



**2020-2021 INFORMATION**

# Meet the Director



**KELSY  
LEYENDECKER**  
*director*

Kelsy Leyendecker began her dance training at the age of 3 and has been teaching and choreographing since the age of 16. She began her dance 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 first mentor, Monie Adamson, who is a 3 time Emmy nominee and 2004 American Choreography Award winner. While still in high school, Kelsy also participated in her drill team, varsity cheer and show choir. During this time, she also began experimenting with choreography for her high school show choir and other local area theatre and children's programs. As a diverse performer, Kelsy danced as an extra on a couple TV shows, strutted the parade routes and stages of Disneyland, and toured parts of the US as a member of the company, "Dance N' ETC" and the "Concordia University Professional Chamber Choir." She quickly found another passion in musical theatre and was cast in multiple theatre company ensembles and lead roles for musicals. Upon moving to the Austin area, Kelsy explored several studios, in addition to forming her own homeschool dance company. She fell in love with Balance and made it her teaching home. After a few years at the studio, Kelsy was asked to help direct Elevate, and also spent a year directing with Push Dance Company, before starting Ignite Dance Company. She is proud to be a part of the Austin dance community and loves teaching her students of all ages at Balance Dance Studios.

# *What Is Ignite?*

"NO PRESSURE, JUST PASSION"

---

## *Our Mission*

IGNITE Dance Company combines the joys of being on a competitive dance team with the freedom and flexibility to maintain other activities. This team only requires 3.5 hours of class at the highest level, one day per week, but dancers are encouraged to take as many as they can, in addition to their minimum requirements. They are only required to attend two competitions per season, in addition to participation in their own team showcase. They also have the opportunity to perform in Balance Dance Studios' winter show and spring recitals. Ignite members are welcome to join the studio at as many other optional studio events as they would like. Ignite Dance Company offers newer dance members a great way to dip their toes into the competition world, as well as an opportunity for advanced dancers who may want to take a step back from rigorous training, or participate in other companies at the studio. We are serious about our training and require our students to "bring the passion, and leave the pressure behind."

## *Opportunities*

Time Management Skills  
Low Time Commitment with Big Results  
Local Performances  
Competitive Growth  
Flexibility with Other Commitments  
Drill Team Relationships and Support  
Team Building Skills  
Leadership Building  
& More!

# Audition Details

AGES 5-6

JUNE 1ST | AGES 5-6 | 4:30PM-5:30PM

## Dance Jam

This process will run more like a fun dance class. We do not treat this as an audition for these young ones. We will create a fun class where we casually evaluate the attendees for summer and fall class placement. If we feel they are ready to join the company, we will offer them a position on our team. If they aren't quite ready, we will let them know the best class options for summer and fall enrollment to prepare them for the next season. We are looking for students who have a combination of basic body awareness, maturity, passion, motivation, and ability to remember a pattern of steps/movement. Some parents prefer not to even use the word "audition" with their students, and we fully support that as well. Come join us for a fun class evaluation!

AGES 7-12 & 13+

MAY 28

AGES 7-12 | 4:00PM-6:00PM

AGES 13+ | 6:30PM-9:00PM

A jazz routine will be taught, via Zoom classes, the week of May 18th-22nd. Dancers ages 7-12: choreo will be taught and rehearsed (\$20 drop in rate) on Monday, May 18th, at 7:30pm, and Wednesday, May 20th, at 6pm.

The jazz combo for ages 13+ will be taught on Monday, May 18th, at 6:30pm and Wednesday, May 20th, at 7pm and 8pm. Students can attend as many as they'd like to register for. This routine will also be posted once available on the Audition Info website.

## Registration is open!

Online at [www.balanceddancestudios.com/ignite-audition-info/](http://www.balanceddancestudios.com/ignite-audition-info/)

Please click tabs to fill out the online application and register.

Email: [ignite@balanceddancestudios.com](mailto:ignite@balanceddancestudios.com)

\*If you or your dancer have any questions or conflicts regarding registration, please don't hesitate to reach out.

