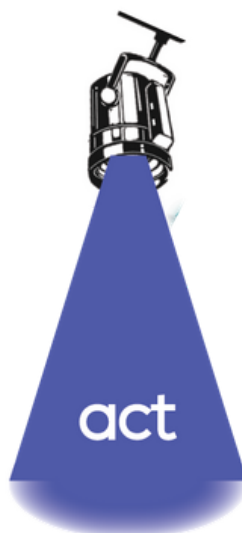




# elevate

performance company



**2020-2021 INFORMATION**



# Meet The Directors

ASHLEY ROTHWELL, KELSEY KIMBLE, KELSY LEYENDECKER

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**Ashley Rothwell, Lead Director/Acting Director.** Ashley has been the director of Elevate for five years here at Balance Dance Studios and continues to grow a vibrant musical theatre program for all ages. She was born and raised in Newcastle Upon Tyne in the UK and from a young age, Ashley has thrived within the Performing Arts. She completed her Teaching Degree in the UK and taught Dance and Vocal technique for Sunderland University. She went on to complete her Masters in Musical Theatre at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Shortly after graduation she packed up and moved to New York City to pursue Theatre and Film. During her time in New York, she appeared in numerous plays and musicals such as “Exposed” and “The Hurtling Stillness”. She moved to Austin in October 2015 and continues to work professionally in local theatre and voice over. Ashley is currently back at university training to be a speech-language pathologist and hopes to continue to help people young and old find joy in their voice.

**Kelsey Kimble, Vocal Director.** Kelsey uses her vast experience in performing a variety of different genres to entertain and educate others. As a performer, Kelsey enjoys singing jazz music with her husband, Austin Kimble. She also writes and performs original rock music with their band, The Kimbles. Trained in classical voice technique from The University of Texas at Austin under the direction of Rose Taylor, Kelsey enjoys acting in local theater productions, and recent roles include: “Louise/Eve” in Ruthless (City Theater, Austin), as well as “Regina” in Rock of Ages, “Calliope” in Xanadu, and several Theatre for Young Audiences Productions at the Georgetown Palace Theater. Aside from performing, Kelsey has a passion for educating voice students of all ages and experience levels. She offers weekly group classes as well as private lessons for several programs in the Austin area.

**Kelsy Leyendecker, Dance Director.** She began dancing at the age of 3 and has been teaching since the age of 16 years old. She began her studies and competitive years at Irvine Dance Academy but went on to receive training at some of the best studios in the country in the styles of ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, hip hop, cheer, tumbling, and musical theatre. She has had the opportunity to study under legends such as Joe Tremaine, Doug Caldwell, Molly Lynch, Christine Baltes, Jerome Robins, and Susan Stroman. In addition to them, she credits much of her growth and passion to her mentor, Monie Adamson who is a 3 time Emmy nominee and 2004 American Choreography Award winner. As a diverse performer, Kelsy danced as an extra on a couple TV shows, strutted the parade routes and stages of Disneyland as well as toured parts of the US as a member of the company, “Dance N’ ETC” and the “Concordia professional Chamber Choir”. She quickly found her passion in musical theatre and was cast in multiple roles such as Penny in “Swingtime” and Carol in “South Pacific”. She is proud to be a part of the Austin dance community and loves teaching all her students of all ages at Balance Dance Studios.



# *Elevate Performance Company*

AT BALANCE DANCE STUDIOS

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## *Our Mission*

Here at Elevate, we are dedicated to providing a welcoming place where all young performers can explore the performing arts! We train students in the three disciplines of Musical Theatre: voice, acting, and dance. Performers will receive the highest standard of training while being a part of our theatre family.

We request that all our company members arrive to class with:

- A positive attitude
- A willingness to listen and learn from teachers and peers
- Respect for every company member, teachers, and the studio
- Willingness to explore, be bold, and have fun!

## *Opportunities*

- Winter show- a full-scale musical supported by several dance classes at Balance Dance Studios, with roughly 150 students participating. This is the largest of our shows and is held at a larger off-site venue.
- Spring Show- a full-scale musical, featuring the Elevate company members, these shows will be held at our home theatre, the Bravo Blackbox.
- Community performances such as The Trail of Lights
- Social gatherings throughout the year, such as movie nights and after-show parties

# *Elevate Performance Company*

AT BALANCE DANCE STUDIOS

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## *Our Team*

Our company is divided into four groups; each company member is assessed on his/her ability, attitude, and age, to assure we have the perfect collection of students in each group. Please note that the ages listed below are a suggestion, but ability and attitude will impact your performer's placement.

*Broadway Babies*  
5-6 years

*Act One*  
7-8 years

*Act Two*  
9-11 years

*Act Three*  
12+ years



# Broadway Babies

AGES 5-6

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Here at Elevate, we are dedicated to providing a welcoming place where all young performers can explore the performing arts! Broadway Babies is the perfect introduction to musical theatre for our performers aged 5-6 years. We condense voice, acting, and dance into one, action-packed hour!

