

2008-2009  
Ballet School Handbook



Oxford  
Ballet  
School

Genevieve Fortner, Founder/Director

# Our Mission

The Oxford Ballet School is dedicated to offering quality training primarily for the student of classical ballet, seeking to train students who wish to either pursue a career in dance or simply enjoy the art form. The faculty's goal is to impart to all students the knowledge and appreciation of dance through the discipline of body and mind, and to develop each individual student's gifts to his or her highest potential.

# Faculty

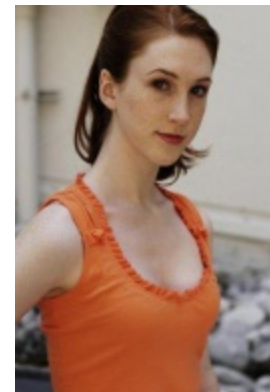
## Angela Barlow

began her training at the age of two with Gayle Burrow and Shera Hopkins in Texarkana, TX at Gayle Burrow's School of Dance. She has studied ballet, tap, jazz, modern and contemporary styles of dancing. Angela began teaching dance at the All Star Dance Center, in Texarkana, Texas, in 2003. Angela was a member of the Texarkana Community Ballet Company for five years. Her performances with the company include *The Nutcracker*, *The Christmas Collage*, and *Coppelia*. She has attended intensive dance workshops and summer camps under the instruction of Richard and Roberta Walker of Dallas, TX and Erika Farrar-Romanyuk and Pavel Romanyuk of Yuma Ballet Theatre in Yuma, Arizona. Angela has performed in Oxford Ballet School's productions of *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. In the summer of 2007, Angela was selected to perform in The Miss Mississippi Pageant. As a Miss Mississippi Dancer she had the privilege of working with former Broadway dancer and internationally known dance instructor, Mallory Graham of Dance South, Inc. in High Point, North Carolina. Currently, she teaches Pre-Ballet, Ballet I, Tap I and Tap II classes for Oxford Ballet School. She has continued her study of dance here in Oxford at the University of Mississippi where she has taken advanced ballet and contemporary dance classes. Angela is currently a senior at Ole Miss majoring in business marketing.



## Christina Bonnington

began her dance training at the age of four at Adamson Ballet School in Katy, Texas. Christina continued her studies as a dance major at the High School for Performing and Visual Arts, at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy, and at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School's Graduate Program, under the direction of Dennis Marshall and Marjorie Grundvig. Christina spent the 2006-2007 season with Ballet Memphis before joining Oxford Ballet Studio Company. She has spent her summers at the ballet intensives of American Ballet Theatre, the Jillana School, Houston Ballet Academy, Ballet Austin, and Nashville Ballet. Christina has performed in numerous classical ballets and excerpts, and has been featured in roles such as



Columbine Doll, Mirlitons, and Dewdrop Fairy in *The Nutcracker* and Swanhilda/Coppelia in *Coppelia*. She has also had the opportunity to choreograph contemporary and classical ballet pieces for HBA, PBTS, Ballet Memphis, and OBS, and began teaching ballet at OBS in 2008. Christina is a junior electrical engineering major in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi.

## Meaghin Burke

began dancing at age eleven under the instruction of Mary Evans Weaver in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Meaghin's early training focused on Cecchetti technique, theatrical tap, and Luigi jazz. She continued her ballet training with Ballet Theatre South of Gulfport, Mississippi, under the direction of Cheryl Dawson Black. In addition to regular classes with Ballet Theatre South, Meaghin received additional instruction from Harvey Hysell of Ballet Hysell, Winthrop Corey of Mobile Ballet, Fernando Bujones, Dorothy Daniels Lister, and Laura Alonso. Meaghin graduated summa cum laude from the University of Mississippi with a BS in pharmaceutical sciences with an emphasis in medicinal chemistry. She then received a law degree from the University of Mississippi and is now intellectual property research counsel at the University. Meaghin is currently a board member of the Oxford Ballet Association and performs with the Oxford Ballet Studio Company.



