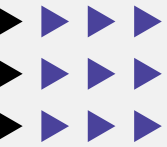
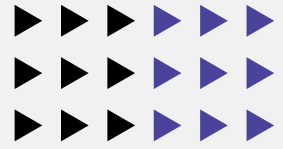




BALLET ETUDES

SINCE 1986



2026 SHOWCASE HANDBOOK



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Philosophy, Policies and Procedures	01
Key Information	02
Staying Informed	03
PART 1: The Commitment	04
PART 2: Costumes	05
Costume Payment Schedule	06
Costume Care	07
PART 3: Tights, Shoes, Hair and Make Up	09
PART 4: Be Prepared	10
PART 5: Dress Rehearsal	11
Finale and Ettiquette	12
PART 6: Drop Off and Pick Up	13
PART 7: Recital Photography and Video	14
PART 8: Showcase Tickets	15
Volunteer information	16
Thank you	17



BALLET ETUDES

SINCE 1986

PHILOSOPHY, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES



Dear Parents and Students,

At BE Academy of Dance, we have been providing dancers with an exciting performance experience through our annual Showcase for over a decade. The Showcase is a cherished tradition at BE, evoking childhood memories for many. It is a significant milestone for thousands of young dancers, an opportunity to shine in front of loved ones that fills them with nervous excitement.

Our Showcase offers students a professionally directed performance, allowing them to share their hard work, dedication, and progress with their families and friends.

Performance opportunities are an essential part of our mission at BE. They not only prepare students for a potential dance career, they contribute to children's success in non-dance activities. The experience of performing helps build self-esteem and self-confidence, leading to better in-school presentations, improved social skills, and stronger interview abilities for future studies or job opportunities.

The rehearsal process is also a valuable learning experience. It helps children develop retention skills and collaborate with their fellow dancers. They learn the positive aspects of teamwork and performing for the best end result on stage!

We believe that commitment to Showcase is a shared responsibility between dancers and parents. To ensure clarity and understanding of our expectations regarding commitments and responsibilities, we have created this handbook.



KEY INFORMATION



Key Contact Information

Mailing Address: 1455 S Stapley Drive in Mesa

Telephone Number: (480) 558-2080

Tuition/Payment Address: office@balletetudes.net

Showcase/Lower Levels: admin@balletetudes.net

General Information: info@balletetudes.net

Website: balletetudes.net



STAYING INFORMED



We strive to make the dance experience organized and enjoyable for everyone. Keeping you well-informed is one of our top priorities. Please make sure to read all newsletters and other studio information.

Newsletters and important updates are emailed to you, and updates are broadcast on our lobby television.

We respond to emails on a regular basis. Feel free to email any questions about Showcase to us at admin@balletetudes.net.

Our website, www.balletetudes.net is constantly updated with news, important information for parents and students, contact details, and more. It is accessible 24 hours a day.

For updates and exciting posts follow us on Instagram @balletetudes

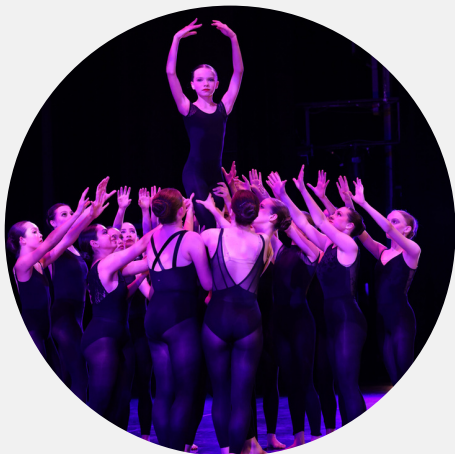
For daily updates on studio events, please "like" our Ballet Etudes page on Facebook. We also encourage you to invite your family and friends to "like" BE.



BALLET ETUDES

SINCE 1986

PART I: THE COMMITMENT



IMPORTANT SHOWCASE DATES

By allowing your child to participate in BE Showcase, you commit yourself and/or your child to the following dates and events.

