

Peoria Ballet

PEORIA **B** BALLET

Peoria Ballet

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Wendy Thomasson, Executive Director

Mission

To provide "art that moves" through high-quality dance instruction and stimulating performances.

Vision

To become a premier dance academy and company that is nationally recognized by presenting diverse performances while remaining financially viable. Peoria Ballet's focus on offering the highest-quality dance instruction and providing our community with spectacular performances will expand the appreciation of the arts for a wide demographic and attract new patrons to the art form of dance.

Signature Events

Spring Showcase

May 30, 2018

Five Points Washington

Join us for our annual Spring Showcase as the entire Peoria Ballet performs to show what they accomplished during the school year. Each class performs one piece featuring the skills learned during the year. It is a wonderful evening to conclude the season.

The Nutcracker

December 8-9, 2018

Peoria Civic Center

Kick off the holiday season with our annual production of *The Nutcracker*. Over 100 dancers will take the stage and delight audiences with spectacular sets and costumes, graceful dancing, and the timeless music of Tchaikovsky performed live by the Heartland Festival Orchestra. Winner of Peoria Magazines' Best Theater Production award in 2017, this festive holiday tradition is a treat for audiences of all ages.



For over 52 years, Peoria Ballet has served central Illinois residents through professional performances, dance classes, and outreach education and performances. The ballet has demonstrated a high level of artistic excellence through two annual professional-level ballet performances including professional guest artists. Peoria Ballet has trained more than 2,200 students in pre-professional ballet, modern, contemporary, jazz and tap.

PRODUCTIONS & PERFORMANCES

For more than 30 years, Peoria Ballet has presented *The Nutcracker* to the central Illinois region. Our flagship production allows over 100 students to expand their training by performing in a high-quality production with professional guest artists accompanied by a live orchestra. Peoria Ballet also presents a spring production of either a classical ballet, mixed repertoire or original work. All students may participate in the annual Spring Showcase performance to demonstrate skills learned during the season.

Our long-term goal is to present a wide variety of productions to engage different audiences and attract new patrons. More than 7,000 patrons attend Peoria Ballet's performances each season. As part of our commitment to the entire community, students and faculty members perform at outreaches and present educational programming in a variety of formats. Peoria Ballet also collaborates with other nonprofit organizations to provide educational programs and assist in their community events. We continue to seek new partnerships with other nonprofits and community organizations to provide outreach and education.

PEORIA BALLET ACADEMY

The Academy offers year-round instruction in classical ballet, contemporary, modern, jazz and tap. During the summer there is a six-week

session, as well as three weeks of summer intensives for intermediate and advanced students which are highlighted by three guest teachers. Currently, the Academy offers 53 classes per week to over 180 students ranging in age from three to adult. In an effort to make our dance classes accessible to students of all economic backgrounds, Peoria Ballet provides financial need-based scholarships and free training for male students.

HOW TO HELP

We are currently seeking individuals to serve on our Board of Directors. This is an active, working board that provides expertise in areas including accounting/finance, marketing and fundraising. Candidates should have an interest in the arts, knowledge/professional experience in the aforementioned areas, and/or strong community connections to assist in strengthening and developing new partnerships. We are also seeking volunteers to assist in the areas of costuming (design, construction and repair), sets and props (construction and maintenance), website design/IT and graphic design/promotion. Please email info@peoriaballet.com for more information or to indicate your interest.

Peoria Ballet relies on support from individuals and businesses. Donations support our mission of artistic excellence and dance education, allowing us to continue our programming that includes outstanding dance instruction, as well as our productions presented to the community and diverse educational outreach endeavors. Visit our website for more information and to donate online. Peoria Ballet is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Please contact Wendy Thomasson at wthomasson@peoriaballet.com for more information.

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