

élan

DANCE COMPANY

Élan Dance Company 2017-2018

This pre-professional regional company provides an entry point into the world of dance performance, helping its members gain a comprehensive knowledge of what it means to be part of a dance company. Dancers 9 and older are encouraged to audition and experience the quality of choreography and instruction. The Company will perform various genres of dance through local events and the annual production in the spring showcasing the company.

Élan Dance Company Audition Date:

Auditions are **Tuesday, May 23** at the ARRC, room 123. There is no fee to audition. Dancers should wear athletic or dance attire and ballet or jazz shoes. For further information, contact Kristy Meza, kmeza@napervilleparks.org or 630-848-3618.

- Junior Company (ages 9-12) 5:00-6:00pm
- Apprentice Company (ages 12-15) 6:15-7:15pm
- Senior Company (ages 14-21) 7:30-8:30pm



Élan Dance Company Staff



Stacey Fontechia, Choreographer -Stacey has been dancing since she was three and has been teaching since 2001. She is trained in hip-hop, jazz, tap, lyrical, ballet, and pointe, and has been competing and coaching competition teams since 2001. She has competed twice in the Miss Dance Illinois Pageant and went on to compete twice in the Miss Dance USA Pageant ranking 18th in the country. Her credentials also include The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago's "Nutcracker"; UDA All-Star; and Dancing in the New York City Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Stacey was also the captain of the Waubonsie Valley High School Poms team leading her team to the UDA Nationals in Orlando Florida and the WVHS Orchesis Troupe. Along with this she's a graduate of the Comedy Studies Program at The Second City Chicago, former intern at CNN, FOX Chicago News, and Windy City Poker Championship. Stacey is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago with degrees in Broadcast Journalism and Marketing. She currently coaches the nationally ranked Steps Elite Poms Team, and works as the Sales and Sponsorship Manager at the Naperville Park District.



Rita Coronado, Choreographer Rita began dancing at the age of 3 at Steppin' out Dance Company in Aurora. She attended Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa and earned a B.A. in English and Women's Studies. While in school, she was a member of the Cornell Studio Dance Troupe and eventually became the president for the last 2 years. Rita also taught advanced tap at Dance Arts Iowa. After graduation, Rita returned to Illinois where she became a teacher at the Compass School and taught music and movement classes to all students 15 months-7 years old. She is thrilled to be a part of the Naperville Park District dance family, teaching ballet, tap, and creative movement.



Haleigh Hutchinson, Choreographer -Haleigh has been dancing since she was three years old. She has trained at The Dance Center at Columbia College of Chicago, Pineapple Studios in London, and North Central College. Haleigh has a BA in Musical Theatre Performance with a Minor in Dance from North Central College. In 2009 Haleigh was accepted to the Rockettes Summer Dance Intensive in NYC. In the fall of 2014 she performed in *King Lear* at Chicago Shakespeare theatre on Navy Pier. Haleigh has performed in a variety of musical theatre venues in the Chicagoland area. Haleigh is trained in ballet, jazz, lyrical, hip hop, tap, and musical theatre dance. Haleigh loves working at the Naperville Park District.



Lindsay Stein, Choreographer -Lindsay has been a dancer for over 25 years and a teacher/choreographer for the last decade. She is trained in many styles including Jazz, Hip Hop, Tap, Contemporary, Poms, Musical Theatre, Acrobatics and more. In high school, she trained in the Kinesis Modern Dance Company and was the Varsity Poms Captain for two years where she led her team to Nationals and performed as a UDA All Star. In college, she danced with Hip Hop ConnXion Dance, attended Luvabulls Training Camp, and choreographed pieces for the Bolingbrook High School Poms Squad and Rancho Belago Dance Company. In the last five years, she has discovered that her true passion is to teach and mentor hopeful young dancers of all ages and abilities. In 2012, she implemented an after school dance program into a Southern California charter school and turned forty novice dancers into an award winning competition dance team and hasn't stopped pushing herself to be better since. Lindsay is thrilled to be a part of the Naperville Dance Academy & Élan Dance Company where she can continue to challenge, encourage and be creative with her students.



Faye Tabor, Choreographer -Faye began dancing at the age of four at The School of Performing Arts in Naperville, IL. While there, she performed and competed as a member of the Dance Ensemble, earning numerous high score and special awards including the "You Be the Judge" award, a dance scholarship from the Chicago Human Rhythm project and a second place finish in the Dance Chicago Dance Slam. Some of her performance highlights include the McDonald's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Taste of Chicago, and as the opening act for a Chicago Tap Theater performance in Naperville. She graduated from DePaul University in 2014 where she choreographed and performed with Revelations Dance Company and studied modern dance. Currently, Faye is a graduate student at Northwestern University studying higher education administration and policy. She also performs with Dig Tap Society under the direction of Sarah Savelli, and is continuing her dance studies under Lane Alexander, Mark Yonally and at the Joffery Dance Academy. She teaches classes that are both challenging and fun, fostering a passion for dance amongst her students.