Commitment Form Due: February 14, 2026

Costume and Participation Fees Due: February 28, 2026

Dress Rehearsal Morning of: Saturday, May 30, 2026

Matinee and Evening Performance(s): Saturday, May 30, 2026

*Ballet Levels 3 and up will have rehearsals on weekends (Friday evenings or Saturdays) Check with your dancer's instructor for more details.

UPDATES

As the season progresses, we will distribute additional Showcase information or updates in our Studio Newsletter and through additional Showcase specific emails. It is your responsibility to stay updated with this important information.

Our goal is to make the performance an organized and exciting experience for everyone involved. It's a team effort involving dancers, parents, volunteers, instructors, and the Artistic Staff to ensure the success of the show.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

To ensure dancers feel confident and are well-rehearsed, a minimum attendance requirement of 75% of the enrolled classes per month is required. This includes rehearsals required outside of class time. Dancers not meeting the attendance requirement may not be allowed to perform in the Showcase. This will be determined by BE instructors and Artistic Staff.



PART 2: COSTUMES



We spend extensive time selecting costumes for each class, ensuring they are age-appropriate and of the highest quality possible.

Ballet classes will need one costume, while all other classes (Contemporary, Jazz, Modern and Tap) will have a unique costume. Costumes include all accessories (hats, gloves, etc.), but not tights or shoes.

To ensure timely delivery of costumes for organized distribution to our dancers, costume orders are placed by March. We strive to keep costs low by searching for the best options.

NOTE: Please refrain from wearing jewelry with costumes. This applies during dress rehearsals and performances. All dancers with a costume change need to wear a nude, camisole leotard underneath their costumes. Also, be mindful of underwear choices (avoid prints or visible straps). Boys need to wear dance belt under tights. Nail polish and fake tattoos are not allowed.

FEES & PAYMENT



A **performance fee of \$50** is required for each dancer, non-company member. This fee helps offset the cost of the theater rental and technical crew for Showcase.

The estimated cost of costumes is \$25-\$63 for child sizes and \$42-\$76 for adult sizes, based on 2025 prices. Additional charges may apply for any special orders (determined by the costume company). Any additional charges are the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian. Accessories like headpieces or gloves *are* included in the costume cost, while tights and shoes *are not*.

Costumes will only be ordered once costume deposits have been paid. Parents or guardians are fully responsible for all expenses, including surcharges and postage for late costume orders.

Costume manufacturers do not accept cancellations or offer refunds; therefore, the studio does not refund costume deposits.

BE Academy cannot be held responsible if costumes are not received in time for the Showcase due to late payments.



COSTUME PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Participation and costume fees are due February 28, 2026.

No refunds will be provided if a parent or guardian withdraws a child from the studio after costumes have been ordered and prior to the performance. Purchased costumes can be picked up at the studio during the costume distribution period and up to 15 days after the performance. Costumes not picked up within 15 days will be donated to charity.

All costumes are age-appropriate and of the highest quality possible.



Sizing

Costume measurements may be taken by the parent with the assistance of our desk volunteers or instructors during desk hours. Measurements help guide correct costume sizes. Where possible, samples will be provided for dancers to try-on to determine size. When in doubt size up! Most of our dancers are still growing.



Alterations

While alterations are rarely necessary, they may be required after the costumes have been distributed. Any needed alterations are the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian.



Distribution

Costumes will be distributed once all outstanding balances for the season, including tuition fees, are paid in full. The deadline for all balance payments is May 10, 2026.

We recommend trying on all costumes and accessories as soon as you bring them home. This allows you to ensure you have all the necessary items and identify any alterations needed. Doing this well in advance of Showcase minimizes stress during the performance.



COSTUME CARE

We advise labeling all costumes, shoes, accessories, and tights with your child's name. Place the costumes in a garment bag with your child's name on the outside. Pack accessories in a clear plastic bag labeled with your child's name. Store hats in a hatbox or similar container to prevent damage. You should not need to iron any of the costumes, but if you have any cotton garments, please press them carefully before the dress rehearsal and performance. Do not wash costumes prior to the performance. Hang items up to allow any wrinkles to fall out.

