



Atlanta Jazz Theatre

Company Overview & Requirements

About AJT

Dan and Company Studios was started by Dan Youmans in 1970. Atlanta Jazz Theatre is the resident performance/competitive company, and is separate from the Dan and Company recreational classes.

For over 50 years, AJT has trained dancers who have gone on to Broadway, Los Angeles, Disney World, touring productions, and college dance programs.

We bring in professional choreographers and teachers from across the country to give dancers high-level training in various disciplines and performance experience.

Company Levels

Dancers are placed based on **ability, potential, work ethic, attendance, and behavior**—not just age. The age ranges below are **averages**, not limiting requirements. Dancers typically spend **at least** two years in each level.

Company levels include:

- Sparks (6-8)
- Mini (8-10)
- Junior (9-12)
- Intermediate (11-15)
- Senior (14+)
- Pre-Professional (16+)

Important:

All placement decisions are made by a professional judging panel and are final.

Performance Opportunities

AJT members perform throughout the year, including:

- Light Up Dunwoody Festival
 - Community Event to celebrate winter holidays - 1 dance per level.
- Winter Showcase
 - A competition showcase for upper companies (Intermediate, Senior, and PrePro only)
- In-Studio Showcase
 - A competition showcase for lower companies (Junior, Mini, and Sparks only)
- Competitions/conventions
 - AJT participates in regional competitions throughout late winter and spring. While AJT doesn't center their calendar around competitions, the faculty values the objective feedback that comes from adjudication, as well as the educational component of dance conventions, and the exposure company dancers get to industry experts. The number of competitions and conventions vary per level:
 - Senior/PrePro: 3 (all conventions/competitions)
 - Intermediate: 2 (both conventions/competitions)
 - Junior and Mini: 2 (one competition, one convention/competition)
 - Sparks: 1 (competition only)
- **Spring Concert (main event of the year)** – a full weekend of performances
 - AJT is and always has been a concert dance based-company. Concert dance is meant to be like a moving art gallery, whereas competitive dance is more on the commercial side. There are merits to both, but AJT is one of the few companies in metro Atlanta that emphasizes concert dance for young dancers.
 - Spring Concert is meant to showcase artistic works. Concert pieces are usually thought-provoking, darker, longer, and more abstract than competition pieces. This is a completely different show than Showcase or Recital, and gives AJT dancers and choreographers an opportunity to display more diverse work.
- Dan and Company Recital
 - All AJT dancers are required to participate in recital

Required Commitments

Summer & Pre-Season

- Attend **1 full week of Summer Intensive**
 - Junior/Intermediate/Senior: June 8-12 or June 15-19
 - Sparks/Mini: July 27-30
- Attend **Company Week:** August 3-6
 - Junior, Intermediate, and Senior only

Competitions/Conventions

- Senior/PrePro: 2 local, one optional short-distance travel (all conventions/competitions)
- Intermediate: 2 local (both conventions/competitions)
- Junior and Mini: 2 local (one competition, one convention/competition)
- Sparks: 1 local (competition only)

Competition Showcase

- In-Studio presentation for Sparks, Mini, and Junior; Onstage Presentation for Intermediate, Senior, and Pre Professional.

Spring Concert

- **Dress Rehearsal on 3/25, Shows 3/26-3/27**

Recital

- **Dress Rehearsal on 5/15, Shows on 5/16**

Rehearsals

- Weekly Sunday rehearsals (starting late Jan/early Feb)
- Additional rehearsals before major performances
 - While all weekend rehearsals are considered mandatory, unexcused absences the weekend before a performance or competition could affect dancer's ability to participate in said performance or competition, especially if the dancer does not know their choreography
- Choreography is taught on specific weekends (Sept–Jan)
 - If missed, the dancer **may not be included** in that piece (see below for details)

Attendance Policy

- **75% attendance** → Eligible for **contract renewal**
- **80% attendance** → Eligible to **move up a level**
 - Eligibility does not guarantee advancement
- **85% attendance** → Eligible for:
 - **Solo** (Intermediate, Senior, Pre-Pro)
 - Eligibility does not guarantee selection
 - **Small group** (Junior)
 - Eligibility does not guarantee selection

Note: Convention classes count toward all attendance percentages.

