

Dance

SEGMENT 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Michael O'Banion

20 years teaching

About the School

Denver School of the Arts

Denver, CO

Type:

Urban/Arts-focused

Grades:

6-12

Students:

900

Very mixed socio-economic status

Majors:

Creative Writing, Dance, Theatre, Instrumental Music, Stagecraft & Design, Video & Cinema Arts, Visual Art, and Vocal Music

About the Dance Program

Faculty:

2 full-time + resident and guest artists

Students:

115

Facilities:

Above Average in the Area

- 3 large dance studios
- 2 theatres (178 seats, 550 seats)
- Full light grid
- Dressing rooms

Required Courses:

Modern, Ballet, Jazz, African & Spanish, Improvisation, Composition, Repertory, Performance Technique, Partnering, and Senior Seminar

Elective Courses:

Tap, Hip Hop, and Pointe

Audition:

Technique Master Class, individual choreography showings, and interview

About the Featured Class

Senior Project:

Students choreograph other advanced students as well as their own solos, and then the graduating class works as a team to create a full evening of dance in concert form as a culminating choreographic project.

Preparations/Prerequisites:

Eligible students are seniors with a B or better grade

Student Motivation:

High

Preparations/Prerequisites:

- Sixth-graders begin collaborating on choreographic projects
- Intermediate students learn partnering skills and group choreographic techniques and devices
- Juniors collaborate on an informal evening of choreography – Junior Project
- Advanced sophomores and juniors participate as performers in Senior Projects

In the Teacher's Words

What motivates your students?

The Senior Project is an honor and a responsibility. It is part of the tradition of the program, and students look forward to the opportunity to complete a Senior Project. It is not mandatory that a student participates, but no student has ever elected not to.