Please remove any tags that may hang out of the costume and sew any loose or unattached costume straps prior to performance day. We will provide instructions on how to wear headpieces during dress rehearsal. NOTE: To ensure that there are no costume problems, students should refrain from wearing their costumes, accessories, or tights before the dress rehearsal, or performance.



Ironing

We do not recommend using a traditional iron when pressing costumes. Silks can burn, sequins can melt, and fabric colors may change. Please only use a steamer for costumes and exercise caution due to the glues used to attach appliqués and/or trims.



Tutu maintenance

To take care of tutus, gently shake the waistband and use your fingers to straighten any wrinkled tulle pieces. Store tutus upside down on a hanger. If persistent wrinkles remain, hang the tutu in the bathroom during a shower or use a handheld steamer. Remember to label all costumes, shoes, accessories, and tights with your dancer's name.



TIPS: Costume Common Sense

Always have a spare pair of tights available. Use a garment bag when traveling with costumes. Protect hats by carrying them in a hatbox or container. Before each performance, hang costumes. Ensure your name is on all costumes and shoes.

COSTUME CARE



Quick Costume Changes

During the performance, some dancers may have quick costume changes. A dedicated team of chaperones (moms) will assist these dancers. A quick-change area is provided. Dancers can pre-set their costumes and accessories backstage. All dancers with a costume change must wear a nude leotard underneath their costumes.



Costume Cover Ups

When students are in costume but not performing, they must wear a cover-up. A bathrobe or oversized T-shirt works well. Cover-ups help keep the muscles warm and prevent costumes from becoming soiled.



PART 3:

TIGHTS, SHOES, HAIR AND MAKEUP



Tights

We recommend getting new tights for the showcase. Avoid wearing or washing them before the dress rehearsal or performance. Having a spare pair of tights provides a sense of security for dancers and parents. Contemporary, Jazz, Modern and Tap may require different tights or leggings. Please check with your dancer's instructor to ensure you have the proper tights.



Shoes

For ballet classes girls are required to have pink ballet slippers. Boys are required to have black ballet slippers with black socks or tights. For all other classes, please ask your dancer's instructor.



Hair and makeup

All female students must wear makeup for the concert, including lipstick, blush, eye shadow, and mascara. Boys may use light blush, lipstick and mascara.

Uniform hairstyles are required. Girls wear their hair in a bun. Boys hair is to be combed away from the face and smoothed down. Gel, mousse and hairspray are used to keep hair neat and in place.

PART 4 BE PREPARED



Planning for Showcase is not just a one-day event. Gather all costumes, accessories, shoes, and makeup several days in advance to ensure everything is complete and in order.

Create a checklist of your dancer's routines, listing the **costume, tights, shoes, and any accessories**, and refer to it before going to the theater to make sure they have all the necessary supplies.

Bring at least one **extra pair of tights** in each color. Additionally, bring **extra hair gel, hairnets, bobby pins, and hairspray**.

TIPS OTHER HANDY EXTRAS

Baby wipes/makeup removers (for fixing makeup mistakes or washing hands)

Baby powder (for itchy costumes)

Safety pins (for emergency costume repairs)

Clear nail polish (for repairing minor holes or runs in tights)

Band-Aids (the "invisible" kind)

SNACKS

Please do not send your dancer to the dress rehearsal or the performance with snacks or beverages that could stain their costumes.

Opt for non-messy snacks like crackers, energy bars, apples, carrot sticks, or string cheese. Only water is allowed backstage.

Avoid sending nut products, juice or candy.



PART 5 DRESS REHEARSAL



Participation in the dress rehearsal is mandatory. It allows students to become familiar with the auditorium, feel comfortable with their performance, costumes, and being on stage. We rehearse lighting, music cues, set changes, and all other logistical aspects of a professional performance to ensure the best possible impression.

WHY A DRESS REHEARSAL?

