

Welcome to your dreams



Welcome American School of Inspiration

2019-2020

POLICIES AND OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

TEAM-UP: Download the Team-Up app to keep track of class and show schedules:

<https://teamup.com/ksssozt9csrwkcln3>

MARCO POLO: Marco Polo is a great app that will allow you to see notes for your rehearsal or show, get help regarding rides, and communicate with others in the studio. The app is critical for discussing items individually with directors and as part of a group. Each performer should have access to this technology.

EMAIL: READ EMAILS! Newsletters and updates are emailed to you and posted on the American School of Inspiration bulletin board. We answer emails regularly. Feel free to email questions. Info@asinspiration.com and info@druidtheater.com.

If you ask a question that was already answered in an email or other electronic communication, the answer will be, “Search your email” or “Check the app.” If you still can’t find it, the email will be resent to you. We will not waste time hand-holding. We have lots of ways to get information. Do feel free to ask questions to clarify information, though. We miss things all the time.

WEBSITE: The website is constantly updated. News, important parent and artist information, photos, contact information and more are available online 24 hours a day. www.asinspiration.com, www.druidtheater.com

FACEBOOK GROUP: Join Inspiration Family on facebook to talk to other members of our school and community!

www.facebook.com/inspirationfam

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM: “Like” the American School of Inspiration page on Facebook and Instagram to receive regular updates on school events. Please invite your family and friends to “like” the school. Please do not post questions on the school’s Facebook page—email us instead. @americanschoolofinspiration@druidtheater

STUDENT PORTAL: On the school website, there is a tab called “Student Portal,” which has most of the information you will need to help you.

YOUTUBE: We have started a “Rehearsal Channel” so you can keep in touch with what’s going on in your current classes. <https://tinyurl.com/y7r77toz>

Welcome to Inspiration!

Mr. Aly here. I wanted to take a few moments to personally welcome you to our year-round school that focuses on your performing arts education. There are a few very important things that will help you get the most out of your classes and training.

First, everyone at Inspiration is taught as an individual. What do I mean by that? I mean that everyone learns and grows at their own pace. Not everybody has the same skill set or level of skill within a genre, so we train and develop each artist individually. We don't believe students should compete with each other. Instead students are taught to concentrate on their own development and to encourage their classmates to be the best individual artists they can be.

Second, the school is inspired by the way Hawaii's artist culture cultivates the individual in an encouraging environment, developing the artist's self-worth, confidence, technique and responsibility while crafting performance skills.

YOU are an individual, and we will help you develop your skills and train you to become the artist you are destined to be! Our staff and your fellow artists will encourage you along the way to help you fulfill YOUR dreams, whether it's professionally or recreationally.

We welcome you to our dance studio, vocal studio and acting school. We offer syllabus classes such as Classical Ballet, Contemporary Pointe, Tap, Theater Dance, Acting, Pop Singing, Modern, Jazz, Opera, Hula, African, and Contemporary. We perform at least eight shows a season, and have performance companies.

If you have any questions about the school, lessons, performances or anything at all, please ask. We are here to help guide you in all ways possible to make your learning experience at Inspiration a great one.

Finally, I would like to say thank you for putting your confidence in me and my staff. I have worked very hard over the last six years to help as many performers as possible and to build a great reputation. I want to make sure I live up to my reputation for you, because nothing matters unless YOU are happy.

So once again, WELCOME! I look forward to helping you achieve your goals.

For The Parents: How to Support

We are an adult conservatory-level school and we want those students to feel they are getting the same quality education as younger students. So if you are the parent of a child who has been granted admission to the school, please read through this section. Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty, our artists, and their parents. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect for other parents, the artists, and the faculty makes an important impression on the performer.

Understanding Arts Education

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your performer financially, but your emotional support is perhaps even more important. Encourage your performer to be the best that he or she can be regardless of what others may achieve. Performing is an individual art form, and each performer must be allowed to achieve at a comfortable pace. No two artists will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training.

Dos and Don'ts

- Some parents (and artists) may be tempted to compare progress or class placement with other artists. Be on guard against this behavior and encourage your performer to focus on personal accomplishments instead. A rose does not compare itself to the tulip. They are both beautiful and valuable in their own ways.
- Looking to other artists for inspiration is good; however, making negative comparisons distracts performers from focusing on becoming stronger performers.
- If you have questions about training or policies or rationales about why we do something, contact the school office to set up an appointment. Please do not approach your performer's teacher or the dean between or during classes or rehearsals. If you do request a conference, please listen carefully to what the teacher has to say. They spend a significant amount of time with each artist and offer expertise in the field of arts education.
- Please do not criticize or give notes to your child about their rehearsals or performances. If you have a concern, please talk to the teacher. The teacher is the expert in their arts education. There is always a reason we may not be giving specific notes to artists. They may need to focus on building confidence or work on a different note first. Over-noting can be very dangerous to the progress of a student.
- Your child may worry about what others think of them. They worry that they will disappoint each other or their instructors if they make a mistake. They worry about their health and physical aptitude for some of the extreme athleticism required of them. They worry about the vulnerability they must execute to be a touching performer. They worry about the past notes they must now apply without compromising the piece. They should never have to worry about feeling whether or not they are valued by you or the other parents. Allow us to be the bad guys if necessary, and please be the one they run home to and get love from.
- Do not ask our artists (choreographers, directors, instructors, or teachers) to change something for you or your child. If you have a problem with an artistic choice, please email Mr. Aly or make an appointment with him.
- Do not come backstage or into the room marked "Performers Only" before, during or after a show. If you need your child, one of our staff will be happy to help you. Children may be in compromising attire or states of mind backstage. They are focused. Allow us to interrupt them if necessary.
- This one is easy: offer them your love, nourishment, comfort, care, and adoration as their biggest fans. You are their groupies.

Year Round, The Trimester System

Every class rotates for a four-month concentration. Each class focuses on either technique or repertoire from that genre and, at certain times of the year, we'll be applying what we've learned in an actual performance. A common question is, "Can we take the class and not perform?" The answer is no, but we will be happy to help you transfer into a non-performing class for that trimester. The point of learning performing arts is to then apply what you've learned to the art of entertainment for others to enjoy.

16-Week Trimester

<i>Fall Trimester (Sept-Dec)</i>			
Performance		Technique	History/Repertoire
<i>Nutcracker</i>	<i>Fall of the House of Usher</i>	Broadway Jazz Jazz Modern Classes Tap Voice Composition	Design for Tech. Theater Contemporary Pointe Guitar
Ballet	Acting		
		Hula African	

Fall Trimester: Sept 1, 2019-Jan 4, 2020

Fifteen weeks with a one-week specialty camp
 Days off: Oct 14, Oct 31, Nov 25-30, Dec 21-26, Dec 31-Jan 1
 Ballet Camp: Sept 9-13, all other classes canceled.
 Ballet students pay \$70 for the costume associated with the show for this specialty camp but do not pay extra for the camp. Non-ballet students pay \$300 for camp (fee includes costume).