We work really hard to make this a fun process.

REGISTER



# Audition Details

## DAY OF AUDITION

### EVALUATION

**Evaluation (5-6):** Dancers will follow a simple jazz class format including a high energy warm up and stretching. Following this will be some basic skills demonstrations across the floor and a simple character style dance with the option to show off any of their favorite moves or special skills.

**Evaluation (7+):** Dancers will sign in, receive their audition numbers and head to the warm up room to prepare. Dancers will go through a very simple ballet warm up to prepare their bodies and demonstrate basic ballet technique. No previous ballet experience is required for this. Then, there will be a quick contemporary phrase taught on the spot to see how dancers learn new choreography and interpret movement. This will not be perfect. We just want to see how they learn and interpret. After this, there will be some across the floor jazz skills, demonstrated followed by the performing of the jazz piece in groups.

### CLOTHING

Dancers are expected to come to auditions wearing studio dress code attire for a jazz class. The preferred style would be the clean lines of a solid leotard and leggings. If necessary, dance shorts and/or tights are acceptable. Please no baggy clothing or busy patterns/styles. We prefer clean simple lines. Hair can be worn in any style but should look professional and completely out of the face. For example, slicked back ponytails or a variety of braids and buns are a great choice. Please no loose hair, unless very short, as this creates a distraction as well as the occasional safety hazard. Any variety of ballet, jazz or lyrical shoes are acceptable, as well as bare feet. Students are welcome to change shoes as we change styles as well. No jewelry or watches will be allowed other than stud earrings. The use of watches and phones will be strictly prohibited once auditions begin. Please leave those in your bags or at home. No photography or videos will be allowed once auditions have started. During check in and warmups however, please feel free to use these items as desired and, if you post on social media, feel free to tag us: @balancedancestudios and @ignite.dance.co!

### RESULTS

Dancers will be notified of their audition results via email on or before Sunday, May 31st, for dancers ages 7-18, and on or before Tuesday, June 2nd, for students ages 5-6. At this time, you will be asked to review all company paperwork and complete necessary steps to prepare for an individual planning meeting with your team director. Our first team gathering will be our Summer Kick Off Potluck where we will go over some important information, meet our teams and families, and discuss other items such as parents jobs, the esteemed high school Internships and officer application/selection process.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!  
CLICK HERE OR  
EMAIL:  
IGNITE@BALANCEDANCESTUDIOS.COM

# Important Dates

## REQUIREMENTS

- All Company Gathering TBD
- Summer Intensives: Ballet, Axis, Balance Intensive
- Mandatory Company Retreat - Aug 8th
- Choreo week - Aug 10-14
- Winter Show - Dec 12 (subject to change)
- 2 Competitions- TBD Jan-May
- Spring Recital - 5/15 (subject to change)
- Illuminate Banquet- May TBD
- Illuminate Showcase- May TBD

## Summer Requirements

Summer requirements are 1 hour of class per week for all teams. Embers, Flames, Blaze, Inferno and Wildfire must choose one intensive to attend as well. Fireflies and Sparks are strongly encouraged to consider intensive options or additional classes as well. The summer retreat and choreo week are also important requirements that set us off in the right direction for the upcoming season. Failure to participate in these events may result in your student not being able to participate in the upcoming season.

Please list any conflicts on the audition application and email [ignite@balancedancestudios.com](mailto:ignite@balancedancestudios.com) to discuss with the director.

# 2020-21 Participation Agreement

## SUMMER REQUIREMENTS

---

**Training/Conditioning of 1 class hour per week for all members (enrolled by team), and for Embers, Flames, Blaze, Inferno and Wildfire, please choose 1 or more of the intensive options below:**

**Ballet Intensive Dates June 8-12:** The ballet intensive curriculum focuses on strong technique rooted in the traditions of classical ballet with elements of contemporary movement. It is designed to help advanced dancers in the development of solid technique and artistic style through the challenging combinations and variations presented in each class. In each class, dancers will have the opportunity to gain a greater appreciation for dance and movement, while growing in athleticism, artistry, clarity, grace, speed, and musicality.