Parents often wonder about the importance of dress rehearsal for their child. In fact, the dress rehearsal is crucial for a successful performance. Here's why:

The stage is much larger than the classroom and can be intimidating for children. Stage lights can be overwhelming and disorienting for young dancers. Modifications to the choreography may be made during the dress rehearsal. Dancers who miss the rehearsal won't have the opportunity to practice any changes on stage. Classroom mirrors often assist students with spacing and formations. Dancing without the security of a mirror before the performance is vital for building confidence. Dancers can practice their stage entrances, exits, and become comfortable in a large performance space. Confidence is crucial for a successful performance, and the dress rehearsal provides an opportunity for students to feel prepared for the show.

Another significant reason why the dress rehearsal is important is that our curriculum emphasizes teamwork and commitment to classmates. When children miss the rehearsal, it can cause confusion for the other dancers, affecting spacing and timing.

We conduct a well-organized and timely dress rehearsal, and your cooperation will ensure a professional production. Please check your notes for arrival times. Dancers may arrive in their first performance costume, as long as they wear a cover-up.



FINALE

All dancers will participate in the finale. Dancers will line up with their class; younger dancers will be led by our Pre-Professional Division students.

DRESSING ROOM ETIQUETTE

Dancers must respect each other's space and belongings in the dressing rooms. Since dancers spend more time in the dressing rooms than on stage or in the auditorium, it's essential to keep them organized and clean. **We have students with severe nut allergies, so absolutely no nuts are allowed in the dressing rooms.**

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

We encourage enthusiastic applause during the performance. The more energy you give us, the more excited our dancers become!

Children should not bring handheld electronic games or devices with sounds and lights that could distract other audience members.

As we strive to present a professional performance, we kindly request that everyone remains seated throughout the entire show. If you need to leave the auditorium during the performance, you will be allowed re-entry only between pieces. We strictly enforce this policy to avoid any disruptions with the auditorium ushers.

Children must remain seated for the entire performance. If you believe your child will have difficulty staying seated, we recommend not bringing them to the performance. Allowing children to run around or disrupt the performance is unfair to other audience members.

Please note that video recording and flash photography are strictly prohibited during the showcase. We kindly request that you inform your guests about this policy as well. Performances will be professionally videotaped and a digital download will be available for purchase.



BALLET ETUDES

SINCE 1986

PART 6: STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICKUP REQUIREMENTS

DRESS REHEARSAL

Parents or guardians should bring their dancer(s) to the backstage doors on the west side of Chandler Center for the Arts. They will be checked in and placed under the supervision of their chaperone. Parents may enter the lobby on the east side of CCA to wait for their dancer to be dismissed from rehearsal. The lobby monitors will have a live feed of the rehearsal on stage.

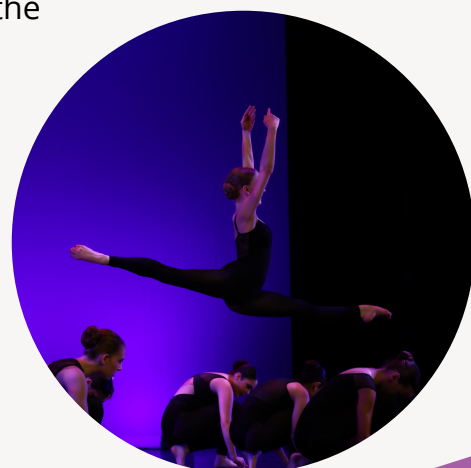
Students will be dismissed from the rehearsal once they have completed all of their pieces. When a class finishes its last performance, a volunteer will bring the group to the lobby to be checked out by a parent or guardian.

Parents are not allowed in the auditorium once the children have been checked in for the rehearsal, unless they are the volunteer chaperone. **Be sure to watch for an email with the sign-up to be one of our parent volunteer chaperones!**

PERFORMANCE

Parents or guardians should bring their dancer(s) to the backstage doors on the west side of Chandler Center for the Arts. They will be checked in and placed under the supervision of their chaperone. Parents are not allowed in the dressing rooms. Dancers will remain backstage for the entire performance. After the finale, dancers will gather by class level at the backstage doors. They will be signed out to a parent or guardian by a volunteer or by their instructor.