## Dana Clark

began dancing at the age of five at Performing Dance Arts in Huntsville, AL. While there she studied tap, modern, ballet, and jazz. Dana was a member of DanzArtz Co! in Huntsville performing several times in *Nutcracker: The Next Generation* including the role of Snow Queen her senior year. She also was a member of Images Dance Ensemble at her high school. Dana is currently a senior musical theatre major at the University of Mississippi and is a member of Mississippi: The Dance Company - recently seen as the Rat Queen in *Mixed Nuts*. She continues to study dance at Ole Miss where she has taken advanced ballet, tap, theatre dance, and modern classes.



## Genevieve Le Gall Fortner

began her dance training with the Princeton Ballet School. She also studied with the Hartford Ballet School, The Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, Ballet Magnificat, and Le Centre de Formation Regional de la Danse in Nantes, France. She graduated magna cum laude from Belhaven College in Jackson, MS, with a BA in English and a minor in dance. She immediately joined the ballet company, Hosanna Sacred Arts in Nashville, TN and later taught and danced with Ballet Mississippi in Jackson, MS. Her performances include *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *Carmina Burana*, Mississippi Opera's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, and American Ballet Theatre's *Don Quixote*. She is the founder of the ballet programs at Covenant School for the Arts, First Presbyterian Day School, in Jackson, MS and Oxford Ballet School. She currently directs and teaches at Oxford Ballet School, teaches ballet at the University of Mississippi, and also serves as artistic advisor to the Oxford Ballet Association, INC.



## Emily Haadsma

began dancing at age three in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the Grand Rapids Academy of Dance Arts. Emily continued her training at the Tupelo Academy of Dance Arts, under the direction of Sharon Long, at age 10 and has studied with this school ever since. Emily became a member of the Tupelo Ballet in 2000, and has performed in numerous productions such as *Les Sylphides*, *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*, and *Coppelia*. Emily has performed in numerous performances of *The Nutcracker*, roles including solos such as Dew Drop, and Snow Queen. Emily also appeared as The Fairy Godmother in the Tupelo Ballet's production of *Cinderella*, and Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*. During the summers, Emily attended the Alabama Ballet's Intensive Summer Workshops under the direction of Wes Chapman, and was trained there under master teachers- Roger Van Fleteren, Sean Black, and Amanda McKerrow. Emily is a junior English major in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi.

# Class Etiquette

As part of a student's training, it is important for the student to learn and respect the rules, traditions, and class etiquette followed by the dance and theatre world and held by the Oxford Ballet School.

## **Promptness and Attendance**

1. Please arrive promptly.
2. Be sure to leave time to be dressed for class.
3. If student is late to class, it is the teacher's decision whether the student may take class or watch and take notes.
4. Regular attendance is very important. Any class missed can be made up in another level below. Be sure to fill out the make-up class form available at the desk.

## **Respect**

1. Respect for the teacher, other students, the studio, the theatre, and guest artists will be expected of all students.
2. Students may not enter the studio area until invited by the teacher. Students may wait quietly in the foyer or dressing room.
3. Gum, food or drinks are never allowed in studio area.
4. No conversations between students during class, and the student's hand should be raised when there is a question for the teacher.
5. It is the tradition at the end of class to thank the teacher (and accompanist if present) by applauding.
6. If student needs to leave class early, please let the teacher know before class starts. At the appointed time, the student should thank teacher and then leave the studio quietly.
7. Hanging on barres is not allowed.
8. Cell phones should be turned off during class.
9. Bathroom needs should be taken care of before class time.
10. No street shoes allowed on studio floor.

## **Guidelines for Parents**

1. Parents of younger students please attend to your child's bathroom needs before class.

2. Please make sure child is dressed and hair is up before class.
3. Any snacks should be eaten before arriving to the school.
4. If your child is 11 years old or older, please schedule a placement class by contacting the school director. Refer to the placement chart if your child is younger than 11 years.

