

## Curriculum Description

*Remember: It is very normal to have a range of ability within each class level and to spend several years in each level!*

### Tots Creative Movement (3-4yr olds)

A wonderful time for young dancers to learn the joy of movement! Dancers will explore all the different ways their body can move as well as explore space and dynamics while experimenting with props to enhance creativity. Our focus here is creativity, individuality and proper class etiquette.

### Pre-Ballet (5 yr olds)

More structured than Tots Creative Movement, begins to include many ballet elements, but still focused on joy of movement! Class includes some ballet barre exercises, an introduction to many ballet terms, as well as expanding upon creative exercises to explore their own body movement and the space around them.

### Ballet

With a focus on proper alignment, posture, long bodylines, and shapes, it is a graceful, romantic, movement style. The mechanics of ballet can be complex and should be learned slowly with patience as it strengthens the body's center, legs, and feet for all forms of dance. Most dancers take several years in each of our levels learning the foundation of simpler ballet exercises before moving on to the next level.

### Modern

A free dance style and concept, modern dance is usually executed barefoot and focuses on the spirit of innovation, restricted only by the limitations of the human body. Modern dance is about the design of motion, supports individual expression, and is generally more grounded or weighted, and initiates movement from the body core. Teachers may use live drums and percussion or other music from world beat to classical.

### Jazz

A distinctly American art form, jazz celebrates stylization of shapes and is a melting pot of many dance forms. It is beneficial for students to have ballet or modern dance experience before beginning jazz since it uses similar vocabulary and teaches discipline and coordination in the legs and feet. Jazz accentuates body part isolations, flexibility, centered placement, multiple turns, and leaps along with the current dance style seen in clubs using current pop, techno, jazz, or hip hop music.

### Lyrical Contemporary

A blend of jazz, modern, and ballet technique which typically expresses the lyrics of pop musical ballads through smooth, connected, and sensuous movement. Experience in jazz, modern, and/or ballet required.

### Tap

A wonderful way to learn about musical rhythms through the use of your feet and special taps attached to shoes. Tap is mentally stimulating and fun, it requires the dancer to understand rhythms and translate that information into detailed footwork.

### Hip Hop

High energy street movement as seen in your favorite music videos by artists such as Usher and Destinys' Child to the hottest R&B, pop and Hip Hop music. It emphasizes body movement, rhythm, and athleticism.

## ORMAO Instructors are special...

### Janet Johnson – Director

#### **Ormao Dance Company & Ormao Senior Repertory**

Ms. Johnson the face of dance in Colorado Springs. As the founder of the Ormao Dance Company she has brought a longed for level of professional contemporary dance to our city. Her work has brought noted choreographers to the company and given young, emerging choreographers fertile ground to launch exciting new works. As a choreographer, she has developed a wide repertoire of works including "Beyond Spatial Limits," "From Fire" and "Aloft." As have many fine choreographers and company directors before her, she recognizes that excellent, dynamic and challenging choreography is only possible when the body, mind and soul of the dancer are well-formed. Whether teaching youth at the Ormao Dance School or company class, she is able to bring out of each student and professional dancer an extraordinary level of excellence. Ms. Johnson was herself well-schooled in dance at the University of Wisconsin and then began dancing, teaching and choreographing in a variety of companies until founding Ormao Dance Company in 1990. Ormao has become an outstanding part of the Colorado Springs' cultural offering. Her belief in the inclusive nature of the dance experience has created a company with depth of artistic expression and brilliance of technical skill. Janet Johnson has take the raw material of well-trained dancers and given back to the Colorado Springs community a professional contemporary dance company they can call their own.

### Tiffany Tinsley Weeks—Assistant Director

#### **Ormao Dance Company & Ormao Junior Repertory**

Ms. Weeks received her BFA Magna Cum Laude from the University of Florida. She has performed in choreography by ODC/San Francisco, Shapiro and Smith Dance, Adele Myers, Kelly Drummond Cawthon and many others. Her choreographic skills earned one of only three nominations for the Peak Area Performer and Artists Award given for choreographic excellence for her work "Aria" which premiered with Ormao Dance Company in the Spring of 2003. In addition to dancing with the Ormao Dance company since 2001, Ms. Tinsley Weeks also directs the Ormao Junior Company. Tiffany consistently earns the respect of her young students as she demonstrates both artistic excellence and a commitment to the development of each emerging dancer.

