

WALNUT HILL

“Live your Passion”



WWW.WALNUTHILLARTS.ORG



CURRICULUM AND TRAINING

Our comprehensive curriculum includes daily ballet technique classes with additional classes in pointe, male technique, variations, special technique, modern, jazz, character, Pilates, and our Hydroconditioning Exercise System™. Class sizes are limited to approximately 20, affording the students individual attention. Professional musicians accompany all classes which are held in the five spacious studios of our Dance Center. The program culminates in a repertory performance in Walnut Hill's state-of-the-art Jane Oxford Keiter Performing Arts Center.

Upon arrival, students audition for class placement. Placement in each level is determined by the technical ability and physical strength of each student. The curriculum for each level has been developed to be the most advantageous and healthy for each student's growth.



EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

To promote the education of dancers as artists, our program offers a variety of evening workshops which further enhance the student's knowledge of this art form. The opportunity to learn all aspects of the craft is invaluable to the student's development as an artist; we provide training for both the body and the mind:

- Dance History
- Nutrition
- Costuming for Dance
- Dance on Film Lecture & Discussion Series
- Lighting for Dance
- Stage Makeup
- "Meet the Artist"
- Choreography
- Discussion Series
- Injury Prevention

GUEST FACULTY-IN-RESIDENCE AND MASTER TEACHERS

Each year Walnut Hill invites internationally known guest faculty to teach during our summer program. The list below includes faculty who have recently been in residence and some who may be in residence in future years.

Melanie Atkins
Catherine Batcheller
Mucy Bolles
John Gardner
Erika Lamb
Amanda McKerrow
Gillian Murphy
Mikko Nissinen
Ethan Siefel
Sabi Varga

Soloist with Boston Ballet and former principal dancer with Miami City Ballet (Walnut Hill alumna)
Former principal with Royal Birmingham Ballet and co-founder of Configurations Dance Company
Former dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (Walnut Hill alumna)
Former soloist with American Ballet Theatre
Former dancer with Boston Ballet
Principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre
Principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre (Walnut Hill Summer Dance alumna)
Artistic Director of Boston Ballet
Principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre
Soloist with Boston Ballet

Walnut Hill School policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, handicap, sexual orientation, or veteran status. This policy extends to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities, including admission, employment, financial assistance, and educational, arts, and athletic programs. Disclaimer: All information contained in these pages is as current as possible, but is subject to change at the discretion of Walnut Hill School without notice.

USUAL WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 - 8:45	Breakfast
8:45 - 9:30	Warm-up
9:30 - 11:15	Ballet Class
11:15 - 12:00	Pointe or Men's Class
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 3:30	Men's Class, or Variations/ Partnering, or Pilates, or Hydroconditioning Exercise System™ Modern, or Jazz, or Variations, or Pilates, or Hydroconditioning Exercise System™ Repertory Rehearsal
3:30 - 5:00	
5:15 - 6:30	Dinner
6:30 - 8:00	Rehearsal and Educational Workshops
8:15 - 9:45	Free Time Check-In/ Dorm Curfew

The weekend schedule includes classes and rehearsals on Saturday as well as time to participate in campus events such as swimming, movies, and outdoor activities. On Sunday, students may also participate in day trips around New England and Boston.



HYDROCONDITIONING EXERCISE SYSTEM™

For dance students, the hours of practice place significant physical demands on the body. The commitment and intensity of training is often greatest at the same point that bone growth is most rapid. For many young dancers, continuing to demonstrate gains in flexibility, strength and skill can be very challenging during this period. Injuries due to overuse in the feet, legs and spine can occur, and painful muscle imbalance syndromes and acute trauma can arise over time from the repetitive motion and prolonged impact commonplace for a dancer. However, dynamic, full-body exercise such as hydroconditioning can provide an opportunity to prevent or manage dancers' injuries.

Hydroconditioning is a tremendous tool to provide gains in joint mobility, strength, and flexibility in a non-weight-bearing environment. By manipulating the factors of buoyancy and turbulence, via changes in equipment worn by the student and the speed, position, and direction of movement, aquatic exercise can be very supportive and safe, while also being challenging and dance-specific.



Walnut Hill offers summer students classes through our Hydroconditioning Exercise System™ under the direction of Lynne King, P.T.

FACILITIES

The Ballet Center at Walnut Hill

The beautiful gambrel-roofed home of the Summer Dance Program offers five spacious studios with large arched windows, dressing rooms, faculty offices, and a lounge area. In addition, the campus fitness center offers a movement studio as well as cardiovascular and strength building equipment.

Jane Oxford Keiter Performing Arts Center

Stephanie Bonnell Perrin Theater The 350-seat Perrin Theater is the principal performance space for Summer Dance. The theater is a professional-level venue with full size wings and a 60-foot full fly loft with thirty-two counter weight battens. The theater has an electronic lighting system and a double sprung stage floor.

In addition, the Keiter Center includes a Green Room, teaching studios, costume shops, spacious dressing rooms with showers, lockers, hanging racks and specially lit theatrical make-up mirrors.

DANCE FACULTY – BALLET

Michael Owen Director of the Walnut Hill School Ballet Department and Walnut Hill Summer Dance. Mr. Owen studied with Marcia Dale Weary at the Pennsylvania Ballet School and continued his studies at the School of American Ballet. He is a former principal danseur of American Ballet Theatre where he had a distinguished 26-year career. Michael Owen has made guest appearances with companies across the globe, has appeared in television and film, and performed for every U.S. President from Jimmy Carter to Bill Clinton. He continues his professional affiliation with American Ballet Theatre, recently performing in *Le Corsaire* and *Romeo & Juliet*. As Director of the Ballet Department for the past seven years, Mr. Owen has meticulously brought the department into the forefront of excellence in training. In addition, he is an international master teacher, with periodic engagements across mainland United States, Hawaii, Canada, and Japan.