Level Placement:

Your child must be at least

- three years old by September 1 to enroll for the Pre-Ballet class.
  - five years old by September 1 to enroll in Ballet I.
  - seven years old by September 1 to enroll in Ballet II.
  - nine years old by September 1 to enroll in Ballet III.
5. Due to the open design of the studio and foyer, we ask if you are waiting for your child at the school to wait quietly as to not distract the students.
  6. Class observation days are listed in the Calendar.
  7. Please drop off and pick up your child promptly before and after class. Remind your child to always wait inside studio to be picked up.
  8. Teachers may have several consecutive classes to teach each day. If you have a question for your child's teacher but are unable to speak with her before class, please feel free to write a note and place it in her box by the desk.
  9. Any class with less than four students are subject to cancellation.

Note: Parents of younger children are encouraged to speak with the child's teacher concerning access to dressing room prior to class.

# Dress Regulations

The mark of a truly fine dancer is reflected by the dancer's strong technique, artistry, simplicity and neatness in style. Teachers can more effectively correct students, and students will concentrate better without the distraction of loose hair and extraneous clothing. Therefore, we ask that no sweatshirts, T-shirts, shorts, plastic pants, or large jewelry be worn. Solid color ballet skirts may be worn in Pre-ballet, pointe and Ballet IV-V classes only.

## **Ballet**

**Girls** should wear a regulation leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes with elastics.

**Boys** should wear a white T-shirt, black dance pants, white socks, and black or white ballet shoes with elastics.

## **Regulation Leotards**

Simple leotards with no ruffles, appliques, or puffy sleeves please.

**Pre-ballet** - pink leotard (may wear a skirt)

**Ballet I** - light blue leotard (no skirt)

**Ballet II** - lavender leotard (no skirt)

**Ballet III** - burgundy leotard (no skirt)

**Ballet IV** - navy leotard (solid color skirt only)

**Ballet V** - black leotard (solid color skirt only)

**Beg. Adult Ballet** - students preferably may wear any colored leotard and tights but may also wear any clothing easy to move in.

**Pointe shoes** - please consult teacher before purchasing.

Pink tights and ballet shoes for everyone.

Theatrical pink tights are preferable for performances.

## **Jazz**

No Jazz boots or jazz sneakers.

## **Adult Jazz**

**Girls** wear black leotard or form fitting T-shirt, black tights or black jazz pants, and black jazz oxfords.



**Guys** wear white or black T-shirt, black dance pants, and black jazz oxfords.

### **Tap**

Students wear any color T-shirt or tank top (no midriff please) black jazz pants or capris, and black flat heel tap shoes. Students may need to purchase a new pair for recitals.

### **Hair**

It is important for a student's safety and concentration that hair is neatly and securely up and away from face. No pony tails will be allowed except for Pre-Ballet students.

# Registration

## **Registration**

A non-refundable fee of \$25 per student is due when registering for enrollment. Students registering in the Fall do not need to re-register in the Spring.

## **Tuition**

1. Tuition may be paid by the month or semester.
2. Monthly payments are due by the 15th. A \$5.00 late fee will be added to payments received past the due date.
3. Please make checks payable to Oxford Ballet School.
4. Returned checks will be subject to a \$25 fee.
5. For households with more than one family member enrolled there is a 10% discount off the tuition for each family member after the first enrolled.

## **Financial Aid**

A limited number of work scholarships are available.

## **Withdrawal**

If a student should have to withdraw from class, please fill out a withdrawal form available at the school. The student's place in class will be held and billing will continue until the school is notified. The \$25 registration fee will apply to students who withdraw and return within the 2008-2009 school year.

## **Cancellations**

Cancellations of Oxford Ballet School classes due to severe weather will follow Oxford City Schools' decision.

