



Company Performance Request Packet



About The Company



Dance is a joyous celebration of life. Dance is mastery of the human body. Dance is a path of personal growth.

These are some of the guiding principles of Ballet On Wheels Dance School - Memphis' first non-profit, pre-professional, community-based classical ballet school and dance company. Students learn the fundamentals of dance while developing qualities that make for a successful and happy life: self-discipline, perseverance, creativity, and more.

In 2002, Ballet On Wheels was birthed six months after the untimely death of the Artistic Director's mentor, Carlton Lee Johnson. Johnson's dance legacy, inspiration and true commitment to quality instruction and performance flair is very much alive in the organizations current dance culture.

Perhaps our mission statement best sums up our goal: to develop and define art education and appreciation of classical ballet and other dance genres, through self-discipline, creative expression and performance exposure, in young people of diverse backgrounds.

Classes run ten months out of the year and more advanced students can participate in master class dance intensives and audition or be selected for our acclaimed, Ballet On Wheels Dance Company, a pre-professional youth dance company.



BOW sponsors annual innovative dance projects and community service dance events throughout the city. We also take our name literally, teaching classes in numerous Shelby County Schools and local youth organizations. Community service also figures prominently in the school's curriculum. We believe in developing all sides of students' lives, and helping the less fortunate is one way to instill gratitude and appreciation for the blessings we have.

Most important, though, we make learning ballet fun, and celebrate the art of dance in its many forms.

Artistic Director

Chauniece Conner Thompson, Executive Artistic Director

Dance runs in the blood of Chauniece Thompson, founder of Ballet On Wheels – Memphis’ first non-profit, pre-professional African American ballet school and dance company.

Chauniece first donned her ballet shoes at the tender age of eight under the instruction of George Latimer at Ballet South / Tennessee Ballet Company. Her talent was quickly recognized, as she was selected for various roles with the company in *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Coppelia*, *The Red Shoes*, *Peter and the Wolf*, and *Cinderella*. Her crowning achievement at the company was her 1986 selection for the role of Clara in *The Nutcracker*, which made her the first African-American female dancer to perform the part throughout the Southeastern region with a mixed professional ballet company—a truly landmark event that received critical accolades.



Continuing her professional journey, Chauniece joined the River City Ballet Company in the early 1990s as a principal dancer under the tutelage of the world-renowned dancer/director/choreographer Carlton Lee Johnson. While studying under Mr. Johnson, she performed title roles in the majority of River City’s performances, including: “Beauty” in *Beauty in the Beast*, “Dorothy” in *The Wizard of Oz* and “Clara” in *The Nutcracker*.

Having fulfilled her ambitions on the stage, Chauniece decided to pursue another dream: the founding of her own dance school. As the Artistic Director of Ballet On Wheels Dance School & Company, Chauniece provides her students with the same rigorous training she received. Just as important, she strives to cultivate confidence and self-esteem in her students, and enrich the lives of people of all ages and backgrounds through the art of dance.

Chauniece is a native Memphian, attended the Memphis City School system, and graduated from the University of Memphis with a degree in Business Administration.

BOARD MEMBERS

Doris Boyd, Wanda Edwards, Lisa Wheeler, Kimi Johnson, Perrin Crews, Joseph Kyles, Laurel Markovich, Shelah Warr, Sharren Williams, Kembela Hawkins, Mildred Clark, Tonya Cooper, Jan Byrd, and Craig Freeman



Performance Booking Request Form

Name of requesting organization: _____

Description of the event: _____

Location of the event: _____

Date & Time: _____

Event Contact Person

(Name, E-mail, & Phone
Number): _____

Performance Request Type: *Specialty Genre / Music Existing Repertoire

What sound equipment will be available for the performance?

CD iPod Other

Ballet On Wheels Dancers will need at least 2 rooms suitable for costume changes on the day of the event.

If a ticketed event, please let us know in advance if parents can be accommodated free of charge to attend during the performance only, as they are responsible for transporting Dancers to and from the event.

Advertising / Company Listing / Acknowledgement

Please list the company as: **Ballet On Wheels Dance Company** in your event program, bulletins, press releases, or any other event advertising material.

If you are interested in booking the Ballet On Wheels Dance Company, please complete this form and return it to:

Booking Request

Ballet On Wheels Dance School
4594 Found St.
Memphis, TN 38125
901. 870.4348 (p)
901. 278-0171 (f)
contact@balletonwheels.org

**Specialty genre performances should be booked at least 6-8 weeks in advance of the event.*



Special Event Performances

Full Performances starting at \$500
(Rates may vary with number of performances and dancers)

**Single, multiple performance pieces and full dance suites
available.**

Current performance pieces can be selected directly from our repertoire. Please visit www.balletonwheels.org, click on the company link and scroll down to company Repertoire.

Existing performance selections include music genres from any of the following: Classical, Gospel, Traditional Gospel, Folk, Negro Spirituals, R & B, Blues, Classical, Hip Hop, Space Age & Pop.

Additional special choreography fees apply for dance/musical selections not currently in our company repertoire.