

Universal Dance Academy hosting two open houses to introduce dancers to studio

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Dancers of all levels will have the chance to get a feel for the Universal Dance Academy experience at two open houses, one today (Saturday) from 1 to 4 p.m. and another Aug. 18 from 5-7 p.m.

Students can tour the studio in Centro Plaza at 48th and R streets, meet instructors, enjoy refreshments and view last year's recital video. "If you're thinking about taking dance to the highest level or that next level, we're there to help you prepare," said co-owner Vivian Ball, who places dancers at the appropriate level. She stressed the importance of visiting studios and observing classes before enrolling.

Ball shared that Universal Dance Academy is a studio where students receive professional training, whether they are exploring the art form from a social perspective or competitive slant. "It's really the best of both worlds."

She and co-owner Angela Beery started the studio 20 years ago and continue to be very hands-on, teaching classes and choreographing dances. "We win several competitive awards annually, including national awards for showmanship and sportsmanship," Ball said.

Recital at the Lied

The studio's spring recital features a full-length ballet featuring all styles of dance on the stage of the Lied Center for Performing Arts. "All instructors at Universal teach strong technique across the board for all forms, but ballet is the No. 1 thing," Ball said.

Ball shared that the goal at Universal Dance Academy is to make each dancer feel special. Yes, Universal Dance Academy offers a dance company that trains year-round and many of Ball's students have gone on to dance professionally, but she said the main thing is to inspire all students to reach their maximum potential.

In addition to ballet, Universal Dance Academy offers pointe, jazz, tap, lyrical, hip-hop, tumbling, musical theater, and We Go Together, a class for 2-year-olds and an adult. New this fall will be boys only hip-hop and tap classes, taught by Jordan Ball.

When Ball and Beery moved their studio to their centrally-located, 7,500-square-foot location three years ago, they put in state-of-the-art dance floors. The floors are "sprung" so they give when danced on, which helps prevent injuries, Ball said. The studio also has a large viewing area for parents and free wireless access.

For more information about Universal Dance Academy, visit www.dance4uda.com, call (402) 477-5900 or drop in during studio hours at 400 N. 48th St., Suite C1.