

Your Guide to a Vibrant Lifestyle

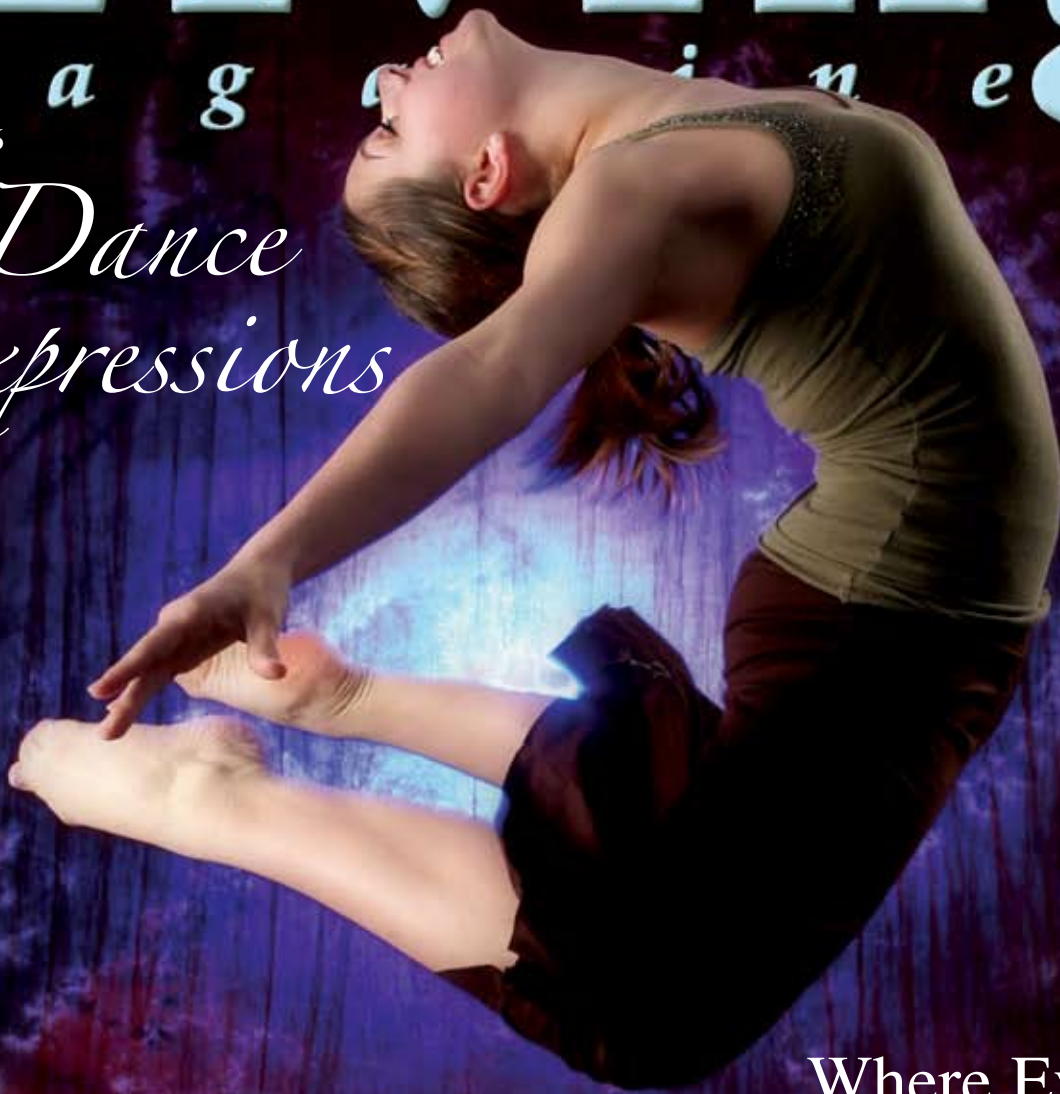
Friendswood/Pearland Edition

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March 2006

*Dance
Expressions*



Where Every
Child is a
Shooting Star

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Dance Expressions

Where Every Child is a Shooting Star

Award-winning Studio Offers a Nurturing, Family Environment for Dancers of all Talent Levels and Experience

By Anna Henry

Those of us who have taken dance lessons know the true meaning of the phrase, "the gift of dance."

Children, teens and

adults alike can benefit from dance. It provides lifelong attributes such as poise, self-confidence, creativity, self-expression, rhythm and coordination. Best of all, dancing is fun and something you can do and appreciate for the rest of your life.

