

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

TEACHING ASSISTANT / TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

MMDG believes that access to the arts is essential to everyone. The Dance Center is a place for all members of the community to gather to create, learn, and perform. It has become a major NYC cultural center offering a wide range of education and community programs all with live musical accompaniment-- reflecting the spirit of the Mark Morris Dance Group in its celebration of music and dance.

The MMDG teacher training program offers future teaching artists a fully-immersive experience that provides the tools and techniques for working in the field of dance education. Working in a mentorship relationship with principal Dance Center faculty, trainees observe skilled teachers who understand MMDG's pedagogy and methodologies as well as class development and management. Teacher trainees work directly with children providing assistance and are given opportunities to lead class through a semester long engagement. In addition, trainees work with live musicians and are invited to participate in faculty professional development sessions led by leaders in the field and offered throughout the year.

Acceptance into the MMDG Teacher Training program is through application and subsequent interview with the School Director. Applicants are expected to possess a strong interest in dance education and to have reached advanced proficiency in their own dance training.

The Teacher Training program accepts 20-25 participants each year. Trainees must make a minimum 1 semester and 1 camp commitment. At the end of each semester trainees will have completed the following program benchmarks.

1. **Orientation & Observation:**

At the start of each program, trainees attend an orientation with the School Director to review program policies, procedures, expectations and overall goals. Throughout the program, trainees observe classes through The School and/or Community Education programs. Trainees are encouraged to take advantage of the free classes offered while participating in the program as this will give trainees a broader perspective of the breadth of classes offered and the approach and style of different faculty members.

2. **Assisting:**

Trainees will work under a principal faculty member in The School's Children & Teen program and/or Community Education programs. Trainees will be responsible for the following:

- Help with taking attendance (check IN and check OUT)
- Correct students and/or assist a struggling dancer as the teacher leads the class
- Correct students who are misbehaving or not following instructions
- Lead certain warm-ups or exercises when requested by the teacher
- Escort children to the bathroom or water fountain
- Oversee a group of students during scheduled breaks during dance camps
- Hand out props or set up items to be used in class
- Keep an eye out for potential hazards like untied shoe laces or poor spatial-awareness while children are dancing
- Be a source of positive and enthusiastic energy in the class

- Keep students on task and focused
- Offer encouragement to dance students during the class
- Help to line up students and to keep them in line
- Work seamlessly with the teacher by anticipating his/her needs so that together you can provide a fun and supportive learning environment for younger dancers

3. Teaching:

Toward the end of the program, trainees will be given the opportunity to either lead a class/workshop with their mentor or teach exercises in the class/workshop.

4. Feedback:

Trainees will receive constructive feedback from their mentor and/or School staff. This is an integral part of developing one's skills. In addition, trainees will be given the opportunity to participate in a dialogue about pedagogy and best practices.

Upon successful completion of the program trainees will receive guidance and support on prospective job opportunities in this dynamic field.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Teaching Trainees should have appropriate dance training and should enjoy working with children. Teaching Assistants must make a commitment to the classes that they assist, attending every scheduled class and finding substitutes for the classes they cannot attend. Absences are strongly discouraged. Teaching assistants must be present for the Parents' Observation Days in the Winter and the Fall as well as the end-of-camp performances.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Commit to 16 weeks of either Fall or Spring semester, or both. Priority will be given to those applicants who are able to commit to both semesters
- Commit to TWO 2-class shifts per week or ONE 3-class shift per week
- Commit to a full Dance Camp. Dance Camps are held in February and July/August
- Attend the annual faculty meeting, date determined by School Director

BENEFITS:

- Unlimited discounted dance classes
- Valuable experience as a dance teacher
- Letters of recommendation or reference for future work as a dance teacher
- Access to affordable studio rental space
- Discounts on intensives, workshops, and master classes offered at the Dance Center
- Access to discounted tickets and special events
- Free professional development sessions and events

COMPENSATION:

Upon successful completion of two semesters (or one academic year) of classes, trainees will be added to the faculty sub list (standard rate of pay) and eligible for pay for classes they assist.

For more information, contact schooladmin@mmdg.org.