



UNITY DANCE TROUPE

COMPANY POSITION OVERVIEW

Company information

Founded in 2010, Unity Dance Troupe (UDT) is a professional touring company and academy that uses the art of dance as an innovative and creative way to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. The unique style of Unity Dance, taught through its distinct curriculum at its Cleveland, TN, based academy, includes a rigorous blend of classical ballet, contemporary, and modern dance techniques with a focus on storytelling, worship, emotion, and excellence. Unity Dance, reaching nationally and globally through its touring companies, provides a fresh perspective of God's heart through creative, high-impact productions which have been characterized as unexpected, revelational, and inspiring.

There are currently four (4) levels of company involvement: Apprentice, Company Member, Touring Trainee, Touring Company Artist Member.

Unity Dance Troupe Apprentices are given understudy roles and expected to help tech during shows (including backstage and front-of-house duties).

Unity Dance Troupe Company Members are cast in UDT performances but may also be called upon to provide tech assistance on an as-needed basis.

Unity Touring Trainee are invited on tours as understudies, technicians, and Front of House helpers

Unity Touring Company Artist are cast in all company shows as well as in Unity's touring productions. Touring members are held to more stringent requirements including additional training and class attendance standards as well as travel and volunteer availability.

Acceptance as an Apprentice and/or Company Member is determined at UDT's annual auditions in August. Touring Intern and Member positions are an invitation-only arrangement.

Unity Dance Troupe is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and primarily operates on donations. Company positions are unpaid, and company members are expected to participate in company fundraising activities. Some limited teaching positions are available through Unity Dance Studios (UDS), the academic branch of UDT. Other paid positions may be available through UDT for persons with skills in marketing, PR, accounting, management, set construction and design, costuming and other administrative functions.

Company rehearsals take place each Saturday during the fall and spring semesters. Company and apprentice members are required to take a minimum of two classes per week, including at least one ballet class, at the UDS academy to support physical training as well as to adapt to Unity's unique performance style. Touring members are required to take a minimum of three classes per week. Tuition prices for these classes can be found on our website: www.unitydancestudios.com.

Auditions for the company take place each August. Exact dates and other details can be found at www.unitydancetroupe.com or by emailing the company's Assistant Director at tour@unitydancetroupe.com.

Executive Director – Alexis Ziarkowski Burleson

Tour Director – Austin Burleson

Assistant Director – Katherine Griesemer

Company Fees

All UDT company members will be charged a \$40 costume fee for each production in which they perform. Company members must also volunteer in fundraising and marketing efforts to help support the progression of UDT.

Steps of Involvement in UDT Positions

UNITY DANCE TROUPE – APPRENTICE

- Ages 15+
- **Class requirements:** at least two classes per week at UDS, including at least one ballet class.
- **Rehearsals:** Apprentices are expected to be at all UDT rehearsals.
- Apprentices serve as techs at UDT performances as well as fill understudy roles upon request. The role of apprentice is important as it allows dancers to gain an understanding of the culture of UDT as well as how a production should flow both on stage and behind the scenes.
- Apprentice positions will be granted acceptance or dismissal at any point from the UDT company at the directors discretion.

UNITY DANCE TROUPE – COMPANY MEMBER

- Ages 16+
- **Class requirements:** at least two classes per week at UDT, including at least one ballet class.
- **Rehearsals:** Company members are expected to attend weekly Saturday rehearsals as well as other rehearsals as called by the director.
- **Prerequisites:** Complete audition. If dancers are accepted as an apprentice, he/she must complete one year in this role before being considered for a company member position.

UNITY TOURING APPRENTICE

- Ages 17+
- **Class requirements:** at least three classes per week at UDS, including at least one ballet class.
- **Prerequisites:** A trainee position in Unity Touring is on an invitation-only basis. Trainees must have been a UDT company member for at least one year prior to initiation. Training and character development are crucial for being a trainee position. The trainee must demonstrate servant hearted qualities, exceptional ballet dance technique, and willingness to being an understudy and technician.

UNITY TOURING ARTIST

- Ages 18+
- **Class requirements:** at least three classes per week at UDS, including at least one ballet class.
- **Prerequisites:** A position in Unity Touring is on an invitation-only basis. Before consideration for membership in UT, dancers must complete at least one year as UDT company members. This requirement is necessary to allow dancers time to learn UDT repertoire as well as build the character necessary for the demanding touring requirements that come along with being a UT member. An invitation into UT is dependent upon practical dance experience and competency as well as attitude, character and relational group dynamic with the other UT members.



WE DANCE AS ONE