### Maria Linn Deckard (Ballet & Modern)

#### **Ormao Youth Ensemble**

Ms Deckard holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). Her extensive dance training background consists of ballet, jazz, and modern, with an emphasis on contemporary modern technique. While at CSULB, she was trained under Rebecca Wright (ABT), Jeff Slayton (Merce Cunningham Dance Company, NYC), and Holly Schiffer (Jose Limon Dance Company, NYC). Maria brings extensive knowledge of body mechanics and an obvious joy for dance to her unique blend of contemporary modern dance.

### Debra Mercer (Ballet)

Ms. Mercer earned her Bachelors of Arts in Dance with honors from York University in Toronto, Canada and has danced with various ballet companies through out the country including the Colorado Ballet, Dance in Flight, David Taylor Dance Theatre, Denver Civic Ballet and Jackson Ballet. Ms. Mercer has been dancing with Ormao Dance Company since 1994 and is also the ballet mistress for Ormao Dance Company continuously challenging the other members to maintain and improve technique. Teaching being a true talent of Ms. Mercers, she has been sharing her knowledge with students of Colorado College for fifteen years. Ms. Mercer has danced with various ballet companies through out the country including the Colorado Ballet, Dance in Flight, David Taylor Dance Theatre, Denver Civic Ballet and Jackson Ballet.

### Cheryl Beck (Tots Creative Movement & Pre-Ballet)

Cheryl's previous experience dancing with Ormao Dance Company and her degree in education with over 10 years as a Kindergarten teacher combine to create the ultimate dance class experience for our youngest dancers. Just ask the Tots and parents of Ormao!

### Erin Benson (Ballet)

Erin has tremendously varied ballet training as a young dancer and most recently has been inspired by extensive training and performance touring with Ballet Magnificat (Jackson, MS) as well as Hosanna Sacred Arts (Birmingham, AL). Erin is clearly a dancer with a passion for teaching the art of ballet to children and adults in a way that results in a strong sense of accomplishment for students as well as a sense of pride and appreciation for parents. In addition to teaching at Ormao, she currently serves as Founder and Executive Director of Ballet Emmanuel.

### Sarah Tietje (Modern, Creative Movement & Pre-Ballet)

Sarah grew up in rural southwest Louisiana and has studied and performed all kinds of dance (particularly contemporary dance) at the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, Tulane University in New Orleans, and the University of Auckland in New Zealand. She uses movement as a creative practice and cultural expression, as well as a learning device to help her students access all kinds of knowledge that exist both inside and outside of their bodies. She brings a passion for finding the creative genius in each student.

More information to come!



## REGISTRATION FORM



Photo: Steve Starr

Ages 3—Adult

Ballet  
Modern  
Jazz  
Pre-Ballet  
Creative Movement

**Ormao Center for Dance**  
**Willamette & Royer**  
**Colorado Springs, CO 80903**  
**719-471-9759**  
**www.ormaodance.org ormao@msn.com**



**Tuition Policies:**

- Semester payments due Sept 1 & January 15.
- 1st month may be paid as 'trial month' and applied towards semester.
- Monthly payment options considered, please inquire !!!

**Payment Records**

*Amount paid    Cash/Check#    Date*

*Apply towards:*

*Amount paid    Cash/Check#    Date*

*Apply towards:*

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*Apply towards:*

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*Amount paid    Cash/Check#    Date*

*Apply towards:*

Willamette & Royer  
Colorado Springs, CO

**Phone: 719-471-9759**

**Registration Form**

Dancer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: month/\_\_\_\_day/\_\_\_\_year/\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardians \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Classes you are registering for:**

Day	Class	Level	Time

Annual Registration fee: \$20.00

Semester Fee due: \_\_\_\_\_

(Monthly payment option available, please inquire!!!)

TOTAL DUE \_\_\_\_\_