

# *The HARID Conservatory*

## **Dance Outreach Performance** *Educational Materials*

Thank you for integrating the performing arts into the lives of your students. We hope the information and tools in this packet will enhance the upcoming Dance Outreach Performance presented by The Harid Conservatory.

According to recent studies by the Kennedy Center, the Dana Foundation, and the federal Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, arts education is essential because:

- ☞ The arts define, describe, and deepen human history and experience.
- ☞ The arts nurture a better understanding of different people and cultures.
- ☞ Through the arts, students learn how to communicate and express themselves in creative ways.
- ☞ The arts engage students' senses while teaching them about music, dance, and literature.
- ☞ Civilization is passed down through the arts.
- ☞ The arts have the power to appeal to and touch all students everywhere!

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### *About The Harid Conservatory*

The Harid Conservatory, located in Boca Raton, was established in 1987 to provide professional training for talented young dancers. (*How long has HARID been in operation?*) Students from all across the United States and from many other countries are selected for enrollment through a rigorous audition process. All HARID students receive full tuition scholarships. This ensures that talent—and not the ability of the students' parents to pay for the training—remains the sole criterion for admission!



HARID is a high school, which means all the dance students are in grades 9 through 12. *(What ages are HARID students?)* It is also a boarding school, which means the students live at the school in a residence hall. While some of the students are from Florida, others come to HARID from other parts of the United States and from other countries, including:

- Canada
- Mexico
- Brazil
- Paraguay
- Japan
- China
- Ukraine
- Latvia
- Philippines

*(Can you find these countries on a map or globe of the world?)*

Each weekday morning, HARID's students attend academic classes at Spanish River Community High School (where the upcoming performance will be held). There, they study math, science, social studies, and English—courses they need for graduation. At lunchtime, the students return to HARID and then study dance and other subjects all through the afternoon until dinner time. Some of their classes at HARID include:

### ***Ballet technique***

Ballet dancing began in Italy but was further developed in the court of King Louis XIV in 17th century France. *(How long ago was that?)* Ballet has highly stylized steps and ways of moving, and dancers spend years perfecting their "ballet technique". In ballet class, dancers learn and practice many different poses and steps, and develop their flexibility, strength, and movement coordination. While ballet steps are very strenuous and difficult, they must be performed gracefully in a manner that appears effortless. This is not easy!





### Pointe

In this class, female dancers learn and practice dancing on the ends of their toes while wearing shoes specially made for “pointe work”. The famous Italian ballerina Marie Taglioni was the first to dance “en pointe” nearly 200 years ago! (Don’t try this at home, kids!)

### Partnering

In partnering class, male and female dancers learn and practice dancing together in various ways, often with the male dancer supporting, balancing, or lifting the female dancer.



### Character dance

Character dances are stylized national dances—usually from countries such as Poland, Hungary, Russia, Spain, and Italy. They are found in classical ballets like *Swan Lake* or *Raymonda* and are most-often performed as entertainment for guests in the royal courts. Some examples of character dances are Czardas, Mazurka, Polonaise, and Jota. *(Can you find out from which country each of these dances came from?)*

### Modern dance

Modern dance has steps and movements that are very different from ballet. In some ways, it is a more natural way of moving, using the torso freely and engaging—rather than opposing—gravity. Modern dance is usually done in bare feet.



HARID is considered one of the best professional-training schools for dancers in North America. Former students can be found dancing in leading professional companies across the United States and in Canada, Europe, and Asia. Over the years, more than eighty professional dance companies have hired HARID dancers! (Visit [www.harid.edu](http://www.harid.edu) for more information.)

## Theater and Ballet Vocabulary

**Applause:** A way to show approval by clapping your hands together.

**Apron:** The part of the stage that extends in front of the main curtain.

**Arabesque:** One of ballet's basic poses. The dancer stands on one leg with the other extended outward behind. The arms may be held in various established positions.

**Assemblé:** A jump into the air during which the feet are assembled together before landing.

**Audience:** Spectators who listen to or watch a performance.

**Backstage:** The part of the stage and theater which is out of sight to the audience.

**Ballerina:** The term used for a leading female dancer. (It is often incorrectly used to describe any girl or woman who studies ballet.)

**Blackout:** A fast shutdown of the stage lights to produce darkness.

**Bow:** To bend the head, body, or knee in acknowledgement.

**Cast:** The group of dancers in a performance.



**Changement:** A jump during which the feet change positions (from front to back and back to front) before landing.

**Choreographer:** A person who creates and arranges dances.

**Curtain Call:** At the end of a performance, the acknowledgement of applause by the dancers.

**Demi-plié:** a small bending of the knees and legs where the heels remain on the floor. Generally, all jumps in ballet begin and end with demi-plié.

**Downstage:** The part of the stage nearest to the audience. (Often, in older theaters, the stage floor is not level; it is higher at the back and slanted downward toward the audience.)

**Enchaînement:** A combination of dance steps arranged to fit a musical phrase.

**House:** The seating area of the theater.

**Intermission:** A brief break between acts of a performance, usually

fifteen to twenty minutes long.