<i>Spring Trimester (Jan-Apr)</i>			
Performance		Technique	History/Repertoire
<i>Fosse</i>	<i>An American in Paris</i>	Acting Design for Tech. Theater Guitar	Ballet Voice Composition
Jazz Broadway	Tap Modern Contemporary Pointe		
		Hula African	

Spring Semester: Jan 6-May 2nd, 2020

Fifteen weeks with a one-week specialty camp
 Days off: Feb 17, Apr 1, Apr 5-12,
 One day per week allowed for a snow day
 Musical Camp: Jan 13-17, all other classes canceled.
 Theater students pay \$70 for the costume associated with the musical for this camp. Jazz, tap, voice, and acting students do not pay for camp.
 Non-Theater students pay \$300 for camp (fee includes costume).

<i>Summer Trimester (May-Aug)</i>			
Performance		Technique	History/Repertoire
<i>Opera/ Music Recital</i>	<i>Outreach Performances</i>	Ballet Contemporary Pointe	Acting Modern Broadway Jazz Tap
Voice Guitar Composition Design for...	Hula African		

Summer Semester: May 3rd-Aug 29th, 2020

Fifteen weeks with a one-week specialty camp
 Days off: May 22-25, June 28-July 5th
 Dance Intensive Camp: July 27-31, all other classes canceled.
 Dance students pay \$70 for the costume associated with the Visionary show associated with this camp. Dance students don't pay for camp.
 Non-dance students pay \$300 for camp (fee includes costume).

PERFORMANCE DATES

Fall

Fall of the House of Usher:

ASI acting class

Rehearsals – Acting class Sept 2019-Jan 2020

Costume fee Due: Nov1

Dress rehearsal: Jan 10 & 11@ 5pm

Show dates: Jan 18 & 19, @ 5pm, Jan 24 & 25 @ 7pm

Spring

Fosse

Rehearsals – ETG, Jazz Classes in Spring Trimester

Costume fee Due Feb 1st

Dress: Mar 7th 5pm

Show: Mar 14th, 15, 22nd

Tour: Mar 21st (only certain people called)

Spring

Kairos

Rehearsals - Visionary

Dress: April 18th

Shows: April 19, 24, 25

Tour: April 18th

Spring/Summer

An American In Paris

Rehearsals - ETG, Tap, Modern, Contemporary

Costume fee Due March 1st

Dress: May 16th

Shows: May 17, 23, 24

Tour: May 16th

ARRIVAL TIME FOR SHOWS IS 2 Hours before Curtain (but you can come earlier if you want)!

We are a performance based school. Part of your education is to get on stage. If you do not show up to dress rehearsal, you will be pulled from the show and will be charged a \$100 show-drop fee. If you drop from the show, you will be charged a \$100 show-drop fee. The fee also stands if you are pulled from a show for disciplinary reasons.

The Importance of Rehearsals

- All rehearsals are dedicated to choreography, staging, learning material, “cleaning” the choreography, or relationship development.
- **If an artist misses rehearsal, they will be blocked out of the part rehearsed. If an artist misses more than the allowed number of rehearsals, they will be pulled from the show or company.**

Conflict Calendars: Clear Communication

- Before each trimester begins, email all of your conflicts to the director.
- **YOU MAY NOT HAVE CONFLICTS ON SHOW DAYS, DRESS REHEARSAL, or the LAST TWO REHEARSALS PRIOR. REQUIRED DATES ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE AND CANNOT BE MISSED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE, EXCEPT EMERGENCY. FAILURE TO ATTEND REQUIRED DATES WILL RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE COMPANY.**
- The performers that attend rehearsal get to perform more, it is that simple. It doesn't matter how quickly a performer learns if they can't rehearse with the rest of the cast. Practicing alone is not enough.
- Extra performances and shows will be added based on your conflicts – you cannot miss them.
- What if you are sick? In most cases, the artist needs to come to rehearsal to watch.
- **An oversight or negligence in scheduling on your part will place you in a position where you'll need to miss other events in order to attend our rehearsals.**
- Punctuality is also an important part of a performer's discipline. Showing up late and not notifying the choreographer/director beforehand is not acceptable.

Drops

The American School of Inspiration will no longer accept drops on a monthly basis. Most students commit for the trimester, so we are staying with that model. We have a plan for a 15-week course with a one-week camp special during that time to make a 16-week curriculum. Current students will no longer be permitted to drop before the first of the month. You can pick new classes at the beginning of the next trimester. Current students may transfer to a different class for a \$10 transfer fee. HEART students may no longer transfer classes during the fourth week of the trimester. Private lessons are scheduled continuously unless dropped with 30 days' notice **before** the end of the current trimester. You must transfer out of a performing class within the first four weeks of the trimester to avoid costume fees and the dropped-performance fee. Dropping a show will incur a \$100 fee per performer.

FEES

\$10 - Transfer fee

\$35 - bounced check/inability to charge credit card fee

\$50 - Single registration fee

\$70 - Costume fee

\$80 - Individual private lesson

\$85 - Family registration fee

\$100 - Drop-show fee (per show dropped)

\$100 - Break contract fee (for dropping after agreeing to your trimester)

Fees explained: There will be a charge of \$35 for payments that do not go through. Current students may transfer to a different class for a \$10 transfer fee. Missing Dress rehearsal will get you pulled from a show. Pulling from a show, either by choice or by reprimand, will incur a \$100 drop-show fee. Costume fees are \$70 per costume. If you do not show up to dress rehearsal, you will be pulled from the show and will be charged a \$100 show-drop fee. If you drop from the show, you will be charged a \$100 show-drop fee.

Tuition

Tuition is now calculated per trimester, with monthly payments. This change does not alter your current tuition costs. Tuition for group classes is \$320 for a 15-week course, paid at a rate of \$80 per month. Private lesson tuition is \$1000 for a 15-week course, paid at a rate of \$250 per month. Scholarship opportunities are available through our website (for those who have already been awarded their scholarships, this doesn't change anything). Again, your current rate is not changing.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are scheduled continuously unless dropped with 30 days' notice before the end of the current trimester. Full-time private students receive 15 lessons per trimester. Halftime private lessons receive seven per trimester. Both get a ticket to the voice master class.

Same day cancellations forfeit your lesson. Missed lessons that are canceled prior to 24 hours must be made up during that trimester.

