

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY DANCE ENSEMBLE



Through learning and participating in dance, students are able to reflect on the ways dance is a part of the human experience in general, and more specifically, as part of ones own life. Each semester students may choose from two different dance courses offered through the Department of Theatre. Styles covered are ballet, tap, jazz, and modern. In addition to these mainstay courses, a non-traditional dance course is usually offered every other year. Topics covered in the course may include dance improvisation, musical theatre styles, or another topic that relates directly to an upcoming theatre department production.

Under the leadership of Department of Theatre faculty, the University Dance Ensemble meets regularly throughout the academic year for technique classes and choreography. All university students are welcomed to join. Academic credit can be given for those students choreographing or performing in the annual Concert of Dance. The University Dance Ensemble regularly invites dancers from the surrounding northwest Indiana community to perform with the ensemble as part of its mission to make dance a more visible part of the community.

There are numerous performance opportunities for interested dancers and student choreographers. Past performances have included the opening of the Center for the Arts, museum openings, MLK Jr. Opening Convocation, Advent Vesper services, liturgical dance at area churches, Department of Theatre productions, Festival of Dance, as well as the annual Concert of Dance. This annual concert highlights faculty, student and guest choreographers. Auditions for this concert are held at the beginning of the fall semester.

For more information contact Ann.Kessler@valpo.edu

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