



School of Dance

North Carolina Dance Theatre School of Dance opened its doors in September of 1993. Since then, the School has grown to 650 students and includes two satellite locations at Spirit Square and Charlotte Country Day School. The School of Dance has a faculty of fifteen and offers upwards of 90 classes per week. In the summer of 2000, the School offered its first six-week national summer intensive program with 97 participating students from all over the United States. Today, the summer program has grown to 130 students representing more than 24 states and four countries. Some of the biggest names in the world of dance have served on the guest faculty for this growing program, including former American Ballet Theatre principal dancer Marianna Tcherkassky, former New York City Ballet principal dancer Violette Verdy, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theater's Terry Orr. A Boy's Scholarship class was developed to offer boys ages eight to eleven the opportunity to try dance in an all-male environment.

The School of Dance has three student companies which offer dancers in the School wonderful performance opportunities. The NC Dance Theatre Student Ensemble serves the Intermediate and Advanced Divisions in the School while the NC Dance Theatre Junior and Repertory Ensembles are made up of dances in the Pre-Professional Division. These student companies appear at dance festivals throughout the Southeast and the NC Dance Theatre Repertory Ensemble is an honor company in the Southeastern Region of the Regional Dance America organization.

Over 100 students from the School of Dance participate in the Dance Theatre's annual production of Nutcracker. Several of the most advanced dancers in the School have earned roles alongside the members of the company and have been asked to tour with the company. A Trainee and Apprentice Program was initiated in 2001 for talented students from around the country who have either graduated from high school or are completing their education by correspondence. The program allows trainees and apprentices to receive a full scholarship in the highest level in the School, perform with the Repertory Ensemble, and learn the repertory of NC Dance Theatre 2. Trainees are cast in corps de ballet roles in Nutcracker and go on tour with the company as needed. This is a wonderful opportunity for pre-professional dancers to witness the life of a full-time professional dancer. It also provides the student with the opportunity to be considered for employment with Dance Theatre and NC Dance Theatre 2, helping young dancers to launch their professional careers and providing them with the experience and skills necessary to achieve their goals.

Dance Theatre, in affiliation with UNC Charlotte, offers a Professional Training Certificate in Dance. Students can earn an undergraduate certificate in ballet, equivalent to 16 elective credit hours, while pursuing a university degree. The Professional Training Certificate allows the serious dance student the opportunity to train, rehearse, and perform with a professional school and company while achieving their academic goals. Dance Theatre is the only professional dance company in the Southeast with an affiliated school that offers this kind of certification in conjunction with a major university. The certificate students study at the highest level in the School, studying four days per week and performing with the Repertory Ensemble as well as with the company, when appropriate.