SPECIAL RATES

20% off tuition for members of Visionary and ETG

20% off tuition for families with first responders

75% off tuition for professionals (3 years paid experience - resume and headshot required for submittal) - group classes

50% off tuition for professionals - private lessons (3 yr paid experience - resume and headshot required)

100% off – Boys in ballet classes



16-Week Trimester

Fall Trimester: Sept 1, 2019-Jan 4, 2020 15 weeks with 1 week specialty camp Days off: Oct 14th, Oct 31st, Nov 25th-30th, Dec 21st-26th, Dec 31-Jan 1st Ballet Camp – Sept 9th-13th– All other classes are canceled. Ballet students pay \$70 for the costume associated with this camp for the ballet. Ballet students do not pay for camp. Non-ballet students pay \$300 for camp (includes costume).

Spring Semester: Jan 6-May 2nd, 2020 15 weeks with 1 week specialty camp Days off: Feb 17th, Apr 1st, Apr 5-12th, 1 day per week allowed for a snow day Musical Camp: Jan 13th-17th– All other classes are canceled. Students pay \$70 for the costume associated with this camp for the musical. Jazz, Tap, Voice, and Acting students do not pay for camp. Non-Theater students pay \$300 for camp (includes costume).

Summer Semester: May 3rd-Aug 29th, 2020 15 weeks with 1 week specialty camp Days off: May 22-25, June 28-July 5th. Dance Intensive: July 27th-31st. Camp Week – All other classes are canceled. Students pay \$70 for the costume associated with this camp for the summer show. Dance students don't pay for camp.

Non-dance students pay \$300 for camp (includes costume).

Sickness

Lice, Pink eye, Vomiting and other contagions are no permitted at school. You are not allowed to attend if you have these ailments. You can make up your class time in other classes. If you miss a performance because of this you will still be charged the drop-show fee.

Dress Code

• All classes require a notebook/journal of some kind

- Midriff shirts are not permitted. Shorts that show butt cheeks are not permitted.
- Ballet: Pink, canvas, split sole ballet slippers, leotard Tights (pink), ballet skirt (wrap skirt). During the winter only, ballet warmups will be allowed: ballet shrug, legwarmers, bodysuits, hip warmers, etc. No sweaters or sweatpants will be allowed.
- African/Afro-Modern: Barefoot, Lapa (sarong with African or floral print).
- Hula: Pa'u/Sarong, barefoot.
- Jazz: Black slip on, split sole, jazz shoe. Boys – Latin oxford or dance oxford, Girls – Black T-strap character shoe (when approved). Heels – When approved, closed toed, ankle wrapped heel.
- Tap: No jeans, Bloch or Sansha black, FULL SOLE tap shoes.
- Acting/Design: Folder, writing utensil, notebook. Clothes should consist of things you can move in—no skirts, and no underwear should be able to be seen.

- Modern: Leotard or tight-fitting shirt/tank. Convertible tights/leggings/shorts. No baggy clothes, no regular day clothes.

Pointe/Heels

The dean will evaluate you, and he will be the only one to permit you *en pointe*. If you go *en pointe* without this approval, you will be dismissed.



them an opportunity to shine in a whole new way!

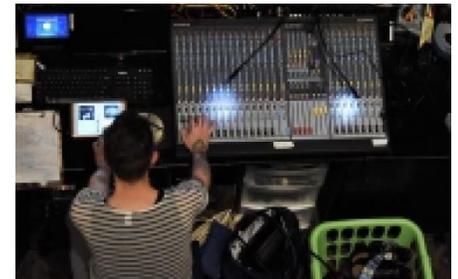
ONO (One Night Only)

Student Produced Shows

Students have the opportunity to produce, cast, rehearse, and perform in their own shows. This is a unique opportunity for artists to create their own shows from beginning to audience with the guidance of professional directors and educators. Cast students from within the school and give

Technical Opportunities

Lighting design, costume design, set design, choreography, direction, and stage management are among the opportunities we offer inside the Druid Theater. This amazing program offers training and possible employment in the area of technical theater.



FAST FACTS

80%

More applied experience than other studios. With a full-length production opportunity every trimester, while working technique in other disciplines, students are learning three times faster and have 80% more experience than their equals from other studios.

28%

The percentage of The American School of Inspiration's health, technique, culture and history instruction that regular dance studios provide.

Our Expectations

Professional Behavior:

- Always communicate with your company director regarding anything that may pull you away from your responsibility. This includes personal commitments, relationship issues with fellow performers, or health obstacles.
- We never create conflict with anyone at events in which we participate.
- The artistic director (AD) handles communication about outside activities.
- Artists and parents should be properly dressed for all events.
- Please be aware of your surroundings: Language or sensitive topics may not be offensive or inappropriate to you or your family, but it may be to someone else. Be aware of language near little children or words that may be offensive to people of different backgrounds.

BE ON TIME!

Costume Common Sense:

- Always have a second pair of tights available.
- Place costumes in a garment bag for travel.
- Hang and press (steam) costumes before each performance.
- Check seams, trim, headpieces, etc. for repairs that must be made prior to the next performance.

Rehearsal/Class Expectations:

- Come to rehearsal ready to give more than you get.
- Spend more energy than your fellow artists. This will make you feel alive and give you the largeness on stage called "stage presence."
- Constant giving, without limit, is the unique characteristic of a fine performer. If someone gives more than you, top them. This is the secret to exciting work.
- Your job is to be imaginative FIRST and technical SECOND. Technique is for class, performance is for rehearsal.
- Always arrive before your call time in order to be mentally, physically, and emotionally ready.
- Personally prepare: to be prepared is to be physically alert, energized and free of tension. You may be tense due to some problems in your life or a conflict with someone in rehearsal, but if you enter into the rehearsal with tension, you defeat your own cause and give power to the problem or people and not your art.
- In every class and rehearsal, come committed to see a new aspect in your fellow artists. See in them more than they see in themselves.
- Always go over in detail the previous rehearsal and incorporate all that work into the current rehearsal. This requires work alone after rehearsal.
- Wear clothes that are appropriate for your piece. You wouldn't want to lose the chance to rehearse because you didn't have the appropriate outfit. Also, make the choice to wear clothes for movement, not to make a statement. Wearing something distracting pulls focus from your work.

- Seek criticism. Learn to love it.
- Appreciate praise but never fully trust it.
- To be an artist is to be a daredevil. You may be afraid, but don't let it stop you. In spite of uncertainty or fear, act boldly, without hesitation, and with full energy and joy.
- It's okay to fail. Failing means you are learning. Failing means you can only succeed from there.
- Confusing fun and disrespect will get you sent home. Respect your choreographer, the space, and your fellow artists.
- Always have your notebook in your bag. Always.
- Injury is no cause to miss class or rehearsal. In most cases, you can still participate in some fashion. Unless your injury prevents you from being in dress code, be in your proper dance attire ready to participate as much as the instructor allows.
- Stay in the moment. There is no need to ask questions about the future. It only tells everyone you aren't with us in the present.
- You are not permitted to miss rehearsal for social activities. Part of being a performer is balancing social life, work, school, shows, and class. We will help you juggle these things. Remember that to be great at anything, sacrifices in other things (not all things) must be made.
- If you are going to miss or be late to rehearsal, you must let your director AND stage manager know immediately and await a response.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE NOT ALLOWED BACKSTAGE.

