



STAGE DOOR  
SCHOOL OF DANCE

**SDSDCREW**®

2024-2025

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# STAGE DOOR

## SCHOOL OF DANCE

## A Note from Your Program Director

### *Welcome to the SDSD Crew Program!*

I'm thrilled to welcome your dancer into our community. Together, we're embarking on an incredible year ahead, full of growth, creativity, and joy.

Our mission is to nurture each dancer's individual talents while fostering a sense of belonging and teamwork. We're here to provide ongoing support to you and your dancer, ensuring a positive and enriching experience for your entire family.



Thank you for trusting us with this important part of your dancer's journey. We are genuinely excited to witness their growth and celebrate their achievements. Together, we'll create lasting memories and a wonderful year of dance.

Enclosed in this Handbook, you'll find more details about the exciting Crew Program and all that we have planned for the year ahead. You'll find information about our rehearsal schedules, performance opportunities, and policies to ensure everyone has a positive experience. This will help you appreciate all we have planned for the year ahead. I look forward to getting to know you and your dancer this year.

Together, let's make it a wonderful season of growth and celebration!

**Kind regards,**

*Stephanie Vertichio-Brennan*

**Ms. Stephanie Vertichio-Brennan**

Co-Artistic Director  
Director, SDSD Select, SDSD Crew,  
& Recreational Program  
E: recreational@stagedoordancer.com

# A Note from Your Studio Owner

***Welcome to a program where your passion for dance meets opportunity!***

SDSD Crew brings together dancers of all levels, ages 5 to 17, to create a dynamic competitive dance community. Here, every style and dancer—from tap to hip-hop to jazz—has a place on our competition stage.

After providing almost 50 years of professional dance education here at Stage Door School of Dance, we have come to understand that true growth flourishes when dedication and opportunity come together in a supportive space. This is the heart of SDSD Crew.

Each step you take as an SDSD Crew dancer—in class, rehearsal, or performance—is a chance to expand your abilities and uncover your unique artistic voice.

We are excited to witness you grow, both as dancers and as individuals who understand the power of combining commitment, teamwork, and self-expression.

**Kind regards,**

*Mary Giattino*

**Ms. Mary Giattino**  
Studio Owner & CEO



## **Our Mission**

Stage Door School of Dance empowers individuals through Arts Education.

We provide a safe space where creative minds are free to be their whole self and thrive as members of our dance family.

Through our core values, we nurture a community of kindness, love, and respect that extends beyond our studio wall.

## **Our Values:**

**S**trength

**T**rust

**A**gility

**G**ratITUDE

**E**mpowerment

**D**iligence

**O**pen-Mindedness

**O**ptimism

**R**espect

# About this Handbook

For more than four decades, Stage Door School of Dance (SDSD) has been a leader in dance education. We believe our success comes as a result of providing solid training and quality service in an **inclusive** environment. We have created this handbook to offer our SDSD Crew students and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the SDSD Crew program.

## Key contact information for Stage Door School of Dance

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Patchogue, NY 11772

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### **Michael Mastroddi**

Director, Branding & Communications  
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# For Our Dancers

***Congratulations and welcome to SDSA's Crew Program!*** We hope you embrace this exciting opportunity at SDSA! Please read all the information below very carefully in order to fully understand the components and policies of the Crew Program!

The SDSA Crew Program, an open-enrollment dance team program for ALL dancers ages 5-17. No audition required.

