



2023-2024
ENCUENTROS: OPEN CLASS PROGRAM
(AGES 6-18)

Providing the young dance enthusiast with cultural enrichment alongside excellent dance training, the Encuentros Program at Ballet Hispánico offers something for everyone. Developed with the highest level of artistic excellence, our program supports dancers interested in taking anywhere from one to multiple dance classes per week. Offering a wide array of classes including Afro-Caribbean, Ballet, Flamenco, Hip-Hop, Latin Rhythms, Salsa, Jazz, and Tap, our students can create a tailored schedule to fit their needs.

No audition is required to register for this program.

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

AFRO-CARIBBEAN

Through complex rhythms, vivid stories, and rich history, students develop dance fundamentals while exploring the artistry of Afro-Caribbean traditions. Drawing from modern, contemporary, and Afrocentric dance practices, this class develops core dance principles such as balance and coordination while introducing students to intricate rhythms and vibrant expressivity. Afro-Caribbean prepares students for ongoing studies in a wide range of dance forms including modern, contemporary, and African-based styles.

BALLET

The ballet program encourages students to enjoy the challenges and practices of learning ballet technique. Level 1 students will work with experienced teachers that will focus on ballet fundamentals that emphasize placement, execution, precision, clarity of line, dynamic movement, musicality, and freedom of artistic expression. Students will feel a sense of accomplishment through the discipline and mastery of technical skills, while enjoying moving to music, all in an inclusive and nurturing environment.

A Ballet Level 2 class for pre-teens and teens with more ballet experience is available. Placement is based on faculty recommendation along with the assessment and approval of the School Directors. Students that have been recommended will be

notified via email. New students and current BH students that have not been recommended, but wish to be considered for Ballet Level 2 are welcome to request placement and are asked to send a written request to school@ballethispanico.org.

PRE-POINTE/POINTE TECHNIQUE CLASS

NEW! and exciting ballet pre-pointe/pointe class on Saturdays is for the beginner pointe dancer who has reached ballet Level 2 proficiency, to prepare for pointe work. The dancer must have a solid foundation in ballet technique and approval from the instructor to register. For best results and advancement, Encuentros dancers are **required** to take all of the following classes:

- Ballet Level 2 class on Tuesdays
- Ballet Level 2 class on Saturdays (immediately prior to the pointe class)
- Pre-Pointe/Pointe Technique Class on Saturdays

This class will focus on strengthening the muscles of the legs, feet, ankles, and core in order to support their pointe work. Dancers will continue to improve their overall alignment and the control necessary to dance on pointe. When the dancer is ready, they will start working on pointe, facing the barre.

Please note that this class does not perform in the end of year recital.

Please DO NOT buy pointe shoes before the class begins. The instructor will work with each student to make sure they find the appropriate shoe and fit before making this big investment.

New students interested in this class should reach out to school@ballethispanico.org to request an assessment for eligibility.

GET ON YOUR FEET! (Male-Identifying Students Ages 8-12)

NEW! This class provides a creative outlet for young, energetic, male-identifying students looking to develop athleticism, coordination, conditioning, and movement skills that will enhance their mind/body connection, whether throwing a ball or moving to music. This elective class focuses on conditioning, jumps, turns, flexibility, and creative expression.

MAKE IT HAPPEN! (Male-Identifying Students Ages 13-18)

NEW! This class is to build on the skills practiced in the GET ON YOUR FEET! curriculum, while introducing additional codified dance-terminology and skills. The focus on conditioning, coordination, flexibility, and strength continues while students explore more technical challenges in a variety of dance genres, including hip-hop, contemporary, and ballet.

FLAMENCO

Spanish Dance has been the backbone of the School of Dance since its founding in the early 1970's. Students in the Encuentros Program focus on flamenco, studying the roots and history of the art form, alongside the technique and artistry.

A Flamenco Level 2 class for students ages 10-18 is available for dancers more experienced in the form. Placement is based on faculty recommendation along with the assessment and approval of the School Directors. Students that have been recommended will be notified via email. Students that have not been recommended, but wish to be considered for Flamenco Level 2 are welcome to request placement and are asked to send a written request to school@ballethispanico.org

HIP-HOP

Explore the culture, history, and evolution of hip-hop! Students learn various styles, including locking, popping, house, breaking, and freestyle; building their strength, skill, and technique. Classes pay homage to the hip-hop pioneers, creating a safe learning space and a sense of community for students to engage in this social dance form.

JAZZ

The fundamentals of jazz technique build strong body alignment, increased flexibility, and muscle awareness through its form and style. Students develop musicality and retention skills as they perform combinations and learn the artistry of various jazz repertoire. Stretch and conditioning is an important element of the class structure, along with the exploration of historical jazz roots.

SALSA & LATIN RHYTHMS

Designed to teach students the history, culture, and social etiquette of Latin dances, these classes sharpen skills in musicality, dance terminology, footwork, body actions, arm styling, floor craft, and partnering. Classes increase in complexity throughout the year, with *mucho sabor!*

TAP

Students will learn tap fundamentals as they develop footwork precision, movement coordination, balance & weight shifts, and rhythmic accuracy. Emphasis is placed on developing the students' artistry and improvisational skills alongside the history of the artform.