Code of Conduct:

- No negative comments about other students
- No negotiating policies set
- No negatively comparing students
- No inter-parent complaining
- Respect all performers, their family members, guests, and staff
- No challenging casting, show modifications, or placement decisions
- Be on time, or communicate with the teachers/directors/choreographers about tardiness
- Keep a positive attitude and be ready to participate
- If injured, come to class to learn, as you can still participate in some fashion: Meet dress code
- Confusing fun and disrespect will get you sent home
- Always have your notebook
- Follow state and federal laws
- No use of emergency exits except for emergencies
- Elevator is for handicapped people and cargo only
- If something is broken or breaks, report it immediately
- No attempts to go onto the roof or damage property
- No accessing staff belongings or places for staff only
- Artists and parents must not seek to establish social contact with staff for the intended purpose of influencing performance opportunities or other types of unprofessional fraternization
- No revealing any information that compromises ASI, DTA, or its staff or artists
- Do not post anything that could compromise the self-esteem of staff or other artists
- Respect laws governing defamation, discrimination, harassment, and copyright
- Non-performers and artistic staff are not allowed backstage

A few other policies

Payment and Behavior Agreement

By participating you agree to your last registered schedule of classes, their respective payments, and commitment to rehearsals, and shows. Refunds are not made for class purchases. Under certain circumstances, credit can be made towards the client account. We offer no refunds, each month's payment is final. If a student begins the month, the family agrees to pay the tuition, regardless of tuition date.

Dismissal Policy

All students and parents are to abide by the culture of the American School of Inspiration by adhering to the mission and vision. Actions that are disrespectful, disruptive, or against the mission and vision will result in disciplinary procedures for either parent or student, and disciplinary procedures will incur if a guest is brought that violates this agreement: 1st offense – written warning. 2nd offense – probationary period: pulled from performances and competitions for the trimester and possible dismissal at trimester's end. 3rd offense **or severe offense** – immediate dismissal. This is an atmosphere of inspiration, growth, and excitement. Anything that may disrupt that is not permitted. Family that disrupts this environment may result in dismissal of the student. By attending, you understand and agree to the dismissal policy.

Social Media

Students may have contact with teachers directly through social media and text. It is important that the teacher also have a way to contact the parent in the unlikely event that something inappropriate is sent through social media or text. This way, we give the parent immediate control on how to discipline their child for poor behavior. Students are encouraged to have a friendly relationship with their teachers. This does not mean that they are friends. The relationship cultivated is one of an employer-employee relationship, teaching our students how to cultivate a positive and friendly relationship in a professional manner which is not offered to them in school.

Credit Card Authorization

By attending you agree to: I hereby authorize Aly Cardinalli, LLC. to charge my credit or debit card according to the installment plan identified above for the purpose of paying my instruction at American School of Inspiration. I have read the above and fully understand that these charges will continue and this authorization will remain in full force until the full amount of the financial obligation of tuition and costume payments as noted above are fulfilled. I agree that in the event that the charges are denied by the credit card/debit institution identified above for any reason, I will be notified and obligated to pay by other means within 15 days of such notice. I also understand that I will be financially responsible for payment of late fees and/or

penalty fees should the institution assess such charges on American School of Inspiration.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are scheduled continuously unless dropped with 30 days' notice before the end of the current trimester. Full-time private lessons receive 15 per trimester. Halftime private lessons receive 7 per trimester. Both get a ticket to the voice master class.

Same day cancelations forfeit your lesson. Missed lessons that are canceled prior to 24 hours must be made up during that trimester.

Elementary Students:

Elementary classes have never been in our mission or our goals, so we are discontinuing the classes. However, we are allowing for 8-10 year olds (and 7 if they turn 8 that year during the 2019-2020 year) to audition to be placed in the classes with the other students. You'll need to email dean@asinspiration.com for more information.

Communication

Students are required to communicate with staff directly (if they have the capability), not parents (exception is students under the age of 12).

HEART

Holistic Entertainment Arts Related Training

Elite Conservatory Certification

This program is for the student who has grit, determination, passion, and perseverance. HEART students commit to learning full time.

Get first pick of classes, register for an unlimited number of classes, get one-on-one time every trimester to establish goals for the upcoming trimester with an advisor, get free master classes and field trips, and be considered for lead roles first.

All classes focus on technique, history, culture, and performance. American School of Inspiration has the top professors in performing arts in Maryland. Our instructors are current working professionals in the performing arts, not simply career teachers like you'd find at a competition school. Here you have a real applicable education. These instructors are connected to employment professionals and opportunities. We teach relevant instruction that allows our graduates to have an advantage over their peers. Our students learn employability and responsibility, and begin the first steps toward becoming experts in their fields of concentration.

Features:

- Four-year* program for full-time students—available to adults, too!
- Select an area of concentration
- Free master classes each trimester
- Free off campus trips to museums, fairs, and events
- Exclusive invitations to VIP performance opportunities
- Watch final dress rehearsals for shows at the Druid/Inspiration
- First choice in registration for classes
- A hand-picked personal advisor to help you with your conservatory certificate

HEART CERTIFICATION:

3,000-hour certification with a concentration of the performer's choice. Cost of the program is \$510 per month. We offer financial aid and scholarships for students. This degree generally takes four years to complete. Completion depends on the commitment and time availability of the performer.

Concentrations:

- Acting & Technical Theater
- Classical Dance
- Music & Production
- Triple Threat
- Culture and History in Performing Arts
- Teaching, Direction & Leadership

ADVANCED HEART CERTIFICATION:

1500-hour certification with a concentration of the performer's choice. Cost of the program is \$510 per month. We offer financial aid and scholarships for students. This degree generally takes two years to complete. Completion depends on the commitment and time availability of the performer. Must already have HEART certification.

Concentrations:

- Culture and History in Performing Arts
- Teaching, Direction, & Leadership
- Acting & Technical Theater
- Classical Dance
- Music & Production
- Triple Threat

* Teen students must be a minimum of 13 years old at the beginning of the trimester. (They may not turn 13 during that trimester.)
* Adult students must have doctor's approval for full-time activity

Grade	Minimum	Maximum	GPA Value	Honors GPA Value	Earns Credits
A+	95	100	4.3		5.3 Y
A	87	94.99	4		5 Y
A-	83	86.99	3.7		4.7 Y
B+	79	82.99	3.3		4.3 Y
B	75	78.99	3		4 Y
B-	70	74.99	2.7		3.7 Y
C+	69	69.99	2.3		3.3 Y
C	65	68.99	2		3 Y
C-	60	64.99	1.7		2.7 Y
D+	57	59.99	1.3		1.3 Y
D	53	56.99	1		1 Y
D-	50	52.99	0.7		0.7 Y
F	0	49.99	0		0 N

Grading:

All of our grading is weighted. Other schools do not consider that perfection in performing arts is near impossible; therefore, we take that grade difference under consideration in order to make our GPA system comparable to the world of academia.