*Dancers who CHOOSE to participate can register for their class by age. Each class will participate in 2 local dance competitions annually.*

## **SDSA Crew Lines consist of:**

- ✓ Liberty Crew Jazz: Ages 5-7
- ✓ Carnegie Crew Jazz: Ages 8-10
- ✓ Rockefeller Crew Jazz: Ages 11-13
- ✓ Empire Crew Jazz: Ages 14-17
- ✓ Liberty/Carnegie Crew Hip Hop: Ages 5-10
- ✓ Liberty Crew Hip Hop: Ages 5-7
- ✓ Rockefeller/Empire Crew Hip Hop: Ages 11-17
- ✓ Liberty/Carnegie Crew Tap: Ages 5-10
- ✓ Rockefeller/Empire Crew Tap: Ages 11-17

## **SDSA Crew Exclusives:**

- ✓ 4th of July Parade
- ✓ Adjudication Panel Day
- ✓ SDSA Faculty and Special Professional Industry Guest Workshops
- ✓ End of dance season celebration

### **Liberty, Carnegie, Rockefeller, Empire Jazz Crew Requirements**

*(3 class total)*

- ✓ Your age "Jazz Crew"
- ✓ A recital-performing class of your choice
- ✓ A recital-performing class of your choice

### **Liberty/Carnegie, Rockefeller/Empire: Hip Hop Crew Requirements**

*(3 class total)*

- ✓ Your age "Hip Hop Crew" class
- ✓ A recital-performing class of your choice
- ✓ A recital-performing class of your choice

### **Liberty/Carnegie, Rockefeller/Empire Tap Crew Requirements**

*(3 class total)*

- ✓ Your age "Tap Crew" class
- ✓ A recital-performing class of your choice
- ✓ A recital-performing class of your choice

### **Two Crew Classes, Requirements**

*(4 classes total)*

- ✓ Your age "Jazz Crew", "Hip Hop Crew", or "Tap Crew"
- ✓ Your age "Jazz Crew", "Hip Hop Crew", or "Tap Crew"
- ✓ A recital-performing class of your choice
- ✓ A recital-performing class of your choice

### **Three Crew Classes, Requirements**

*(5 classes total)*

- ✓ Your age "Jazz Crew"
- ✓ Your age "Hip Hop Crew"
- ✓ Your age "Tap Crew"
- ✓ A recital-performing class of your choice
- ✓ A recital-performing class of your choice

## **SDSD Crew Program Benefits**

The **SDSD Crew program focuses on educating young people to strive for their personal best in ANYTHING they want to accomplish.**

We achieve our program goals by providing young people with the opportunity to:

- ✓ Gain a sense of balance in life by managing their commitments to both dance AND academics.
- ✓ Participate in a physical activity that enhances their understanding of the value of a healthy body.
- ✓ Work with mentors who are focused on the students' success inside and outside of the classroom.
- ✓ Enjoy friendships that could last a lifetime and a sense of belonging to an extended family of fellow dancers, teachers, and parents/guardians.
- ✓ Discover the results of hard work and determination.
- ✓ Develop a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts.

## **For the Grown-ups: “We’re in This Together”**

We believe that a dancer’s success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference and we encourage you to be a part of your dancer’s dance education.

Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty, students, and families. Cooperation between all parties is expected. Showing respect for others makes an **important impression on the dancers**. You are a role model for your dancer and so many others. We must work together to teach them how to interact with others and conduct themselves in a professional setting.

Your dancer’s presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the invaluable lesson of dedication are a big part of our school’s educational process. Parents/Guardians and teachers may look at a dancer’s learning process from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: to ensure that every dancer receives the **best possible training, both physically and mentally**.

## Attendance Policy

All dancers are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes in addition to any scheduled weekend rehearsals.

There will be **1 Mandatory 2-hour** rehearsal for each of their competition dances on a weekend outside of class time.

Every student will be **permitted 5 Excused Absences for their Crew Competitive Classes (Jazz, Hip Hop, or Tap) during the entire Dance Season**. Upon the 5th absence, the primary guardian and dancer will receive an email from the director of the program which will serve as official notification that 5 classes have been missed. If a 6th class is missed the dancer will be on Attendance Probation for that specific class. At this time, the director of the program will call to communicate the attendance probation status. If a 7th class is missed your dancer will be dismissed from the SDSD Crew program regardless of the time of year. There will be no refunds for Rehearsal Fees, Competition Fees, or Costumes. Please use your absences wisely anticipating mandatory school & family functions.