Alexandra Webb, Choreographer -Alexandra Webb has a B.F.A. in Theatre with an emphasis in Dance Performance from Northern Illinois University. She has studied with many renowned dance professionals, including Joel Hall, Paula Frasz, Judith Chitwood, Robert McKee, and Autumn Eckman. She performs and teaches throughout the Chicago land area and has performed and choreographed with Northern Dance Theatre. She is thrilled to be a part of the Naperville Park District Dance Academy.



Katie Wickey, Choreographer-Katie began dancing at Steppin' Out Dance Company in Aurora when she was four years old. While attending Waubonsie Valley High School, she was on Varsity Poms and Orchesis, serving as president senior year in 2003. After moving to Grand Haven, Michigan, Katie danced competitively at Spotlight Dance Academy and won numerous awards at New York City Dance Alliance, LA Dance Force, and Hall of Fame Dance Challenge. While studying social work at Western Michigan University, she was a member of the Bronco Dance Team and part of the 2007 NDA National Dance Team Championship Team. Throughout college, she had the privilege to dance at Broadway Dance Center in NYC for two summer intensives and to dance for the Kalamazoo Xplosion Arena Football League. Upon returning back to Chicago, Katie was part of the Chicago White Sox Chevy Pride Crew and Schaumburg Flyers Flight Attendants dance team. From 2009-2011, she was the co-director of the Orchesis program at Schaumburg High School. She has continuously taken master classes from Joe Lanteri, Sonya Tayeh, Frank Hatchett, and through Joel Hall. Before coming to the Dance Academy and Élan Dance Company, Katie taught ballet, jazz, modern, and lyrical at Steppin' Out Dance Company. It is a pleasure to be part of the dance family at Naperville Park District!



Kristy Meza, Élan Artistic Director Kristy Meza is a singer, dancer, choreographer and fitness instructor in Chicago and Chicagoland area. After dancing with local studios while in high school, she studied dance at Columbia College Chicago then transferred to Northern Illinois University where she completed her B.F.A. in Theatre with an emphasis in Dance Performance. She is trained in many styles including musical theatre, jazz, ballet, hip hop, tap, modern, Latin and competitive dance and continues to devote her entire life teaching dance and fitness to help promote a healthy lifestyle. Kristy has trained with well respected choreographers such as Mia Michaels, Tyce Diorio, Laurieann Gibson and with several local dance professionals including Paula Frasz, Judith Chitwood, Autumn Eckman, Jimmy Payne Jr., and Michelle L'amour. Some of her credentials include "Nutcracker" Northern Dance Theatre, "Northern Dance Theatre Spring Concert" Northern Dance Theatre and several student choreographic showcases. Kristy is so excited to be a part of the Naperville Park District Dance Academy!

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What to expect at the audition:

We will look at how well the dancer picks up the age appropriate movement and their performance quality, in addition to technique. The dancers will be taught a short jazz combination and a short ballet combination so we can see various technical skills. There will be a portion of the audition where the dancers will have the chance to show any other technical skills or dance movements that weren't showcased within the audition material.

Élan Dance Company 2017-2018 – Course Commitments:

Junior Company (ages 9-12)	Apprentice Company (ages 12-15)	Senior Company (ages 14-21)
<p>-Must take one technique class per week (1.25 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Ballet· Jazz· Competition Dance <p>-Company rehearsal meets every Saturday (1.5 hours)</p> <p>-Several mandatory tech rehearsals and performances throughout the season</p> <p>Total hours a week commitment: Minimum 2.75 hours</p>	<p>-Must take two technique classes per week (3 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Ballet· Jazz· Modern/Contemp· Competition Dance <p>-Company rehearsal meets every Saturday (1.5 hours)</p> <p>-Several mandatory tech rehearsals and performances throughout the season</p> <p>Total hours a week commitment: Minimum 4.5 hours</p>	<p>-Must take two technique classes per week (3.5 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Ballet· Jazz· Modern/Contemp· Competition Dance <p>-Two company rehearsals weekly on Thursday & Saturday (3.5 hours)</p> <p>-Several mandatory tech rehearsals and performances throughout the season</p> <p>Total hours a week commitment: Minimum 7 hours</p>

Dance styles taught in Élan Choreography:

Dancers will have the opportunity to learn a variety of dance styles once accepted into the Company. We choose an eclectic group of pieces that range from traditional to avant-garde. Choreography may include ballet, jazz, hip-hop, tap, lyrical, contemporary, interpretive, cultural and more. There is no limit to the dance genres we may choose to represent during the season. Props may also be used.

Performance Opportunities:

Many performance opportunities are scheduled throughout the season starting in the summer with performances at the Millennium Carillon, Children’s Lunchtime Entertainment, dancing and singing the “5th inning stretch” at a Chicago Bandits game, Naperville’s Last Fling, and more. Our larger performances include the Scare-illon in October; Fox Valley Showcase in November; Chicago Toy & Game Fair in November; Élan Dance Company Showcase in April or May; and Spring Recitals in May. The company also strives to work with community outreach programs as well. Performances and outreach opportunities are mandatory. All opportunities will be communicated in advance once dates are set. We are always on the lookout for new and exciting opportunities for our dancers!



All parents of dancers accepted into Élan Dance Company are required to attend an informational meeting about the 2017-2018 dance season and company schedule.

Mandatory Parent meeting will be scheduled at the end of August 2017.