# Class Schedule

## 2008-2009

DAY	TIME	SEMESTER TUITION	TEACHER
<b>PRE-BALLET</b>		\$160	
Monday	2:15-3:00		Angela Barlow
Tuesday	9:30-10:15 am		Christina Bonnington
Tuesday	2:15-3:00		Angela Barlow
Wednesday	4:45-5:30		Emily Haadsma
Wednesday	5:30-6:15		Emily Haadsma
<b>BALLET I</b>		\$180	
Monday	3:30-4:30		Angela Barlow
Tuesday	3:00-4:00		Angela Barlow
Wednesday	3:45-4:45		Emily Haadsma
<b>BALLET II</b>		\$220	
Monday	5:00-6:15		Genevieve Fortner
<b>BALLET III (2X per week)</b>		\$320	
Tuesday/Thursday	4:30-5:45		Genevieve Fortner
<b>Ballet IV** (3X per week)</b>		\$480	
Monday	6:15-7:30		Genevieve Fortner
Tuesday/Thursday	5:45-7:00		
<b>Ballet V (minimum 5X per week or more)</b>		\$500	
Monday (pointe & variations)	6:15-8:00		Christina Bonnington
Thursday**	7:00-8:15		Burke/Fortner/Bonnington
Tues/Thurs (pointe)	5:45-7:00		Genevieve Fortner
Friday (pointe & variations)	3:30-4:45		Genevieve Fortner

<b>BEG. POINTE</b>		\$90	
Thursday	4:00-4:30		Genevieve Fortner
<b>INT. POINTE (included in Ballet IV class)</b>			
Thursday	5:45-7:00		
<b>ADV. POINTE</b>			
Monday	6:15-8:00		Christina Bonnington
Tues/Thurs	5:45-7:00		Genevieve Fortner
Friday	3:30-4:45		Genevieve Fortner
<b>Beg/Int Adult Ballet**</b>		\$180	
Wednesday	6:15-7:15		Genevieve Fortner
<b>TAP I**</b>		\$90	
Monday	3:00-3:30		Angela Barlow
Tuesday	4:00-4:30		Angela Barlow
<b>TAP II**</b>		\$90	
Monday	4:30-5:00		Angela Barlow
<b>TAP III**</b>		\$90	
Thursday	3:30-4:00		Dana Clark
<b>Performance Class**</b>		\$180	
Thursday	7:00-8:00		Burke/Fortner/Bonnington

\*\*Open Enrollment Classes \$15 per class

All classes subject to change

Students ages 3-9 years must be at least

~three years old by September 1 to enroll in the Pre-Ballet class.

~five years old by September 1 to enroll in Ballet I.

~seven years old by September 1 to enroll in Ballet II.

~nine years old by September 1 to enroll in Ballet III.

Those enrolled in the Fall do not have to pay the registration fee again for the Spring semester. Students enrolled in the Fall will have their spot held in the Spring for two weeks. During the third week of classes of nonattendance, student's spot will be lost. Upon returning, the student will have to re-register.

**Registration fee \$25**

# Description of Ballet Classes

## **Pre-Ballet**

Ages 3-4

Emphasis on creative dance with an introduction to basic ballet technique. Creative dance nurtures the child to move freely, develop music and listening skills, and express creativity through movement. This level follows a two year syllabus.

## **Ballet I**

Ages 5-6

Emphasis on ballet technique including the continual development of musical and improvisational skills. This level follows a two year syllabus.

## **Ballet II**

Ages 7-8

Emphasis on ballet technique focusing on correct placement, body alignment, and leg and arm coordination while furthering student's ballet vocabulary, music, and performance skills. This level follows a two year syllabus.

## **Ballet III**

Ages 9+

Continual emphasis on elements taught in Ballet II while focusing on strengthening ankles and feet in preparation for advanced footwork and Beginning Pointe. Girls must be at least 12 years old to begin pointe. Students will be individually considered as to readiness for pointe shoes. Students must attend class twice a week.