No one knows this better than Dance Expressions owner and director Jennifer Smith. Jennifer has been dancing for 29 years, an instructor for 15 years and this is her 10th year as director of Dance Expressions.

A former member of the University of Houston Cougar Dolls and Houston Oiler Dancer, Jennifer has a bachelor's degree in dance and health promotion and a master's degree in education. She carefully creates classes that are age appropriate and developmental, meets regularly with staff for training, and makes herself available to parents and students for personal attention.

"No matter what the student's goal is in dance, we as staff influence the dancer's lives because we see them every week for years," says Jennifer. "Being a positive role model and a good teacher is just as important as being a good dancer."

With 15 instructors, she firmly believes that the best teachers specialize in the form of dance that they are teaching, which accounts for the large staff.

Personalized Attention, Smaller Class Sizes

Dance Expressions offers classes for children as young as 2 years of age through teens and adults. By keeping their class sizes smaller than average, they provide personalized attention for every student and teach the proper technique and fundamentals of dance instead of just letting students go through the motions.

Five Reasons to Select Dance Expressions

- Personal attention
- Smaller classes
- Quality staff with sought-after Master Teachers
- Relaxed, family oriented atmosphere
- Hassle-free recital package with everything except costumes included

"From beginner classes to our master level classes, we strive to create an opportunity for our dancers to set goals and to help them reach them with great training and hard work mixed with fun," says Jennifer. "We determine the right class for each student considering age, maturity, experience and ability."

Excellence in Dance

Dance Expression's award-winning competitive dance company consists of several divisions and levels ranging from a novice group to advanced. Children from 6 to 18 years of age can become company members by auditioning for placement.

Competition dances include everything from solos up to a production team.

Many of Dance Expressions' dancers also have reached their personal goals beyond the studio. Emily Dondzila (cover shot dancer), has been in the StarPower's Power Pac for six years and a member of Steven Boyd's ensemble for five years. Other students have reached their goals by being in Al Lowe's Tap Collective, the Houston Ballet Academy, high school and college dance teams, and much more.

Dance Expressions is especially proud of their outstanding master class teachers. Dancers get to work with these high-caliber teachers in master classes every week. Highly sought after instructors such as Steven Boyd, a nationally recognized teacher, choreographer and dancer, choose to offer instruction at Dance Expressions.

"We are really excited to announce that next season, Steven is going to have a company that he will run weekly at Dance Expressions," says Jennifer. "It is going to be a great opportunity for the dancers. Auditions will be held soon."

The Recital Experience

Dance Expressions has annual recitals and performs a formal story line recital every other year. Auditions for recitals are held by outside judges to ensure selection of main cast is unbiased. "It is so much work to put on that level of a show but the girls get so excited to get to be a special part of the story," Jennifer remarks.

A new service at Dance Expressions to make the recital experience easier is Hassle Free Recital. This is a package that includes unlimited tickets, DVD of the recital, all rehearsal fees, and even costume alterations incorporated in monthly tuition to avoid the large lump fees that are usually associated with recitals.

Selecting the Right Dance Studio

Selecting the right dance studio is an important decision. We often choose a studio based on location or price alone, rather than taking into consideration the quality of the instructors and the studio's reputation.

Those who have done their homework, like Kathy Lewey, choose Dance Expressions.

"My daughter Lacey is a 12-year-old competitive dancer who started dancing when she was 2," says Kathy Lewey. "We looked at Dance Expressions because of their reputation as a family oriented studio, the exceptional talent of their instructors, and their master classes."

Dance Expressions Offers Classes for All Talent Levels

- Ballet
- Pointe
- Tap
- Jazz
- Modern
- Lyrical
- Hip-Hop
- Drill Team Clinics
- Creative Dance
- Award-winning Competitive Dance Company

Dance Expressions will be featured in *Dance Teacher/Dance Spirit* magazine's "50 Studios On The Move" in the 2006 Competition and Convention Yearbook.

"Jennifer met one-on-one with Lacey to determine her level and technique. Although it was her first experience with Jennifer, Lacey was impressed and so was I," Kathy continues. "Everyone welcomed her and made her feel at home. She's in her third year at Dance Expressions and we're delighted."

Why wait any longer to give the gift of dance? Dance Expressions has proudly served Friendswood and surrounding communities for nine years. Call them at 281-996-6000 today and schedule a time to tour the studio or sign up for a class. Dance Expressions is located at 130 S. Friendswood Drive, on the corner of FM 518 & FM 2351. For more information visit www.danceexpressions.net or call their 24-hour information line at 1-877-295-3961. 