## Group Schedule

*Broadway Babies will meet once a week for one hour, and each class will include acting, singing and dancing. Every 1st Tuesday of the month, the Broadway Babies group will stay for an extra 30 minutes to participate in team time. This may increase, during the lead up to shows, in order to rehearse.*

### **Broadway Babies**

**Tuesday  
4-5pm  
Acting, Singing,  
and Dancing**

## Opportunities

- Winter show- Broadway Babies will perform at least one number in our full-scale musical. This show is supported by several dance classes at Balance Dance Studios, with roughly 150 students participating. This is the largest of our shows and is held at a larger off-site venue.
- Spring Show- Broadway Babies will perform at least one number in our full-scale spring musical. This full-scale musical, featuring the Elevate company members, will be held at our home theatre: the Bravo black box.
- Community performances, such as the Trail of Lights
- Social gatherings throughout the year, such as movie nights and after-show parties!

# Audition Information

Balance Dance Studios is pleased to announce the annual auditions for the Elevate Musical Theatre Company. The company strives to offer professional instruction in dance, voice and acting for the true 'triple threat' experience. We encourage all students to join us at the audition; no experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn!

## Broadway Babies Musical Mash-Up (ONLINE)

May 26th | 4:00pm-4:45pm

This is a fun class aimed at getting to know each other and learning what Musical Theatre is all about. We will start with some fun musical theatre activities and end with some information and Q&A time. There is nothing to prepare!

Please Register [HERE](#), and you will be sent a zoom link the day before the audition.

## Act One, Two and Three Auditions (ONLINE)

5:00pm-6:30pm: 7-11 years

6:30pm- 8:00pm: 12+ year

We are moving the auditions online! The format will remain the same for each group:

- Please Register [HERE](#).
- You will receive a link to the zoom meeting on 5/25/20.
- Please log on and be ready to go at your allocated start time- we will start with dance.

Please prepare:

- A one minute cut of a Musical Theatre song.
- A one minute monologue.

## Singing Live - Zoom Instructions

1. Have the backing track you would like to sing to ready on a 2nd device.
2. Adjust zoom sound settings by clicking the up arrow next to the microphone, and click "Audio settings" (last menu item).
3. On the lower right of the window, click "Advanced."
4. From here, you'll see options: "Suppress persistent background noise," and "Suppress intermittent background noise." Turn both of these OFF.
5. In the top left corner of your screen, switch to "Turn on original sound."

# Time Commitments

FALL/SPRING GROUP SCHEDULE

## **Broadway Babies**

Tuesday  
4-5pm  
Acting, Singing,  
and Dancing

## **Act One**

Tuesday  
4-5pm Choreography  
5-6pm Voice  
6-7pm Acting

## **Act Two**

Tuesday  
5-6pm Choreography  
6-7pm Voice  
7-8pm Acting

## **Act Three**

Tuesday  
5-6pm Acting  
6-7pm Choreography  
7-8pm Voice

### **CLASS REQUIREMENTS**

All classes will take place at Balance Dance Studios; please make sure your performer arrives with:

- Comfortable clothing for dance and Jazz shoes
- A water bottle
- A light snack (not necessary for Broadway Babies)
- His/her Elevate folder and/or script we are working on
- A pencil and a notepad

# Requirements

THE ELEVATE FOLDER

## ***What is the Elevate Folder?***

Each student should bring a ringed binder/folder with the following items:

- Some sheet protectors inside
- Note paper or a notepad
- A pen and pencil

These folders will be a safe place to keep all scripts and song sheets that we will use in class. We buy the rights to each musical we perform; therefore, your performer will receive an official script to take home.

### **Mandatory Extra Rehearsals**

Extra rehearsals will take place closer to show time; these dates will be released at the beginning of the year, and all students must be in attendance.

### **Team Building**

Our team building day will take place on August 15th. This is a mandatory day of fun for all of our company to bond and kick start the year! Fee includes all food and activities for the day.

### **Communication**

We pride ourselves on clear and honest communication. Company members will receive all important information via the Elevate email. We also have a Facebook page to keep in touch and share fun photos!



# Parent Expectations

## COMPANY 2020-2021 PARENT EXPECTATIONS

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1. Pay tuition and all costume/recital/performance fees on time.
2. Bring dancer to all rehearsals, performances, classes, etc. on time.
3. Keep dancer absences to an absolute minimum and prevent missed rehearsals, performances or any other required event, unless extreme emergency. During rehearsal for shows, performers who have three or more absences shall have a meeting to determine if they may continue in their cast role.
4. Keep performer in all required classes the entire fall/spring season, from mid Aug-end of May.
5. Honor 30 day notice for withdrawal for any non-required classes.
6. Read all newsletters in their entirety and respond within 48 hours to any action items.
7. Encourage your child and the Elevate Company to the best of your ability at all times.

I understand and accept these parent expectations for the 2020-21 Elevate Company season. I agree to abide by these requirements.

**Parent/Guardian Name:**

**Parent Signature:**

**Date:**