**Jeté:** A jump from one leg to the other, often done traveling through the air—as if leaping across a puddle!

**Matinee:** A performance held in the daytime, usually in the afternoon.

**Pas de deux:** A dance for two people.

**Pirouette:** To whirl or spin. A turn executed on one foot. Sometimes many turns are done, one after the other, before the dancer puts his or her other foot back down.

**Port de bras:** Carriage of the arms. The movement of the arms through established positions.

**Proscenium:** The frame separating the stage from the audience.

**Rehearsal:** A practice session in preparation for a public performance.

**Relevé:** To spring up onto the ball(s) of the foot (feet) or, if wearing pointe shoes, onto the ends of the toes.

**Set:** The complete stage setting for a scene or act.

**Spotting:** The manner in which a dancer moves his or her head while turning (doing pirouettes) in order to avoid becoming dizzy.

**Stage:** The part of the theater on which performances take place.

**Stage Right / Stage Left:** The left and right sides of the stage, from the point of view of a dancer standing onstage facing the audience.

**Turn-out:** The ability of a dancer to turn her or his legs outward from the hips so their feet and knees point to the side, away from one another. This position gives the dancer greater freedom of movement.

**Tutu:** A skirt made of many layers of tulle or netting, often worn by female ballet dancers.

**Upstage:** The part of the stage furthest from the audience.

**Usher:** Person who guides audience members to their seats.

**Wings:** The out of view areas to the left and right sides of the stage.



### Vocabulary Puzzle

Find and circle the words listed on the right (in the puzzle, words appear horizontally from left to right or vertically from top to bottom):

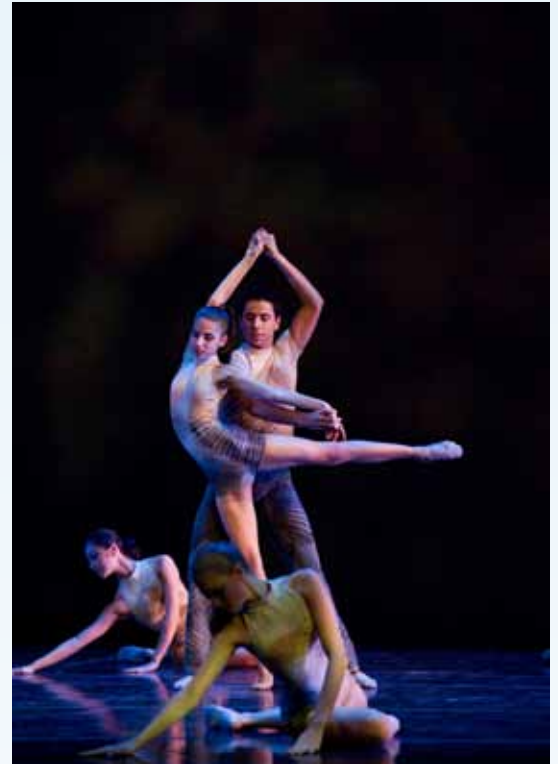
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A	M	A	T	I	N	E	E	N	R	I	S	T	U	T	U	E

- APPLAUSE
- APRON
- AUDIENCE
- BALLERINA
- BOW
- CAST
- CHANGEMENT
- HOUSE
- MATINEE
- PIROUETTE
- SET
- STAGE
- TUTU
- USHER
- WINGS

## Theater Etiquette

A live performance is a special experience shared between performers and the audience. As a courtesy to the performers and other audience members, one should follow certain rules and procedures. You'll find that theater etiquette is similar to school and classroom etiquette in many ways.

- Plan to use the restroom before you go to the theater.
- Stay with your group when you exit your bus and enter the theater. Never run inside the theater.
- Don't bring food, drink, candy, or gum into the theater.
- Don't wear a hat into the theater.
- Allow the ushers to direct you to your seat or help you find the restroom.
- Once in your seat, you may talk quietly until the performance begins.
- Keep your feet off the seats and seat backs, and don't step over the seat backs to get from one row to the next.
- Turn off or silence your cell phone before the performance begins (and no texting!).
- Taking pictures or recording video is not allowed in the theater. (A camera's flash can startle and endanger the dancers.)
- When the lights dim, it means the performance is about to begin. At that time, stop talking and turn your attention toward the stage.
- Stay in your seat during the performance.
- Don't talk during the performance. However, you may talk quietly between ballets while the curtain is down.
- Spontaneous laughter, applause, and gasps of surprise are welcome at the theater as a part of the connection between the performers and the audience. However, shouting or making loud comments or noises is rude and distracting to both the performers and other audience members.
- At the end of each ballet, thank the performers by applauding. They will acknowledge your applause with a bow. Screaming or whistling is not appropriate.
- At the end of the performance, stay with your group as you are directed to leave the theater and board your bus.
- Note: If, for some reason, you must leave (or return to) your seat while others are seated, quietly say, "Excuse me" and then face toward the stage, press against the seat backs in front of you, and move along the row to the aisle (or back to your seat). Be careful not to step on other people's feet! If you must leave the theater during the performance (to visit the restroom, for instance), open and close the theater doors quickly and quietly.



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Now that you know all about proper theater etiquette, there's just one more thing:

***Have fun and enjoy the performance!***