

# Fall 2018 SHSU Dance: Getting Started!

Thank you for choosing Sam Houston State University for your education in dance! We are glad you are here. It's going to be an exciting year, and also a busy one.

## THE INITIAL DANCE MAJORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS:

**Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 1:00 – 2:00 pm, in the Dance Theater PAC 170**

The information that will be shared at the meeting includes:

- Introduction to faculty and staff
- Presentations by XTE, the dance honor society
- Calendar of planned events for the semester: performances, residencies, and holidays. Additional events may be scheduled within the semester. Check out website and/or your SHSU email regularly.
- Explanation on how to reserve studio space online
- You will be asked to fill out a contact sheet. You will need to provide your SHSU email account. This will be used to create out contact list for important information.

### Auditions for Faculty Repertory (Dance Spectrum Concert)

There are many performance opportunities in the Dance Department. Audition dates for performances such as, Dance Spectrum and Senior Studio, will be announced at the initial Majors Meeting. All dancers are encouraged to audition; ***students on scholarships are required to audition***. The format will be similar to the audition for admission to the Dance Program. Casting will be posted on the downstairs callboard within three days of all auditions being completed. The rehearsal schedule will be included at the time. ***If you are cast, and accept your casting, write your initials next to your name on the casting sheet. You will then be approved to enroll in DANC 4330, Repertory.***

### Dance Majors Meetings

**MANDATORY.** Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:00pm are reserved for dance majors meetings. The first Wednesday of every month will always be a majors meeting. We also use this time slot for production meetings, special guest lectures, etc. throughout the semester. We may not meet every Wednesday, but you should hold that time open. **Attendance is taken every meeting.** *Unexcused absences from majors meeting will result in deduction of credit from your dance technique courses. If you have a class conflict, email Jennifer Pontius ([dnc\\_jkp@shsu.edu](mailto:dnc_jkp@shsu.edu)) with your information.*

### Sources of Information

**Majors Meetings:** see information above.

**Your Dance Advisor:** You will be assigned an advisor in the Dance Program. The Sam Advisement Center does not advise Dance Majors. Before you enroll in courses each semester, you must make an appointment with your assigned advisor. This faculty member will keep track of your progress, make sure you have a degree declaration on file with the university, and will be your first contact should you have difficulties or questions regarding your schedule.

**The Dance Office:** The Dance Office is located in suite 150 of the James & Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Center. If you need help, or have questions, please come to the Dance Office, or just send us an email ([shsudance@shsu.edu](mailto:shsudance@shsu.edu)). We can either serve you directly, or refer you to the appropriate office on campus.

**Your SHSU email account:** Get in the habit of checking this email regularly. Not only does the Dance Department use it, but other university entities will also contact you through your Sam email. We will not continue to contact you through your Yahoo, Gmail, or other account once an SHSU email account has been established for you.

**Social Media:** Yes, we do have social media accounts, and we regularly post information on them regularly. Go ahead and follow us, you'll be glad that you did!

**Facebook – SHSU Dance**

**Twitter - @SHSU\_Dance**

**Instagram - @SHSU\_Dance**

**The Callboard:** There are callboards (bulletin boards) for various purposes both upstairs and downstairs. Get to know where they are, and what information is posted upon them.

#### **A Few Notes of Protocol...**

*Because professional behavior and communication skills are extremely important, if not more so, than your abilities as a dancer.*

1. Add your Sam ID numbers to your signature on your email account. This will greatly expedite our services for you.
2. The Dance Theater and studios are special spaces. We do not allow food or drinks in the studios, or in the theater. Water in a plastic container is permitted.
3. Street shoes are not to be worn on the dance floors.
4. If you are wearing tap shoes, make sure the screws do not protrude. They gouge the marley.
5. No cell phones shall be in use, nor shall they ring, during classes, meetings, rehearsals, or performances. This policy includes any laptop, iPad, iTouch, or other electronic device. Your grade will be affected by the discourtesy.
6. You are entering a profession, and we want to help you succeed in every aspect. In order for others to take you seriously, you must take yourself seriously in how you behave and present yourself. Beyond showing up for classes and rehearsals, this translates into respect for yourself, your peers, and your teachers.
7. Please make appointments when possible, rather than expecting staff or faculty to help you on the spot.
8. Be thoughtful of the close physical nature of dance. Please attend to your personal hygiene properly. **Be clean.** Avoid using strong colognes or perfumes. Launder your dance clothes. Wear appropriate undergarment.
9. When sending emails to faculty or staff, please include an informative subject line. Emails received with no subject, or merely "Hi" or "PLEASE READ ME", are likely to be deleted unread. Similarly, emails to faculty are fundamentally different from emails or text to your friends, and should be written with that in mind. Use a professional tone, correct spelling, and standard grammar.