- L1 & L2 Wed-Fri / 11:30-2:30pm (3 days) / \$150
- L3 placement or L2 with approval Mon-Fri / 11am-3pm (5 days) / \$250
- L4 & L5 placement Mon-Fri / 11:00am-3:30pm / \$325

**Axis Intensive Dates June 22-26:** This comprehensive intensive is designed for motivated dancers who come to be trained, inspired and often transformed by this incredible dance experience. Students will have an opportunity to refine their skills and broaden their dance vocabulary while being exposed to guest master teachers from coast to coast who will push them to unexplored limits. AXIS Intensive is a week dedicated to the growth of each dancer as a physical technician, as well as an expressive and articulate artist. Taking part in this intensive will help bring students' performance quality to a new level. Designed for the serious multi-level artist, this intensive is geared for those with an eye toward pre-professional quality performance

- Ages 7-10 Adv Beg & Int / Wed-Fri / 11:30-3:00pm (3 days) / \$150
- Ages 11+ Int / Mon-Fri / 10:30am-3:30pm (5 days) / \$325
- Ages 13+ Adv / Mon-Fri / 10:00am-4:00pm (5 days) / \$399

**Balance Intensive Dates July 13-16:** Our Balance Intensive is designed to inspire dancers and further their technical and artistic training in a welcoming, all-inclusive environment. This program is ideal for the dancer who would like to broaden his/her understanding of various dance styles and may be interested in getting into the convention or competitive dance team world. Classes will be taught by our passionate, engaging, in-house instructors and is a great opportunity for students to get exposure to more of our BDS faculty. In order to allow for more class time and lower the pressure of performing, there won't be an end of week performance.

- Ages 7-10 Adv Beg & Int / Mon-Thur / 12:30-2:30pm (4 days) / \$125
- Ages 11+ Int / Mon-Thur / 11:00am-3:00pm (4 days) / \$250
- Ages 13+ Adv / Mon-Thur / 11:00am-3:30pm (4 days) / \$295

# 2020-21 Participation Agreement

## SUMMER REQUIREMENTS

---

**Classes/Workshops:** Minimum class enrollment is 1 hour of jazz per week placed with their teams so that dancers can progress week to week with the same instructor and classmates. But we understand that with summer travel, some dancers may have to load up classes at the beginning or end of the summer in the form of make ups. Optional weekly workshops are offered to allow dancers to submerge themselves in additional specialties as well. Full descriptions of each are available. Students may take as many additional classes as they wish including ballet to maintain their current level.

**Competition Prep (applicable to all Ignite teams):**

- Choreography Camp (cost dependent on team placement): 8/10-8/14 We will set the bulk of competition choreography during this week. If you cannot be here for Choreography Camp, it is possible that you may not be able to participate in the 2020-2021 Ignite season. If a dancer is allowed to miss choreography week they will need to pay the choreographer or an assistant for privates to catch up. This is determined on an individual basis. The schedule will not be available until all contracts are signed and teams solidified.

**Team Building (applicable to all Ignite teams):**

- Company Retreat: 8/8-8/9: Saturday 10am dropoff until 3pm pick up on Sunday. The fee estimate is \$80 for Embers, Flames, Blaze, Inferno and Wildfire (overnight) students and \$50 for Fireflies and Sparks students (Saturday day rate). The overnight rate includes the overnight stay (ages 9+), lunch and snacks, activities, and the day rate includes all of the above except the overnight stay. Sparks and Fireflies will have to have designated adults for supervision purposes. There is an extra \$15 fee day rate per Firefly or Sparks chaperone. Retreat is mandatory and will be a fabulous team bonding experience prior to kicking off choreography week. Location: Youth Camp facilities near La Grange, TX

**Summer Class Requirements and Pricing:**

All Ignite teams are required to take 8 total hours of technique class with their team over the summer (equivalent to 1 hour/week). If students are gone for part of the summer, they can double up where necessary. Intensives do not count toward class requirements.