

A Note From the Owners

Throughout this most unprecedented past year, our collective mindset turned from ordered, planned, and connected to fractured, reactive, and separated. Our places of respite from the rigors of each day--our homes--turned into our work places, our children's learning spaces, and our shelter from a storm we were unprepared to weather with ease. We sought out new methods to attempt our former daily successes that many of us took for granted until it was time to do a renovation (in reaction to the pandemic) beyond our scope of choices.

With the many chaotic and ultimately discouraging aspects apparent all around me this past year, I found symbiotic wholeness in one place: My students and classes at Harbor Dance. Our dancers and classes both grounded and inspired me beyond the scope of my ability to write here or to even speak about in any articulate form.

In order to continue our shared passion of dance, our class environment had to change greatly this past year, but we were not held back. You see, artistic pursuit isn't merely one facet of a dancer's existence, it is our entire way of life. When the fire is ignited within us for this most incredible of art forms, the passion drives us to live in such a way as to mimic its presence--whether we are in the studio or out.

Inside the dance class, the focus exists inward and outward all at once for a dancer. Inside the dance classroom, we practice memorizing and reacting to cues (musical, counts, beats) with our bodies and minds. Over time, our practice culminates in muscle memory so we are no longer reacting, but we are in sync with the outside cues. We can even anticipate cues, or re-create them into new cues or without any cues at all.

Outside in the world, this ability transferred over this past year during the pandemic. Dancers showed up wherever they were asked. Whether they were wearing their complete ballet attire with hair in a neat bun on a Zoom call, or getting stung by a bee mid-choreography (she danced until the end) in the grass in my front yard while rehearsing, dancers did not once complain openly or question what was happening. They adapted, and despite some huge roadblocks, danced over them with grace and seamless precision.

The owners would like to extend the deepest, most sincere gratitude to you all for your trust and belief in us to help shape your kiddos' worlds to the very best of our abilities. We are committed to grow alongside their ever increasing passion and enthusiasm. Inspiration is both reciprocal and contagious when it's shared between dancers.

In loving gratitude, and with a graceful flourish, we present this most exceptional of years to you.

Simone Peterson