation during this timeframe.

Being part of DANCE est Joie, Inc. is a team effort and attendance is very important to all members. Dance teachers do understand that they are instructing with busy children and socially active teens with many academic and extracurricular demands; being a well-rounded individual is important, however, when it comes to participation on a team, in order to continually progress, dancers must be present.

All members of DANCE est Joie, Inc. are required to take weekly technical classes including ballet, tap and jazz, as well as at least one additional style of dance, such as lyrical, contemporary, musical theatre, hip hop, pointe/prepointe. Dancers will be leveled into the appropriate ballet, tap and jazz classes. Weekly technique, conditioning and injury prevention lessons take place during rehearsals. Dancers assigned a lyrical, contemporary or hip hop routine are required to enroll in the weekly class that corresponds with the routine style.

### **2023 Summer Break Commitments**

All members of DANCE est Joie, Inc. will be required to attend technique, conditioning and injury prevention classes throughout the summer. Two classes per age group will be offered weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings beginning Tuesday, June 6th, 2023. Each class will be 90 minutes. Dancers will be required to attend a minimum of 50% of the classes (7 classes) offered before choreography week begins in July. The cost of each class is \$15.00. Additional workshops and classes will be offered at GDDS throughout the summer. Participation in these opportunities (equivalent to 90 minutes) will count towards summer requirements. Participation in additional dance education events, such as a national conventions, workshops, will count towards summer requirements with the director's pre-approval. The schedule of classes during our Summer Dance Arts classes (July 10th-20th) will vary slightly. Class will not be held on Tuesday, July 4th. This class opportunity will be rescheduled. Dancers may schedule private lessons with DANCE est Joie, Inc/Grayce Dewitt Dance Studio instructors throughout the summer, but these will not count towards summer break requirements.

Sunday, July 30th-Sunday, August 6th, 2023

Official Choreography Work Week for ALL DANCE est Joie, Inc members  
(OFFICIAL DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE)

Weekly rehearsals for group dances will continue in August 2023. This rehearsal schedule will differ from the weekly rehearsal schedule for the 2023-2024 dance school year. Rehearsals for solos, duos and trios throughout the summer and during the dance school year will be determined by the choreographer and dance participant(s).

### **Communication**

Communication from parents and students comes through the front desk during class time. Please call the studio (479) 783-7748. All dance company related email communication will be directed to and from [danceestjoie.inc@yahoo.com](mailto:danceestjoie.inc@yahoo.com). Do not utilize social media apps for communicating with dance staff and choreographers.

Staff and choreographers will post information on our DANCE est Joie, Inc. social media pages. The DANCE est Joie, Inc. Family Page on Facebook is for parents and family members (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc) who play a vital role in your dancer's company involvement and success.

## DANCE est Joie, Inc. Expenses

### Payment methods

Participating in dance company is a privilege. Consideration must be given to the cost of such a privilege. All fees, of any kind, must be paid on time. The following are forms of payment for DANCE est Joie, Inc. company expenses:

- Check payable to Rebecca Bean
- Venmo account: @DANCEestJoie\_Inc\_GDDS
- PayPal account: [danceestjoie.inc@yahoo.com](mailto:danceestjoie.inc@yahoo.com) (sent as a personal payment; do not send as a payment for goods and services)

I cannot charge competition and convention fees through your dance studio account, which is utilized for payments for regular monthly tuition for classes and rehearsals. Payments for company events and costumes are not recorded as income. For anyone choosing to pay fees by check, my name is listed on the dance company account. These fees are not deposited into my personal checking or savings accounts. If choosing to submit your payment through Venmo or PayPal, please make sure the recipient is accurate. I am happy to send a payment request to ensure your payment is made to the correct party. DANCE est Joie, Inc. will not be responsible for any payments delivered to the incorrect account. Please do not send payments to my personal Venmo or PayPal accounts. All electronic payments should include "DANCER'S NAME-REIMBURSEMENT-MONTH" in the information section.

### Explanation of fees and payment schedule

Competition, convention and group choreography fees will be determined in July, as I will have to wait for each competition/convention to update (if necessary) their fees for the 2023-2024 season. The combined total of these fees is referred to as "event fees".

For company dancers, a total of three \$300 deposits will be due. A deposit is due on June 15th, July 15th and August 15th. Deposits will go towards your dancer's total competition, convention and group choreography fees. Fees for costumes will be factored into your total at a later date. Following our selection of dancers participating in additional routines (solo, duo or trio) an updated payment total will be shared with each dancer. A set fee per dancer will continue to be due on the 15th of each month (September, October, November, January, February, March, April) or until the dancer's balance is \$0. If a dancer is ONLY competing in group routines, their monthly payment will remain \$300. Participation in a duo or trio will add \$50.00 to each monthly payment. Participation in a solo will add \$50.00 to each monthly payment. **Payments not made on time will result in a \$25 late fee per every ten days the payment is late.**

The dance company director or Grayce DeWitt Dance Studio will not be held responsible for personally financing a dancer's participation in an event. Registration fees for optional events must be paid in full prior to the director completing the dancer's registration. Dancers pay their own expenses for travel, hotel, and food. An adult must accompany any dancer under the age of 18. All fees are nonrefundable.