Credits Per Trimester:

Credits are based on the number of hours in class and outside of class to complete the course or project.

Completion of our HEART Conservatory Certificate requires 200 completed credits.

Completion of our Advanced Conservatory Certificate requires 100 additional completed credits.

These numbers are based on work in class and outside of class per trimester:

- Workshop - .25 credits
- Holistic Studies - 1/3 credit
- Group Classes - 1 credit
- Partial/Group Design and Application for an Area of a Show - 1 credit
- Solo Design and Application for an Area of a Show - 2 credits
- Apprentice Teaching - 2 credits
- Stage Manage a Performance - 2 credits
- Private Life Coaching (Weekly) - 3 credits
- Private Instruction - 3 credits
- Performance - 4 credits
- Student Teaching - 4 credits

*if enrolled in a performance or task involving a class, show, or instruction, and student does not fulfill the requirements, they automatically fail.

Independent Study - up to four credits (\$80 fee to submit prior learning from various classes, lessons, performances, and experiences)

ETG Info

Dress rehearsals, publicity tours, and performance dates are mandatory. Conflicts on these dates will result in removal from the company.

When are rehearsals:

Saturdays 2:30–5:30

Fridays: Soloists and leads are required to have Friday availability to work their numbers. If Fridays aren't available, then Sundays must be available instead.

· Am I called to every rehearsal? YES, unless noted.

How Rehearsals are Scheduled:

· Based on your conflicts, we build the rehearsal schedule for each show. If you are called, you must attend. Missing two rehearsals to which you are called will result in termination from the company.

· Assume you are called for all scheduled rehearsals; you will be informed in advance if you are not needed for a specific rehearsal. If there is a TBD, you are called unless otherwise noted.

· If a new conflict comes up, you must notify us in writing (text, email) immediately. We will try to accommodate you, but your commitment is to the company first. If we cannot accommodate you, you will need to attend rehearsal.

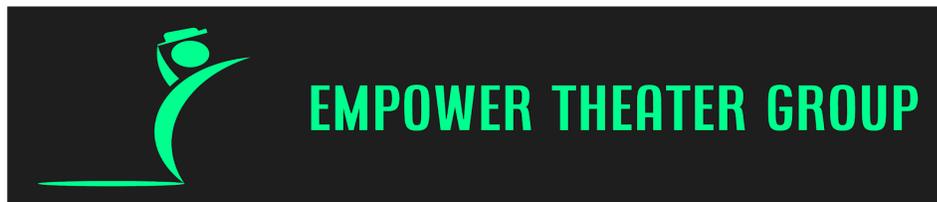
· Sometimes we get additional opportunities to perform. If you have not indicated a conflict on these additional dates, you will be required to make these performances.

The Importance of Rehearsals

· All rehearsals are dedicated to choreography, staging, learning material, “cleaning” the choreography, or relationship development.

· **If an artist misses rehearsal, they will be blocked out of the part rehearsed. If an artist misses more than the allowed number of rehearsals, they will be pulled from the show or company.**

Commitment is for one year from time of signing.



Dues

The cost for Empower Theater Group is \$300.

The income made from the Broadway Bound Summer Camp will be evenly distributed among the students that helped make it happen to offset the cost of ETG.

The remainder of your dues are due ON (not after) AUG 1, 2019 – Please write a check to Druid Theater Arts.

*If a singer decides to resign or is discharged, refunds will not be made.

Casting:

Casting will be made based on three things:

- 1) Who learns their music, is prepared, and shows professionalism
- 2) who is best suited for the part
- 3) attendance and promotion of shows

Renaissance Festival Field Trip

The Maryland Renaissance Festival in Crofton, MD is an invaluable teaching tool for young performers. The Maryland Renaissance Festival is where the sixteenth century meets the twenty-first. Here, we will be exposed to Shakespeare and various other performing arts productions, costumes, and cultures.

Make sure you bring sun protection, walking shoes, and enough money for food and souvenirs.

What Am I Agreeing To?

By agreeing to participate, the artist is required to:

- Participate in **all** required rehearsals
- Perform in **all** the performance schedule
- Attend **all** required camps.
- Maintain employment readiness skills:
 1. Being prepared includes taking care of your body, being on time, and managing schedules
 2. Have a willingness to take direction
 3. Maintain positive and productive interpersonal relationship skills with other performers
 4. Practice constructive and effective communication, taking responsibility seriously
 5. Learn and exhibit professional and ethical behavior
 6. Represent the company with pride and humility
- **Attend ALL rehearsals. If there is one missed rehearsal, you must attend. Two missed rehearsals is a final written warning. A third missed rehearsal will result in dismissal from the company.**
- Rehearsals are based on conflicts. If you are scheduled, you must attend. You may not have a conflict that comes up after the rehearsal has been scheduled. You must continue to communicate.
- The performance schedule is set for this season. Other opportunities may arise, for which we will consult the company, but you may not miss a performance or fundraiser under any circumstance. Missing mandatory events will result in dismissal from the company.

· EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Acting, group voice, or private voice instruction (for students under 18 years)

Visionary Dance Company Information



What Am I Agreeing To?

By agreeing to participate, your artist is required to:

- Participate in **all** required rehearsals
- Perform in **the entire** performance schedule
- Attend **all** required camps
- Maintain employment readiness skills, including:

1. Taking care of your body, being on time, and managing schedules

2. Have a willingness to take direction

3. Maintain positive and productive interpersonal relationship skills with other performers

4. Practice constructive and effective communication, taking responsibility seriously

5. Learn and exhibit professional and ethical behavior

6. Represent the company with pride and humility

· **Attend ALL rehearsals. If there is rehearsal, you must attend. One missed rehearsal is a written warning. Two missed rehearsals is a final written warning. A third missed rehearsal will result in dismissal from the company.**

· Rehearsals are based on conflicts. If you are scheduled, you must attend. You may not have a conflict that comes up after the rehearsal has been scheduled. You must continue to communicate.

· The performance schedule is set for this season. Other opportunities may arise, for which we will consult the company, but you may not miss a performance or fundraiser under any circumstance. Missing mandatory events will result in dismissal from the company.

Visionary Dance Company:

REQUIRED DUES: \$125 (covers cost of jacket and performance)

30% off tuition at ASI (if you already have a discount, this will not be compounded or added on to the existing discount).