### **Beginning Pointe**

Age 12 +

In addition to attending Ballet III classes, students will stay an extra half hour a week to study pointe. Students must obtain permission to attend this class.

### **Intermediate Pointe**

Age 13+

In addition to technique classes, students will take an hour per week to study pointe. Students must obtain permission to attend this class.

### **Ballet IV**

Students continue to broaden ballet technique with emphasis on extensions, advanced level pirouettes and beats, phrasing and musicality. Students must obtain permission to take this level and must attend a minimum of three classes per week.

### **Ballet V and Advanced Pointe**

This level is for the serious student who wishes to pursue a career in dance or is considering a college dance degree. Students must attend a minimum of five classes per week. Ballet IV is a prerequisite to the class. Students with excellent attendance and focus during class will be considered for this level. The Advanced Pointe students will study a minimum of two hours per week of pointe and variations.

### **Beginner Adult Ballet**

Emphasis on learning ballet technique and basic ballet vocabulary while enjoying freedom of movement.

### **Beg./Int. Adult Ballet**

This class is a continuation of the Beg. Adult Ballet. Students must have a year or more of ballet training to attend this class.

## **Performance Class**

Age 13+

Once a month , a new dance discipline will be offered as listed below. The students will have an in-studio performance after each month to showcase the new technique learned.

1)*Jazz* Students must be at least 13 years old and will be required to take a minimum of one ballet class per week to attend this class. Students will learn beginning Luigi technique, contemporary, hip-hop, and theatre jazz styles.

2)*Beg. Modern* Students will explore basic movement concepts from several modern dance techniques. The class is structured to expand students' awareness and appreciation of the diversity of individualized movements utilized in many choreographers' works.

3)*Character Dance*- Character is a dance form based on the national and folk dances of a variety of European countries, including Spain, Poland, Hungary, and Russia. These dances are featured in classical ballets such as Swan Lake, Coppelia, and Don Quixote. An understanding of character dance will greatly enhance the student's classical ballet education.

4)*Pas de Deux*- must be enrolled at least in the Intermediate pointe level to attend this class.

## **Tap I**

Ages 5-7

Students will learn beginning rhythm tap.

## **Tap II**

Ages 8+

Students will learn beginning theatre and rhythm tap.

## **Tap III**

Ages 10+

Students will learn intermediate level theatre and rhythm tap.

## **Oxford Ballet School II**

A pre-professional ballet program will be offered to the serious ballet student 13 through 25 by an annual audition only. Students are given many opportunities to perform throughout the year and are taught how to prepare for auditions.

## **Studio Company**

the next program offered for the career goal oriented student. This program offered to students 18 and older by audition only, prepares the dancer for a professional career by offering contracts to receive free classes and opportunities to choreograph & perform.



# Calendar

## - 2008-2009 Class Dates -

Classes begin	Monday, August 11, 2008
Fall Observation Week	Mon-Fri. ,Nov. 17-21, 2008
Last day of Fall classes	Monday, Dec. 8, 2008
Spring classes begin	Monday, January 12, 2009
Spring Observation Week	Mon-Fri. April 27-May 1
Last day of Spring classes	Monday, May 11, 2009

## - Holidays (no classes) -

Labor Day	Monday, September 1, 2008
Thanksgiving break	Mon-Fri, Nov. 24-28
Winter Break	December 9-January 11
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 19, 2009
Spring Break	Mon-Fri. March 16-20, 2009
Easter Break	Friday, April 10, 2008

## - Performances -

Winter 2008 - The Nutcracker	TBA
Spring 2009 - Cinderella	TBA

## - Summer 2009 Workshops -

Oxford Ballet Assoc. Workshop	TBA
Ballet & Art Workshop (ages 3-8)	June

# Oxford Ballet School

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