



COLLIN DANCE ENSEMBLE

Collin College's Dance Company

Company Bio & Mission

Collin Dance Ensemble (CDE) is the student dance company at Collin College. Under the direction of Tiffanee Arnold, this vibrant company performs innovative contemporary modern dance with the goal to produce dance works at the highest level of artistic excellence. The company tours throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the state performing in local concerts and festivals, in addition to presenting lecture demonstrations in elementary schools and high schools. **CDE** attends the annual American College Dance Association Conference, where the company has been selected for Gala Performances at the regional festivals eight times.

Each fall **Collin Dance Ensemble** hosts Dance Fusion, a dance event featuring professional dance companies and prestigious university dance programs. These invited artists and companies perform with **CDE**, exposing students and the community to various dance styles and higher education dance programs. **CDE** also hosts an annual spring concert that features choreography by guest artists, Collin College dance faculty, and students.

Dancers involved in **CDE** have worked with professional dance companies and artists including Darby Wilde from Illinois, John R. Stronks from Houston, Janice Garrett & Dancers from San Francisco, Battleworks Dance Company dancers from New York, Pilobolus Too from Connecticut, Eisenhower Dance Ensemble from Michigan, and Elledanceworks Dance Company from Dallas.

Collin Dance Ensemble dancers must be current students at Collin College and many work and go to school full time. Dance auditions for **CDE** are typically held on the Saturday, one week prior to the start of the fall semester.

Company Expectations

Selection for **CDE** is a yearlong commitment. Students must be enrolled at Collin College for the fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters.

A ballet, modern and performance class is required for all company members. The ballet class is scheduled on an individual basis based on the company member's technique level. The modern technique and performance classes are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-5pm. Dancers interested in **Collin Dance Ensemble** must have Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-5pm free for class and rehearsals.

2015-2016 AUDITIONS:
Saturday, August 15
10am
Spring Creek Campus
Dance Studio AA146

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

- You must attend the scheduled audition time. There are no opportunities to make up the audition.
- You should arrive EARLY to the audition to fill out paperwork and you **MUST** arrive warmed up and ready to dance. You will not be given a warm up.
- You must be enrolled at Collin College as a part-time or full-time student during the fall 2015 & spring 2016 semesters.

Frequently asked questions about CDE and the auditions

Why is it called a dance company and not a dance team?

A dance team tends to be associated with sports. The goal of the team is entertainment and promotes competition. A dance team typically has seniority levels (rookies vs. returning members) and has a certain number of "spots" to fill on the team. A dance company, such as CDE, is professional in nature and is focused on dance as art. It does not foster a hierarchy and all members must audition, even those that want to return to the company for another year. A dance company does not promote competition and is considered a privilege.

What kind of dance does the company perform? Collin Dance Ensemble is a modern dance company. The company focuses on dance as an art form and performs expressive, interpretive, contemporary and artistic movement styles. The company has performed jazz, hip hop, tap, ballet and other dance forms and typically does lecture/demonstrations in K-12 schools.

What happens if I am selected for the company? If you are selected, a mandatory meeting will take place on Wed, August 19th from 1-3pm. You will need to register for dance performance (DANC 1151.S01), the CDE modern technique class, and any level ballet technique class.

What time are rehearsals? Company technique classes and rehearsals are Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00pm-5:00pm. There are additional rehearsals on Fridays from 1:00-5:00pm. Additional rehearsals may be added throughout the semester.

What is the financial responsibility for being on CDE? At this time, the only financial obligation is the tuition for the dance performance, modern technique and ballet technique courses both semesters. You are not responsible for any other dues.

I will only be attending Collin College in the fall semester.

Should I audition? If you are selected for the company, it is a yearlong commitment. You must be enrolled as a student for the fall AND spring semesters. So, the answer is no... you should not audition if you cannot commit to a full academic year.

What will happen at the audition? You will be taught a series of combinations focusing on different movement qualities. You will be placed into groups to perform each combination. Some dancers may be interviewed.

How long will the audition last? Plan on staying at least 3-4 hours. You should arrive early (30 minutes – 1 hour) to complete the audition registration form. Please be warmed up and ready to dance. The audition starts promptly at 10am with completed registration forms. If you arrive late, you are unable to audition.

What do I wear to the audition? There is no required audition attire. Please wear appropriate dance clothing. Since CDE is a modern dance company, dancing barefoot is preferred.

How many dancers are selected from the audition? The number of dancers selected for the season rests upon the artistic director. The company is not based on a pre-set number of dancers but on the quality of the dancers auditioning. CDE has been as large as 16 members and as few as 8.

Do I have to prepare a solo for the audition? No. You will be taught everything at the audition.

What if I have other questions? Contact artistic director, Tiffanee Arnold, at tarnold@collin.edu or 972.881.5830

What are the judges looking for at the audition?

Strong Technique
Individuality
Strong Performance Qualities
Ability to Take Risks

What can I do to prepare for the audition?

- Attend CDE open studio classes March 2nd & 4th at 1pm.
- Attend Collin Dance Ensemble's Spring Concert on April 10 at 8pm and April 11 at 2pm & 8pm in the John Anthony Theatre.
- Enroll in summer technique classes; especially ballet and modern technique.
- Participate in the Summer Dance Camp at the Spring Creek Campus in Plano – July 13-17.
- Maintain a workout routine until auditions in August.
- Schedule a time to meet with artistic director.