- All absences must be submitted through an **Excused Absence Form**
- Absences must be **approved by a faculty member**

Missing Choreography Rehearsals

In-house choreographers can choose to save spots for missing dancers or not **at their own discretion.**

- **Some choreographers, especially guests, might not be able to save spots for dancers not in attendance because they aren't familiar with ability, movement style, etc.**
- Dancers are expected to catch up on missed choreography on their own time, and must be caught up within 2 weeks of missed rehearsal

Excused Absences

- **Contagious illness**
(strep, COVID, flu, lice, hand-foot-mouth, norovirus, fever, vomiting, etc.)
 - Dancers are encouraged to **attend and observe** when possible
 - If sitting out, dancer must sit for the **entire class**
 - More than **3 consecutive missed days** requires a **doctor's note**
 - **Missing convention classes for illness requires a doctor's note**
- **Healthcare appointment**
- **Family emergency**
- **School function for a grade**
- **Religious holiday**

Not Considered Excused

- Birthday parties
- Minor illnesses or discomfort (cold, menstrual cramps, soreness)
- Social events
- practices/games related to other sports
- homework/studying

Weekly Class Requirements

“*” notes dance in Dan and Company Recital

- Sparks:
 - Jazz*
 - Ballet*
 - Hip Hop/Contemporary*
- Mini:
 - 2 Ballet Classes (one recital dance)*
 - Lyrical/Contemporary*
 - Jazz*

- Hip Hop*
- Junior:
 - 2 Ballet Classes (one recital dance)*
 - Lyrical/Contemporary*
 - 2 Jazz Classes (one recital dance)*
 - Tap*
 - Hip Hop*
- Intermediate:
 - 2 Ballet Classes (one recital dance)*
 - Lyrical/Contemporary*
 - 2 Jazz Classes (one recital dance)*
 - Tap*
 - Hip Hop*
- Senior/PrePro:
 - 2 Ballet Classes (one recital dance)*
 - Stretch/Conditioning/Body Awareness
 - 2 Jazz Classes (one recital dance)*
 - Contemporary*
 - Hip Hop*

Company dancers are also welcome to join any additional recreational classes at a discounted rate.

Fees & Costs

Company Dues

- \$250 for Sparks and Mini, \$350 for Junior, Intermediate, Senior, and Pre Professional
 - (due June 1 with contract)
- Covers Spring Concert costs (costumes & choreographers)

Monthly Tuition (11- Month payment plan charged July 1st - May 1st)

- By Level:
 - Sparks: \$277
 - Mini: \$394 (\$462 with optional but highly encouraged Hip Hop)
 - Junior: \$579
 - Intermediate: \$658
 - Senior: \$646
 - PreProfessional: \$671
- Includes:
 - All required classes
 - Required competitions/conventions (base fees for entry and group dances - does not include small groups or solos)
 - Recital costumes
 - Recital fees

Additional Costs

- Extra competitions (~\$500 each)
 - Solos, duos, small groups (extra)
 - Guest master classes (extra)
 - Advanced choreography (Intermediate/Senior)
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Expectations & Conduct

- Strong commitment from both dancer **and parent**
- Dance must take priority over conflicting activities (cheer, sports, school teams, etc.)
- Positive attitude is required
- **Bullying or disrespect = removal from company**

Culture

AJT is a **supportive, close-knit community** focused on:

- Teamwork
- Positivity
- High standards in discipline and behavior

Final Note

Joining AJT is a serious commitment. Like all youth sports and activities, dance education goes beyond preparing for the stage. Dancers are expected to develop important life skills such as accountability, punctuality, teamwork, discipline, time management, communication, leadership, and resilience.

These expectations are supported by the entire AJT community—faculty, dancers, and parents alike. Families should carefully consider whether they are able to meet these commitments before signing the contract.