Costumes may include tights, shoes and additional accessories as needed (estimated cost \$85 to \$155.00 each). Costume fees are nonrefundable. A detailed invoice of your dancer's costume fees will be sent in the fall.

A yearly company membership fee per dancer is due by June 15th: \$85.00 (factored into your first \$300 deposit)

DANCE est Joie, Inc members will be responsible for ordering an official dance company warm up jacket and dance bag. The estimated cost is \$120-\$175 for both items. The total of each item is dependent on the number of items in our order.

A \$5.00 administration fee will be due for each convention, including dancers who are on scholarship at convention. An additional \$3.00 administration fee will be added per competition routine, including dancers that have received a scholarship or participation credit. This fee will be factored into your overall fees due. This fee applies to all required and optional events.

Rehearsals for group dances will begin in August. The rehearsal cost is \$35.00/per dancer/per competition dance/per month. This rehearsal fee will be added to your monthly tuition expenses due on the 1st of each month beginning August 1st, 2023 and ending May 1st, 2024. Rehearsal fees charged in August will only apply to dances that are rehearsing. Each group competition routine will rehearse for 30 - 45 minutes per week during the 2023-2024 dance school year.

An example of total event fees due for a DANCE est Joie, Inc. 2022-2023 dance company member performing in two group routines and attending all required events is listed below. This example does not include any of the fees associated with competition costumes or team uniforms, optional events or fees for solo, duo or trio routines.

Member fee \$85  
IX Convention \$315  
BYB Hip Hop Holiday WS \$20-\$25  
HDJ Convention \$275  
HDJ Competition Group Routines \$60 x 2  
Stage One Competition Group Routines \$57 x 2  
Talent On Parade Group Competition  
Routines \$52 x 2  
Choreography Fees approximately \$350  
Administrative Fees \$11 per event

\*Fees are subject to change for the 2023-2024 dance school year

### **DANCE est Joie, Inc. Routines**

#### **DANCE est Joie, Inc instructors, choreographers and guest choreographers**

Franco Baleto  
Rebecca Bean  
Kameron  
DeWitt-Elkins  
Jayci James  
Robbi Martin  
Emily Wright  
Jeremy Duvall (guest) @jeremyduvall  
Annie Gratton (guest) @annie\_gratton  
Haley Hartsfield (guest) @hhartsfieldd  
Barry YoungBlood (guest) @barryyoungblood  
Zoe Vogel (guest) @zoe.vogel

Choreographers will make all decisions concerning the dance competition piece. This includes, but is not limited to music, dance style, costumes, props and the placement of the dancer in the dance. Choreographers will also choose the "emotional execution" and facial expression expressed in each dance piece. Parent recommendations will not be considered.

#### **Group Dances**

Dancers ages six and up may participate in small groups, large groups, lines and productions. Dancers will be leveled into competition groups and dance classes according to audition scores, technical evaluations, previous dance experience, work ethic, studio attendance, and age. Decisions are not based on a dancer's physical appearance. No dancer will be assigned a specific number of dances, nor will a dancer be guaranteed a specific number of competition dances in any specific dance style, compared to past or present competition experiences. Parent recommendations will not be considered, however, we are considerate of your input if there is a maximum number of routines we should be aware of. The rehearsal cost is \$35.00/per

dancer/per competition dance/per month. This rehearsal fee will be added to your monthly tuition expenses due on the 1st of each month beginning August 1st, 2023 and ending May 1st, 2024. Dancers assigned a lyrical, contemporary or hip hop routine are required to enroll in the weekly class that corresponds with the routine style.

### **Duos/Trios**

Dancers chosen for a duet or trio will primarily be determined by the dancer's audition score, but if known, a dancer's work ethic in previous classes and rehearsals and previous studio class attendance will be considered. Dancers competing in a duet or trio must be flexible regarding rehearsals scheduled on Fridays, Saturdays and/or Sundays. Dancers may only rehearse and work on their competition duet or trio with the assigned choreographer. In the event a guest choreographer is not regularly available, a DANCE est Joie, Inc. instructor or choreographer will rehearse with the duet or trio dancers. In addition, dancers selected for a duet or trio are encouraged to register for the class that corresponds to the style of routine they will be competing. For example, dancers performing a musical theatre duet or trio should take a weekly musical theatre class.