Additional faculty bios and listings are available at www.walnuthillarts.org.

AMELIA STURT-DILLEY | GYPSYMO, CO

I was so excited to be accepted into the Summer Dance program at Walnut Hill. I found myself challenged with every technique, pointe and modern class. My teachers were professional and their positive reinforcement served as a constant inspiration. The individual corrections in each class were so helpful. I was consistently making progress on a daily basis! I definitely gained the strength and flexibility I needed by taking the pilates and hydroconditioning classes. I felt so comfortable pursuing my goals within a community of caring and trustworthy students. We all shared a similar passion for our art form. The beautiful campus, new friends, dedicated staff and artistic environment motivated me to return in the fall to attend high school at Walnut Hill. I am truly honored to be a part of the tradition.

ADMISSION

Admission to Summer Dance at Walnut Hill is highly selective. Each year Walnut Hill enrolls talented students from around the nation and the world.

To apply to the Summer Dance Program, please submit the following:

- Complete application form (available at www.walnuthillarts.org)
- A nonrefundable application fee
- Two photographs (1 first arabesque and 1 pointe tendu croisse devant)
- One letter of recommendation from a current or recent dance teacher
- Please see our website for audition sites www.walnuthillarts.org

Video taped auditions are not preferable; however VHS/DVD auditions are allowed. The tape should be approximately fifteen minutes in length and should display a student's technical ability. Examples of classroom work including both barre and centre combinations should be shown. Ladies should include a pointe combination or variation. Please do not submit performance excerpts.

Return your application to:

Walnut Hill School
Office of Admission and Placement
12 Highland Street
Natick, MA 01760

Completed applications are due by time of audition. Applications must be mailed to the address above in advance or given to the audition personnel at the audition. Spaces and scholarship funds are limited. No admission decision can be made prior to completing the entire application process.

Please call the Office of Admission and Placement at (508) 650-5020 if you have any questions.

TUITION & SCHOLARSHIP

Information regarding tuition and scholarship is available at www.walnuthillarts.org.

Applicants are considered for merit scholarship at the time of audition. Any offer of scholarship will accompany the offer of admission.

AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend a live audition. Pre-registration is not required to audition. Audition registration will take place during the first half hour of each audition session. The application fee, photographs, and applications are due at the time of audition.

Auditions take the form of a regular ballet technique class and include barre, centre work, and pointe. Ladies are asked to have their hair secured up, jewelry removed, and wear pink tights and ballet shoes with a solid-colored, but preferably not black, leotard. Gentlemen are asked to wear black tights and a white leotard or t-shirt. Black shoes and white socks are preferred.

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Residence Halls

All students live in one of the seven residence halls located on campus. While Walnut Hill has a large campus, no residence hall is more than a five-minute walk from the classrooms and performance spaces. Nearly all rooms are doubles and some very large rooms have space for as many as four students. Each hall has its own common room with a television, DVD/VCR, microwave, and refrigerator. The halls are charming, well kept, and will make residents feel at home. Girls and boys live in separate halls and there are approximately twelve students per Resident Advisor.

Resident Advisors

In addition to the full-time Director of Summer Student Life, Walnut Hill hires talented and devoted Resident Advisors (RA) who monitor the residence halls, assist students, and organize social activities. RAs are typically college students or graduates who have a background in student life and/or the arts.

The Walnut Hill Campus Center

The Walnut Hill campus includes a beautiful, newly constructed Campus Center available for use by students in the summer. The Campus Center includes a book and snack store, e-mail access, mailroom, lounge with big screen television, and a balcony overlooking campus.



Fitness Center & Sports

Walnut Hill has an excellent fitness center available for use during the day. Students may also check out athletic equipment for outdoor activities such as tennis or basketball. The Wallace Pool is also located on campus and available to summer students and faculty.

Dining on Campus

We believe that healthy eating contributes to a sound mind and body. Meals are served three times each day (twice on Sunday with a late breakfast/brunch.) A salad bar and vegetarian options are available at every meal. In addition, students are able to purchase snacks from the bookstore.

Health & Wellness

Walnut Hill has a Health Center staffed by registered nurses. In addition, the School has an on-call physician and is located only a few minutes from a hospital for emergency care. The health staff also includes a physical therapist.

WALNUT HILL SCHOOL

Founded in 1893, Walnut Hill School is widely regarded to be the premier arts secondary boarding and day school in the United States. The mission of Walnut Hill is to educate talented, accomplished, and intellectually engaged young artists from all over the world. The School does so in a diverse, humane, and ethical community. The specialized and accomplished faculty supports the development and enhancement of artistic skills and training, and provides the tools for intellectual achievement.

We invite you to learn more about the School by visiting www.walnuthillarts.org.

SCOTT SHEDENHELM | ATHENS, GA

When I first auditioned, I decided I would audition for both the School program and Summer Dance at the same time. I was accepted for both programs, so I knew I would be going to Walnut Hill year-round before I attended Summer Dance. Now that I think back on it, I'm really glad that I decided to go for the summer program before the school year because it gave me the chance to become familiar with the school where I would soon be living more permanently. I also got to meet other students that would be coming year-round as well. That helped a lot because I knew a few people when I returned for the year and I didn't have to start from scratch when making new friends. On top of all that, I found I learned so much over the summer. I was blown away at how great the Summer Dance program was and I still feel that I have yet to attend one quite like it.