By agreeing to participate IN COMPANY, your artist is required to:

- Participate in fundraising.
- Take a minimum of five classes per week (including a ballet class, a modern/lyrical/contemporary class, and a cultural class at American School of Inspiration).
- Participate in **all** mandatory performances; missing a performance will result in termination from the company.
- Participate in required rehearsals. Cannot miss more than two rehearsals (pre-scheduled) per trimester. Missing rehearsal will result in being pulled from sections of numbers or pulled from numbers completely, excused or not. **Missing more than two rehearsals can result in termination.**
- Perform in the winter ballet and the spring musical.
- Attend Ballet Week in September; cost is \$70 for the costume.
- **MAY NOT MISS TWO WEEKS BEFORE A SHOW**
- Fund your trip to NY to take class (optional). Cost is about \$200, not including hotel and food
- Pieces will be taken away from artists who miss rehearsal, aren't prepared, or behave badly.
- Agree to be at call two (2) hours before performance
- Help promote performances (including but not limited to social media, passing out posters/flyers, and performing at events).
- Your first priority is being present for rehearsals (for which you are called) without exception. This is a one-year contract.

Visionary 2:

OPTIONAL DUES: \$125 (covers cost of jacket and performance, including the artist's name embroidered on the jacket AND a ticket to see a dance performance during the year.

30% off tuition at ASI (if you already have a discount, this will not be compounded or added on to the existing discount).

By agreeing to participate the Visionary 2 company, the artist is required to:

- Take a minimum of two classes per week (including a ballet class, and a modern/lyrical/contemporary class)
- *STUDENTS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO TAKE A CULTURAL CLASS
- Participate in all mandatory performances for which you are staged in; missing a performance will result in termination from the company.
- Participate in most rehearsals.
- Attend Ballet Week in September; cost is \$70 for the costume.
- **MAY NOT MISS CLASS TWO WEEKS BEFORE A SHOW**
- Pieces will be taken away from artists who miss rehearsal, aren't prepared, or behave badly.
- Agree to be at call two (2) hours before performance
- Fund your trip to NYC to take a class (optional). Cost is about \$200, not including hotel and food

We encourage you to continue to perform, but you are agreeing to performing in and attending dress rehearsals for these shows. This is a one-year contract.

Frequently asked questions:

Can we pick group numbers?

- No. When dancing in a company, most of the time you love what you are performing, but every once and a while there is a number you don't like. You give it your best anyway.

Can we request group numbers?

- Yes

Philosophy and Mission

ASI provides rigorous, performance-based training and an industry-focused education experience, which inspires excellence and prepares artists with an appreciation for the universal power of transformation through art. ASI's educational philosophy is based on close collegial interaction between instructors and students in class, in production and through active mentorship.

ASI is committed to providing an unsurpassed performing arts education to a diverse community of creative artists. ASI serves as both school and stage, where students are given the support and opportunity to define their own personal objectives and to develop and refine their own distinctive artistic voices.

ASI strives to create an environment for students to develop the skills, confidence, imagination and power to contribute to their community as artists, entrepreneurs, visionaries, lifelong learners and conscientious citizens of the world. Above all, ASI wants to teach students that commitment and passion are the hallmarks of a successful and joyous career.

Vision

To operate an institution that empowers creativity, inspires audiences, and facilitates a "share-learn" culture in a friendly, encouraging, and professional environment. Changing the way performing arts education is taught by using family-based philosophy, responsibility, ethical conduct, mentoring, and professional modeling. We will continue to discover and utilize new teaching methods in dance, theater, and voice instruction for all ages.

Institutional Strategic Goals

To achieve our mission, ASI has identified the following ten goals:

1. Provide the highest standard of training and education with a professional and responsive faculty who offer guidance and assistance to students in preparation for the professional world of performing.
2. Foster an interdisciplinary approach to the artistic process, as well as multicultural and international perspectives, both in the classroom and in production.
3. Provide an atmosphere that nurtures and develops individual talent and skills within a collaborative environment, emphasizing experiential, classroom and community learning.
4. Provide a learning community where students, faculty and staff engage in the collaborative development of art.
5. Produce students who are creative, well-rounded artists and mindful professionals through the synthesis of mind, body and spirit.
6. Challenge students to expand their critical, analytical and conceptual thinking capacities in order to enrich their academic studies as well as their professional careers.
7. Enrich student lives with a lifelong appreciation for all forms of art, by nurturing an understanding of the artist's important role in culture and civilization.
8. Provide a climate of artistic freedom tempered with discipline and passion.
9. Challenge students to explore personal development and consciousness as self-motivated, socially aware artists and citizens.
10. Provide a wide range of opportunities for the presentation and promotion of student work.

Mission

- Offer high quality education through high quality treatment at economically accessible rates.
- Train performers to be marketable and humble.
- Dismantle "fear-based" thinking in the performing arts.
- Encourage peer and professional mentoring.
- Discover and develop individual plans for staff, students, and performers.
- Establish a holistic performing arts education system.
- Require continued professional development from staff.
- Construct and implement an ethical arts business and community.
- Model professional relationships, in the classroom, outside class, and in teaching.
- Hire staff who are committed to the teaching profession.
- Manage effectively and efficiently.
- Empower employees and students to thrive creatively.
- Accept clients by means of multicultural sensitivity.
- Utilize the performing arts as a means to teach decision making, job readiness, and life coping skills.
- Actualize current health education and strategies for the performing arts profession.
- Support staff with quality salaries and benefits.
- Support education through theatrical hierarchy and give art to those who love the arts.

Performance Opportunities

Performance is at the heart of ASI's training and curriculum. Each year, students have more than a dozen opportunities to perform in a broad range of settings. These performances include productions of classic plays and musicals, showcases, readings, concerts, film projects and original student creations.

ASI's programs offer extensive performance opportunities: The "curtain goes up" more than 100 times a year!

Individual and ensemble performances are an important hallmark of the ASI experience. Full-length scripted dramas and musicals, unique showcases, original dance and music compositions, student-created theater and various film projects, provide students a wide array of genres, styles and venues to fulfill their passion for performance. Many performance opportunities are also available "for credit." Specific details regarding registering for credits may be obtained from the Dean's Office or Production Office. Additional tuition charges may apply.

Each term, ASI mounts a season of productions that may include full-length plays and musicals, anthologies of classic and contemporary works, and/or dance exhibitions featuring original choreographed pieces. Participation is permitted by audition only. Students who are selected or "cast" and approved to participate will commit to a full rehearsal and/or development process designed to culminate in one or more public or private performances.

All productions are structured to reflect professional industry-standard ethics and processes. Students will be guided by professional artistic team members who include any or all of the following: Director, Choreographer, Musical Director, Stage Manager, Lighting designer, Costume designer. Depending on the needs of each production, coaches in combat, dialect, or other specialty performance areas may be

added to a production's artistic team. The rehearsal and performance schedules involve weekday evenings and select weekends for a process that ranges from 5–13 weeks long.

