

Indianapolis Ballet – Indianapolis School of Ballet (IB/ISB)

Providing the foundation for a professional career

APPLICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL LEVEL PROGRAM (PLP)

Acceptance to the Professional Level Program is by audition only. Dancers invited to the **Professional Level Program (PLP)** concentrate on refining technique and developing artistry through an intensive full day, 38-40 week comprehensive program. Curriculum may include technique, pointe, variations, men's class, adagio, modern, choreography, Pilates, strength training, and seminars on such topics as nutrition, personal safety, and injury prevention.

Professional Level Program (PLP) Students are notified of their acceptance to the Professional Level Program within seven days of audition. This 1-2 year program is designed to guide dancers to transition from student life to professional dancer or higher collegiate education. PLP dancers are considered for Apprentice positions with the Company. Selected PLP students may also have opportunities to perform in Indianapolis Ballet productions throughout the year. Indianapolis School of Ballet assists students with career planning by offering workshops on resume writing for the audition/job search process, resources for audition photos, and through individual counseling or conferences. The application process requires information from the prospective student, his/her parents, a recommendation from the student's current ballet instructor, and financial assistance paperwork (if financial aid is needed). Prospective students and their parents must consider living arrangements (ISB does not offer year-round housing) as well as academics. Professional Level Program candidates who have not completed high school must have a plan to continue academic studies while attending ISB.

ORIENTATION

Once accepted to participate in the Professional Level Program, students attend an orientation with Victoria Lyras and Kristin Toner along with other key staff from the School and Company to review School policies, procedures, and expectations of PLP students. Each student will receive a packet with paperwork outlining School policies and procedures along with a number of forms to return to the School before classes begin (registration form, physical exam report, medical insurance info, etc.).

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

There are limited tuition assistance funds available for students in the Professional Level Program. These funds are awarded to students based on financial need, academic history, artistic ability, promise, and availability.

Students requesting tuition assistance and their parents (if under 18) must complete an application, which will be provided upon request. The Scholarship Committee considers determination of financial assistance. Students that receive assistance must sign a written agreement acknowledging and promising to meet the requirements set forth on the form. Scholarship students must have permission from the Artistic Director to attend dance classes or perform at any other school, academy, or private studio during the scholarship agreement period. Permission will typically be granted

only if such participation does not interfere with any Indianapolis School of Ballet classes, rehearsals or performances.

IB/ISB does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, sex, or ethnic origin.

HOUSING

Professional Level students are responsible for making their own housing arrangements during the school year, as ISB does not have year-round housing available. There are multiple options for housing in the vicinity including the newly finished Lux on Capitol. Please inquire for our housing information packet.

COMMUNICATION

Communication with the School is vital to the success of each student. Students should contact Mrs. Kristin Toner, Ballet Master and Assistant Artistic Director, or the School office with all questions, issues, concerns, etc. Front desk staff can often address certain applicable questions. Students are welcome and encouraged to email Mrs. Toner, ktoner@indyballet.org at any time throughout the school year to discuss day-to-day concerns (class work, schedule, absences, injuries, auditions, etc.). Mrs. Toner is your primary contact throughout the school year. Communication regarding schedules, schedule changes, and any/all events involving PLP students will be posted on the School and/or Company bulletin board. Students are required to check the board daily for updates.

STUDENT CONFERENCES

Conferences with Ms. Lyras and Mrs. Toner are held in the winter to discuss student progress, options for summer programs and the following school year, as well as external audition plans.

CAREER PLANNING

IB/ISB is firmly committed to providing as many career planning resources and job placement opportunities as possible to Professional Level Program students. A resume workshop/audition seminar is held in early November to help students begin the process of writing a resume and searching for a job in the dance field. Photographer contacts for audition portfolios are available to students, as well as an annual directory providing extensive information on approximately 40 ballet companies in the United States, a useful resource in planning auditions. Individual counseling and advice on careers in dance and/or college dance programs are also provided.

Offsite Company Auditions: Absences for company auditions outside of IB must receive **prior approval** from the Artistic office before any travel arrangements are made.

ISB students have received job offers, college acceptance or ballet school placements at the following organizations or universities:

Cincinnati Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Nevada Ballet Theatre, Jose Mateo Dance Theatre, Indiana University Ballet Theater, University at North Carolina School of the Arts, University of Oklahoma's Ballet Department, University of South Carolina Dance Program, Colburn, Pacific Northwest Ballet School, School of American Ballet, and

Miami City Ballet School.

PERFORMING EXPERIENCE

Company Rehearsals: PLP students may be called to IB Company rehearsals. If called, students are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals, whether or not they are cast to perform. The School office must be notified if rehearsals conflict with School classes. School dress code is required in rehearsals.

IB Company Performances: PLP students perform in The Nutcracker. They must attend the ISB Nutcracker audition in August. A select number of students may be cast in other productions throughout the season.

May We Dance: PLP dancers participate in the School's May productions giving them opportunities to perform in Balanchine ballets, works from the classical repertoire, or original works by faculty members.

PROFESSIONAL LEVEL PROGRAM - CALENDAR

Professional Level Program students will be provided with a full calendar of events and performing opportunities on the first day of classes: Monday, August 8, 2022.

SCHOOL POLICIES/PROCEDURES

A complete listing of School policies and procedures can be found in the Indianapolis School of Ballet Student Handbook:

Attendance

As stated in the School Handbook, students must call the School office (317.955.7525) prior to class if missing class due to illness. Injured students are expected to observe class, unless excused by School staff. Repeated absences (whether excused or unexcused) will result in a conference with the student and/or parents, and scholarship and/or partial stipend assistance may be withdrawn; chronic absenteeism may result in expulsion from the School.

- Any absence from class must be reported to the School office before class.
- Students must report to the Artistic staff (not the School) for any absence from a Company rehearsal in order to be excused.
- Absences will be excused only for serious illness, injury or family emergency.
- Absences for auditions or any circumstances for an extended period of time must receive prior approval from the Artistic Director.

Medical Issues/Injuries

If an injury occurs (either in or outside of class), please do the following:

- Notify appropriate faculty immediately, then...
- Report immediately to the School office so that proper documentation can be made.
- Have your doctor fax a report on your injury to the School office in order to facilitate your recovery.
- We must receive written permission from your doctor allowing you to resume classes.