## **OUR DIRECTORS**



**DENISE PAAVOLA**, Artistic Director, a Flint native, founded Young People's Ballet Theatre (YPBT) in 1988 and served as its' Artistic Director for twenty-four years. Between 1980 and 2012, she also owned and directed Paavola School of Dance, the primary training

school for YPBT. In 2012, she semi-retired and donated her school of dance to Young People's Ballet Theatre but remained on staff teaching our advanced students. In 2016. Denise returned as School Director of YPBT and is excited to return this year as Artistic Director once again. Her early dance training here in Flint led her to a professional dance career with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and Ballet Michigan. She also holds a BA degree in Elementary and Deaf Education from the University of Michigan and an MA in Learning Disabilities from Eastern Michigan University. Denise developed Young People's Ballet Theatre on the premise that all inspired dancers in Flint and surrounding areas are provided the opportunity to study with professional teachers and choreographers and perform classical ballets. Her unwavering passion for ballet and mentoring of young dancers is fundamental to our core philosophy here at YPBT.



DAN THOMPSON, School Director, studied ballet in his early years with Robert Davis, a former professional dancer from Washington Ballet. He has taught and danced with Young People's Ballet Theatre, Ballet Michigan, Flint Institute of Music and University of Michigan-Flint Theatre.

Dan's specialty in our school has been as teacher for our Boy's Class and Pas de Deux class. Last year, he developed our school's "Ensemble" group which offers a performance opportunity for our school's dancers who are not members of our company. In addition to his work with YPBT, Dan serves as the Artistic Director for the Nutcracker Ballet Theatre Company production in Port Huron, Vice-President of Trust Theatre Ensemble, and works as IT Manager at Landaal Packaging Systems. He has a degree in Computer Science, and has also studied technical theatre at the University of Michigan-Flint.

## WHY DANCE WITH US?

- Family Friendly And Nuturing Learning Environment
- Professionally Trained, Experienced Instructors
- A Progressive Classical Ballet Curriculum Beginning Age 3
- General And Pre-Professional Training
- Performance Opportunities With Our Company
- Boys Classes And Adult Classes Offered
- Ballet, Jazz, Pointe, Contemporary, Pas De Deux, Variations And Musical Theater Classes





# YOUNG PEOPLE'S **BALLET** THEATRE



Young People's Ballet Theatre enriches, inspires, and transforms our community through exceptional dance training and performance

> 5251 Commerce Rd • Flint, MI 48507 810.230.1355 • ypbt.org

YPBT is a 501c3 nonprofit organization depending on the generous support of our donors and patrons.

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S BALLET THEATRE

YPBT was founded in 1988 by Denise Paavola as a training school and performance company. We pride ourselves in producing young dancers who are technically skilled and appreciate the art of ballet. Although most of our dancers simply use their dancing as a means to make new friends and keep in shape, many have gone on to participate in college dance programs or have become professional ballet or contemporary dancers. We are proud of our accomplishments over the years and of the valuable lessons our students have learned.

# **OUR SCHOOL**

Our training is based on classical ballet technique, combined with a progressive syllabus, to guide our dancers ranging from three years old to preprofessional and adult. We offer classes in Creative Dance, Ballet, Pointe Technique, Pas de Deux, Variations, Contemporary, Jazz and Musical Theater Dance. Students showcase their work through lecture demonstrations and an optional yearly Ensemble performance. Many of our students also choose to join our performance company which performs at least three times a year. Our experienced team of teachers maintain excellent standards of technique in a nurturing environment. Students often continue their dance education here at YPBT throughout the summer months and have earned many scholarships to professional company-based summer dance intensives.



# OUR CLASS SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change)

#### MONDAY

5:00-6:30 Level 3b/4a Ballet – Studio B 5:00-6:30 Level 5b/6 Ballet – Studio A 6:30-7:30 Intermediate Jazz – Studio A 6:30-7:30 Level 5b/6 Pointe/Variations – Studio B

#### TUESDAY

5:00-6:30 Level 4b/5a Ballet/Pointe – Studio A 5:30-6:15 Mini Movers – Studio B 6:15-6:45 Boys 2 – Studio B 6:30-8:00 Level 5b/6 Ballet – Studio A 6:45-7:15 Boys 1 – Studio B 8:00-9:00 Pas de Deux – Studio A

#### WEDNESDAY

4:30-5:15 Mini Movers – Studio B 5:00-6:30 3b/4a Ballet – Studio A 5:30-6:15 Leap 'n Learn – Studio B 6:15-7:30 Level 1 Ballet, Character/Jazz – Studio B 6:30-8:00 Level 5b/6 Ballet – Studio A 7:30-8:30 Adult Ballet – Studio B 8:00-9:00 Level 5b/6 Variations – Studio A

#### THURSDAY

5:00-6:30 Level 2/3a Ballet – Studio B 5:00-6:30 Level 4b/5/6 Ballet – Studio A 6:30-7:00 Beginner Jazz – Studio B 6:30-7:30 Advanced Contemporary/Jazz/ Modern/Musical Theatre – Studio A

#### SATURDAY

10:00 Company Class and Rehearsal – Studio A & B



For more information please contact Dan Thompson or Denise Paavola at **810-230-1355** info@ypbt.org or visit ypbt.org

# **OUR PERFORMANCE COMPANY**

Young People's Ballet Theatre provides many performance opportunities for dancers interested in expanding their training and technique beyond the classroom. The company's artistic philosophy focuses on developing the art of ballet through professional training, choreography and performance experiences. Our season includes at least three productions, with our major performance at the University of Michigan-Flint Theatre. Our 5,000-square foot studio transforms into a beautiful theater space for our other performances. We are proud of our 30-year repertoire of classical, contemporary, and character ballets which includes over 24 original children's story ballets. In addition to working with professional choreographers, our students have had the privilege to dance with some of the top male dancers in the country, including guest artists: Nehemiah Kish, Denis Gronostayskiy and Alan Obuzor.



# **AUDITIONS**

Our Company rehearses on Saturdays throughout the school year. Serious students of dance are accepted into the Company through an audition. Our annual auditions for new Company members ages 8-18 are held at our studios.

#### 2018-2019 SEASON AUDITIONS:

Saturday, August 25, 12:00 - 1:00PM Saturday, September 8, 1:00 - 2:00PM