Company Commitment Performances

VISIONARY DANCE COMPANY



Visionary is a pre-professional dance program and operates like a professional dance company, where the artists learn how to cooperate as a member of the company, discover individual strengths, and give back to audiences. Genres of dance feature primarily ballet and modern, but indigenous dance styles are also taught. This company creates professional-quality performances and is not a dance competition team. They are focused on art and performance. Visionary Dance Company (VDC) performs two mainstage fully produced shows each year. There are two commitment and competency levels of VDC. Visionary is for the accelerated dancer who will make VDC their first priority. Visionary 2 (V2) is for the aspiring dancer or performer who has other commitments and needs flexibility for other life commitments.

EMPOWER THEATER GROUP



ETG is a repertory theater company. This theater program is for singers/actors 13–65. Artists perform in 3–5 productions per year. This means that the company performers are cast in every show for a year. Shows are

chosen based on the entertainment needs of a 19–34-year-old demographic. Artists are also given the opportunity to perform their own produced shows. This is not a community theater experience. Shows rehearse once a week (twice for leads) and are launched after only 6–9 rehearsals. Members of this company are required to do character and memorization work on their own. They are empowered to be the best performers they can by doing the work at home like a professional. This company launches every performer into the speed of professional work.

Extracurricular Performances

ONO (One Night Only) PRODUCTIONS



Create and produce your own show. Want to do a reading of a performance? Want to create a dance show around a theme or artist? Want to create a concert? This is the way to do it. Apply by filling out a performance request form and get booked. It's a wonderful opportunity to produce and run a production, add it to your resume, and tell your friends about your night of creative prowess.

STAGED READINGS/MUSICAL READINGS



Readings provide unique and rich experiences for performers. Published works are performed in their entirety without extensive use of props, detailed costuming, complex blocking, or elaborate scenic elements. The use of scripts and/or scores by actors is

incorporated within each presentation; this allows for shorter rehearsal processes and mirrors the industry standards for this valuable performance structure. Actors are challenged to create compelling and engaging theater through insightful interpretations of text, character, and story. This performance opportunity is available to students in all programs.

MUSIC COMPOSITION



Open to all students, this experience teaches the fundamentals of writing songs of various genres. Students learn music composition and lyric-writing, as well as the skills to integrate those elements into an original song.

School Performances

CLASSICAL BALLET



Classical ballet provides students the opportunity to hone the discipline of perfection and resilience. The classical ballet classes provide all dancers the chance to perform a variety of pieces. All current ASI students are invited to audition for lead roles, as long as they can make the additional time commitment required.

OPERA LABORATORY



The opera laboratory is open to students and alumni recommended by their individual voice teachers who successfully audition. This special program allows singers to explore opera repertoire by performing scenes and arias from selected works.

ACTING CLASS PLAYS



A fully produced play is offered each term to students. All acting students—regardless of term level or registered program—are eligible to audition. Artists are cast based on the audition and callback process. Students who are cast ultimately perform sustained characters within the art of a fully realized production. Scenic, costume, and lighting designs are created to help establish and fortify the visual world in which the productions' characters exist.

DANCE CONCERTS



Dance concerts provide students the opportunity to work with professional choreographers to develop original works, culminating in theatrical stage performances for selected pieces. Each show is based on a theme; styles may include ballet, modern, jazz, hip-hop, tap, cultural, period and contemporary. The dance works are created by guest artists, faculty, and select student choreographers. Dance concerts provide artists the chance to perform a variety of works that span theatrical, commercial and concert esthetics. All current ASI students are invited to perform.

MUSIC REPERTOIRE



The music repertoire intensive allows students an extensive exploration of various styles and genres within the framework of music theater audition material. Working with a large pool of assigned faculty mentors, students choose selections for performances from the disciplines of music, voice, and musical theater.

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH A SHOW!!

IN CLASS SHOW PREP:

- Check team-up for when your next show is and class schedule.
<https://teamup.com/ksssozt9csrwkclin3>
- You may ask your teachers for show music via Drop Box.
- We have a rehearsal channel on youtube, American School Of Inspiration (www.americanschoolofinspiration.com, under the student portal) Use these videos to practice at home!
- Attendance to dress rehearsal is mandatory, conflicts should not interfere. If it does you will be blocked out of that section of the number or completely, to continue the learning process.

WORKING ON YOUR SHOW:

Props and prop table – the prop table is only for props! No costumes or other items. Also, please do not touch or move the props of other actors

Choreography and set design are not negotiable

Write your blocking down in pencil. Be flexible with changes – sometimes the original idea doesn't work and things change. Don't say, "But before you said...." Just make the change.

PREP FOR DRESS REHEARSAL:

- Costumes must be taken care of. No food stains, can't be worn out as street clothes, and if wrinkled please steam ahead of time.
- Shoes need to be clean and practiced in already. You will know what shoes need to be worn at the beginning of the trimester.
- Nail polish needs to be removed unless specified by the director as a character choice.
- For shows you need nice, fresh tights: no holes or stains. Undergarments must be clean and washed.
- During a show there is no standing in the wings to watch other performers.

DRESS REHEARSAL:

- Call time is 2 hours before the show to ensure you are as prepared as possible.
- Fight call and sound check is mandatory to ensure no one gets hurt and you sound great during your show.

- Again, set your props ahead of time on the table back stage, or near your belongings. Never touch someone else's props.
- Make up must be done for shows whether you are a boy or girl. Foundation, eye shadow, blush, lipstick. Make it appropriate to the character and era you are playing.
- Hair must be era appropriate, if you aren't given a note during dress rehearsal to change it, you are set for the show.
- **CLEAR** means get against a wall because a performer needs to be on stage. **HOLD** will only be said by your director because someone might be in danger. This means do not move and stay still.
- When performing make sure to hit your marks and keep the same track as before.
- When given a note reply with YES, OK, or THANK YOU. They are only to make you better.

PROMOTE THE SHOW YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD ON!!!!

Who is Who?



Mr. Aly Cardinalli, Dean/ED

Dean, American School of Inspiration
Executive Director, Druid Theater Arts
dean@asinspiration.com
info@druidtheater.com

Aly Cardinalli is the Dean at the American School of Inspiration, a performing arts school for adults in Damascus, MD. Aly was an established soloist ballet dancer and is now a performing arts specialist, a master choreographer, vocal director, and eastern regional award-winning theater director. Genres of expertise include modern, classical ballet, theater jazz, African, Hula, and tap. He is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy and earned a BFA in Musical Theater from The New School. He has certifications in education training, ballet, modern, life coaching, and skills training. He trains educators throughout the country and is also an accomplished operatic coach. Performing credits include: Jerry Mulligan in *An American in Paris*, Coricopat in *CATS*, Ensemble in *Once on This Island*, Seymour Krelborn in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Trepak in *Nutcracker*.