### **Solos**

Solos are suggested, but not limited, to dancers who have had at least 2 years of dance experience as a dance company member. Information about submitting your solo request will be provided following our formal auditions. Dancers may choose to work with a DANCE est Joie, Inc. choreographer or any of the guest choreographers listed. Dancers desiring to work with a choreographer not listed must have approval from the dance company director. Dancers may only rehearse and work on their competition solo with the assigned choreographer. In the event a guest choreographer is not regularly available, a DANCE est Joie, Inc. instructor or choreographer will rehearse with the soloist. Only graduating senior soloists will perform in the annual Spring Recital. Dancers competing a solo must be flexible regarding rehearsals scheduled on Fridays, Saturdays and/or Sundays. In addition, dancers competing a solo are encouraged to register for the class that corresponds to the style of routine they will be competing. For example, a dancer performing a musical theatre solo should take a weekly musical theatre class.

### **Choreography fees for solos, duos, trios and group routines**

What is the choreographer fee? Your choreographer will create an original piece of work consisting of dynamic and complex dance steps that is designed specifically to the personality, abilities and technique of the dancer. In addition, it includes choosing and editing the music to competition limits, selecting the costume and working with the dancer to transform the piece into a finished and stage worthy product. Choreography fees are paid directly to the choreographer. DANCE est Joie, Inc. choreographers will bill each dancer by Venmo per rehearsal and choreography fees. Unpaid fees in a timely manner will result in cancellation of future rehearsals by the choreographer/instructor until the fee is paid. Choreography fees and rehearsal fees will differ for guest choreographers, but DEJ choreographers will set their own rehearsal and choreography rates for the 2023-2024 dance company season. Rates will be based on the choreographer's credentials. A minimum expectation of fees for these routines is listed below:

Duo/Trio: The bundled choreography and rehearsal fee: \$170.00 per dancer (includes \$90 choreography fee and four hours of rehearsal to set choreography)  
Future rehearsal fee: \$10.00/per dancer/per 30 minute rehearsal (this is for rehearsals past the four hours paid for in your choreography fee)

Solo: The bundled choreography and rehearsal fee: \$310.00 per dancer (includes \$150 choreography fee and four hours of rehearsal to set choreography)  
Future rehearsal fee: \$20.00/30 minute rehearsal (this is for rehearsals past the four hours paid for in your choreography fee)

Group routines: \$50.00 per dancer per group routine. This applies to routines taught by GDDS/ DANCE est Joie Inc. faculty. This choreography fee will be factored into each dancer's overall fees due.

Guest choreographer fees: Approved guest choreographers for the 2023-2024 season are listed above. Dancers chosen to perform in a guest choreographer's group routine will be required to pay the choreographer's fee per dancer (\$100-\$300 each), and contribute to their travel expenses and accommodations (\$25 per dancer per guest choreographer). This choreography fee will be factored into each dancer's overall fees due. Dancers chosen to perform in a duo or trio will have the option to work with a guest choreographer. These dancers will be required to pay the choreographer's fee per dancer, and contribute to their travel expenses and accommodations. Dancers requesting to perform a solo will have the option to work with a guest choreographer. Dancers will be required to pay the choreographer's fee per dancer, and contribute to their travel expenses and accommodations. Each guest choreographer's solo, duo and trio choreography fees can be explained if requested.

### **Fundraising Opportunities**

A fundraising committee will be organized for any member of DANCE est Joie, Inc. who chooses to participate. Co-directors will be selected to direct this committee and will communicate with the dance company director about fundraising events and opportunities. Funds earned will be applied to the account of the contributing dancer only. Funds will not be divided amongst company members.

### **Appearance and Image Use**

Each dancer must adhere to Grayce DeWitt Dance Studio's dress code. Please visit [www.idancewithgrayce.com](http://www.idancewithgrayce.com) for details. Dancer must wear hair in a style long enough to conform to a slick bun. Dancer must be capable of changing his/her own costume during performances and competitions.

Each dancer must purchase necessary dance shoes according to the 2022-2023 shoe dress code. Do not purchase new shoes until our shoe dress code has been announced. Shoes may be purchased from The Red Shoe Dancewear Boutique in Bentonville, Arkansas or other dancewear retailers.

A dance company member's image may be used in a professional layout for promotional purpose.

Use of the DANCE est Joie, Inc. logo or name on any apparel or merchandise must be approved by the studio owner and director before purchase or production. Use of the DANCE est Joie, Inc. logo or name for the purpose of fundraising must be approved by the studio owner and director. DANCE est Joie, Inc. is a not for profit organization. Use of the DANCE est Joie, Inc. logo or name may not be used for personal gain outside of dance company expenses.

Until the competition season is complete, following Talent On Parade, do not post videos of competition routines to any social media platform, website, etc. Pictures may be posted.