NOTE: Please do not attempt to pick up your child during the performance. All dancers will be supervised by responsible adults and will remain safe throughout the performance. The dressing rooms will be equipped with various activities and a video feed of the performance.



BALLET ETUDES

SINCE 1986

PART 7: PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOS



SHOWCASE PHOTOS

Our BE Academy backdrop will be in the lobby of Chandler Center for the Arts during dress rehearsal. Parents and dancers are welcome to take their own photos at the conclusion of their dancer's dress rehearsal.

SHOWCASE VIDEO PURCHASE

A digital download of our showcase will be available for purchase. **Watch for order information in our Showcase emails and BE Newsletters.**

It's a wonderful keepsake and your dancers will love being transported back in time and reliving all the magic again!



BALLET ETUDES

SINCE 1986

PART 8: TICKETS



Ticket Sales Ticket can be purchased through the Showcase Performance link at www.balletetudes.net

TICKET PRICES

Tickets are \$15 plus applicable venue and ticketing fees.

Please verify which performance your dancer(s) are in before purchasing tickets. Levels 4 through PPD will perform in both matinee and evening shows.



PART 9: POLICIES



VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Due to child protection laws and Ballet Etudes policy, no video or photography will be allowed at the showcase. Security guards and or ushers will request that any cameras be returned to your car.

BACKSTAGE

Family members and friends are not permitted backstage or in the dressing rooms during rehearsals or the performance, including intermission and before/after the show. Backstage areas are bustling with activity, and the dressing rooms are private spaces. We kindly ask you to respect these areas and remind your family and guests to do the same. You may greet the performers and present flowers at the backstage doors after the performance.

PROPS

All props used in the showcase are the property of Ballet Etudes and must be returned to the backstage prop master after the performance.

Props include items like canes, chairs, etc.



BALLET ETUDES

SINCE 1986

No video or photography will be allowed at Showcase.

PARENT VOLUNTEER

INFORMATION



An orientation session will be held for all parent volunteers who must adhere to Ballet Etudes policies. Showcase weekend can be hectic, and volunteers must work cooperatively at all times. Our staff and lead volunteers work hard to establish an efficient system. **We ask that all volunteers rely on their experience and follow their instructions.**

All backstage crew will receive an identification badge during rehearsals, which must be worn in the theater at all times. Please refrain from bringing guests, including children, while volunteering.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We need class mothers to supervise each class, ensuring the safety and well-being of the dancers. Volunteer moms do not need a showcase ticket and will watch their children perform from the audience during the dress rehearsal and from the side stage during the show. Their responsibilities include ensuring that each child wears the correct costume, accessories, and shoes, is backstage at the appropriate time, and returns to the designated dressing room after the performance.

The number of volunteers needed for each class will depend on the number of dancers. If there are too many volunteers for one class, some may be asked to assist dancers from another class. During their own children's performances, volunteers may watch their dancers from the wings backstage.

If you're interested in being a chaperone, please email admin@balletetudes.net with your name, contact information, and the class you would like to supervise.



BALLET ETUDES

SINCE 1986

Thank you:

Thank you for taking the time to read our Showcase Handbook.

We hope that it provides you with a comprehensive understanding of the commitment, policies, and procedures for our annual showcase.

We look forward to an exciting and successful showcase season, filled with memorable performances and proud moments for our dancers.

If you have any questions or need further clarification on any of the information provided in this handbook, please do not hesitate to contact us at the studio or via email.

We are here to support you and ensure that the showcase experience is enjoyable and rewarding for everyone involved.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to BE Academy of Dance.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE OUR DANCERS SHINE ON STAGE!

Best regards,
Ballet Etudes Artistic Staff and Instructors



Showcase Email Address
admin@balletetudes.net



Address
1455 S Stapley Drive, Mesa



Phone call
(480) 558-2080



Website
www.balletetudes.net