Choreography/Directing credits include: *CATS*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *King & I*, *Chicago*, *Contact*, *Swan Lake*, *Batboy*, *Dracula*, *Giselle*, *Victor/Victoria*.

Complete bio at [@mralycardinalli](http://www.asinspiration.com)



Ms. Tracey Durr, Professor/AD

Artistic Director, Druid Theater Arts
tracey@americanschoolofinspiration.com

Ms. Durr is originally from Rochester, NY, where she began her dance training. A graduate of SUNY at Brockport, with a BA in Liberal Studies, Ms. Durr has performed in musicals, dance showcases, as a guest soprano soloist for the Genesee Symphony Orchestra, and has choreographed extensively in upstate New York, Nashville, TN, and the DMV. Most recently, Ms. Durr has added a variety of fitness certifications to her educational offerings – she especially enjoys teaching Zumba, Cize, and Barre. Ms. Durr also teaches guitar. Ms. Durr not only teaches, but is also the eternal student. She continues to study at Washington Ballet, Sunking Dance (Richmond, VA), as well as attending master classes and workshops around the country. Above all, she believes the arts should be fun and accessible to all.



Ms. Stephanie Solyst, Professor/Acting President

Acting President for Druid Theater Arts
info@asinspiration.com

Stephanie Solyst she was selected as the 1982 Sterling Scholar in Visual Arts. Stephanie holds a BA from Utah State University in technical theater and performance art with an emphasis in oral interpretation. At one time, Stephanie was the youngest and only female licensed member of the Utah Storytellers Guild. She was also a founding member of the Literature to Life Performance Art Company, which brought to life the works of Kafka, Ray Bradbury and D.H. Lawrence.

Stephanie got her start teaching at the Unicorn Theater with the Cache Valley Center for the Arts in Logan, UT and at The Hillside School, a boarding school for teenagers with language-based learning disabilities.

Stephanie came to the East coast to pursue a master's degree in art therapy and has been teaching at Montgomery College in Rockville since 2003. She teaches in the challenge program, which is an open enrolment program for adults and teens with special needs. She teaches classes such as Painting, Cartooning, and Social skills. She has directed the summer Encore program, a musical reader's theater, since 2004. She also teaches life skills, science, art and art history in the graduate transition program, a two-year certificate program for adults with developmental differences.

Q & A

I just want to take class, and I don't want to perform. Can I just take classes?

Sorry, no. If the class is performing that trimester and you are enrolled, you are agreeing to perform in the show, coming to class to learn the performance, attending dress rehearsals, and paying costume fees. At the beginning of the trimester, if you realize you are not able to perform, we are happy to transfer you to another class that isn't performing. Also, you can transfer up until the costume fee is due. At that point you are committed to the performance and you will be required to pay a \$100 drop-show fee if you quit after that.

Can I just do month to month?

We are a school and plan a 15-week program accordingly. You are committing to pay and attend all four months.

What if I have a medical emergency and need to drop?

Please email info@asinspiration.com with your doctor's note. In most cases, you can continue learning these amazing art forms while injured, and we HIGHLY encourage you to still come to class. If, for some reason, your medical emergency prevents you from coming into the building, we will accept a drop at that time.

I don't want my credit card on file

This is the only way we accept payment. Our front desk staff is there to help you navigate through this school, but we do not have full-time financial supporters. We do an automatic deduction of tuition from your card on the 1st of the month. This is the only way we accept tuition amounts. Once it is in the system, we are unable to even see the card number, so your information is secure.

How do I get a better part in shows?

First, let your desires known by the director or the dean of the school. At that time, the director or dean will let you know what skills, time commitment, and areas of weakness need attention in order for you to meet your goals. The harder you work, and the more committed you are to the school and your education, the more likely you will get cast in bigger roles.

What is the HEART program?

HEART stands for Holistic Education Art Related Training, and it is a 3000-hour

conservatory level certificate of completion. Most students take four years to complete the program, but it can be completed as quickly or as slowly as you are willing to commit to. All students are graded in every aspect of participation at American School of Inspiration and Druid Theater Arts. These students get first pick at ONO presentations, free workshops, free field trips, private invitations to dress rehearsals of any Druid Theater Arts or American School of Inspiration performances, and they get guidance in their area of focus by our expert staff. Want to really become a performer? Become a HEART student.

How do I become a HEART student?

Simple. Navigate to www.americanschoolofinspiration.com and go to the HEART tab. Find an audition date, select your area of focus (you can have several - dance, music, theater, and/or design), and apply. You'll then audition and be interviewed. Once in, you have a meeting with an advisor, who will make sure you sign up for the right classes and that you focus on your craft without distraction.

I don't like my class; how do I transfer?

Easy. In the lobby, fill out a transfer form. At the top, enter the class you'd like to transfer out of and which one you'd like to join.

Are there scholarships?

Yes, but they are limited. You'll have to set up an audition, just like you would for the HEART program in order to qualify for financial aid.

What if my class is canceled?

We try our best to hold the classes that we put on the schedule, but every once in a while, classes get canceled because we don't have enough enrollment. If we can't find a class you'd like to substitute, then we will cancel your contract.

Snow day policy?

We have scheduled enough time in the Spring trimester to be able to cancel every class day one time. If we cancel more than one time in the trimester, we will reschedule the class. Either way, we encourage you to try a class as a makeup.

What is ETG? They get to perform a lot and I want to be a part of that!

ETG is a repertory theater company. Auditions for this company are in May. They perform 3-4 shows per year. They rehearse weekly on Saturdays. The Empower Theater Group (ETG) uses only 1/8th of the time to put up a show that a regular theater group uses. We have determined that performers are capable of character development and memorization without the assistance of a director. ETG only rehearses 1-2 times per week and produce their shows in 6-8 weeks, sometimes learning 2 shows at a time. It's a fun and exciting environment, but it requires one season (1 year) of dedication and commitment.

What is Visionary Dance Company and how do I get into that company?

Visionary Dance Company is a pre-professional dance company in which dancers learn what it's like to have the life of a professional dancer. This includes rehearsals for shows all year round. This company is "paid" by discounted education at the school. We have two levels of commitment for those who have the performance ability to participate in this company—one for those who are highly committed to dance and one for those who want to be able to have a little flexibility.

Do you have competition teams?

We do not have competition teams. We believe that competition teams provide a false sense of accomplishment and don't teach dancers how to be actors. We also believe the element of competition is contrary to the practice of art.

Do you have recitals?

Nope. Instead, artists perform in various full-length professional-grade productions in order to build their resumes and have the real experience of show business. Also, this allows for us to continue teaching in other areas instead of students losing technique because they are focused on one dance for 5 months. This is why our students learn 3X faster than at other studios.

Welcome American School of Inspiration

9840 Main Street

Second Floor

Damascus MD, 20872