

## **Universal Dance Academy celebrates 20 years taking dancers to the next level**

AUGUST 05, 2014 9:52 AM • BY JODI FUSON / FOR STAR CITY SPORTS

Dancers wanting to compete and those exploring the art form from a more social perspective can find their niche at Universal Dance Academy. “It’s really the best of both worlds, if you want to be just a social dancer or get professional training,” said co-owner and dance instructor Vivian Ball

There’s a place for everyone, no matter what their level. “We try to make it so everybody feels special, not just those taking the elite classes,” Ball shared. 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 her focus is to inspire all of her students to reach their maximum potential.

### **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. “We try to make sure we teach strong technique across the board for all forms, but ballet is the No. 1 thing,” Ball said.

In addition to ballet, Universal Dance Academy offers pointe, jazz, tap, lyrical, hip-hop, tumbling and musical theater and even has a class called We Go Together for 2-year-olds with an adult. There are classes to help high school dance team members hone their skills too. New this fall will be boys only hip-hop and tap classes, taught by Ball’s son, Jordan.

“If you’re thinking about taking dance to the highest level or that next level, we’re there to help you prepare,” said Ball, who helps place dancers at the appropriate level to begin their experience. She stressed the importance of doing your research when selecting a studio and encouraged observing some classes before enrolling.

### **Open house**

Universal Dance Academy hosted an open house on Aug. 2 and will hold a second open house Aug. 18 from 5-7 p.m., but Ball said potential students can arrange a different time if the open house date does not work. The studio is located on the north end of the Centro Plaza at 400 N. 48th St., Suite C1, and is open Monday through Friday, 4 to 11 p.m. For more information, visit [www.dance4uda.com](http://www.dance4uda.com) or call (402) 477-5900.