If the dancer is sitting the class out, late or leaving early, this will count as **HALF AN ABSENCE (.5)** unless accompanied by a doctor's note, for a more serious illness or injury. If a student is injured for an extended amount of time, accompanied by a doctor's note, their status in that class will be up to the discretion of the SDSD instructor. In certain situations, when a dancer misses weeks of class at a time, even if they are observing they may fall behind in their choreography and technical responsibilities. It is at the staff's discretion if they believe the student will be able to catch up. At that point, the instructor has the authority to take them out of sections of the dance or replace them entirely.

## Zoom

If a dancer is away or not feeling well, they are allowed to take class via Zoom. Please note this will count as a **HALF AN ABSENCE (.5)**.

## Image/Dress Code

Image is important to us here at Stage Door School of Dance and should be to you as well. If you look good, then you feel good, and perform better in class; this is proven. *Please encourage your dancer to be dressed appropriately in all dance classes.*

CLASS	ATTIRE	TIGHTS & SHOES	HAIR
<b>Jazz, Tap</b>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Black leotard; Tan tights; Black fitted shorts are optional.</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> White T-shirt, Black Pants or Shorts</p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Tan Jazz shoes; Tan Tap shoes.</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Black Jazz Shoes, Black Tap Shoes</p> <p><i>(Competition shoes may be a different color, which is communicated in November)</i></p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> In a Slick Bun.</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Slicked &amp; out of face.</p>
<b>Ballet</b>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Black leotard; Pink Tights</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> White T-shirt, Black Pants or Shorts</p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Pink Ballet shoes</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Black Ballet Shoes</p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> In a Slick Bun.</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Slicked &amp; out of face.</p>
<b>Modern, Lyrical, Contemporary, Musical Theater, Stretch, Acro</b>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Black or Colored Leotard; Tan or Pink Tights; Black or Colored/Printed Shorts</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> White T-shirt, Black Pants or Shorts</p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Tan Jazz shoes or Bare feet</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Black Jazz Shoes or Bare feet <i>(Teacher will let you know)</i></p>	In a Slick Ponytail or Bun.
<b>Hip Hop, Urban Movement, Strength &amp; Conditioning</b>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Black Leotard; Tan tights; Can wear t-shirts of appropriate length; capri-length pants; long pants/leggings. Black or colored shorts</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Any color T-Shirt/Pants/Shorts</p>	<p>Sneakers. <i>(Please bring a pair that has not been worn outside.)</i></p>	In a Slick Ponytail.
<b>Jazz, Tap</b>	<p>Girls: Black leotard; Tan tights; Black fitted shorts are optional.</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> White T-shirt, Black Pants or Shorts</p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Tan Jazz shoes; Tan Tap shoes.</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Black Jazz Shoes, Black Tap Shoes <i>(Competition Shoes may be a different color, which is given in October)</i></p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> In a Slick Bun.</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Slicked &amp; out of face.</p>
<b>Ballet</b>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Black leotard; Pink Tights</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> White T-shirt, Black Pants or Shorts</p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Pink Ballet shoes</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Black Ballet Shoes</p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> In a Slick Bun.</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Slicked &amp; out of face.</p>

**IMPORTANT:** *The use of the Stage Door School of Dance logo and brand name (including the initials SDSD and Crew Program Line Names –) are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** for use on any attire, gift, merchandise, or designs without the written permission of Stage Door School of Dance and the Director, Branding and Communications.*

## 4th of July Parade

We are excited to invite our SDDS Crew Program members to perform in the Patchogue 4th of July Parade! This is an exciting and optional performance opportunity! Each dancer will need to purchase a SDDS 2025 Recital T-Shirt. The other costume pieces needed are white shorts, white socks, & white sneakers. A themed accessory will be provided by SDDS (included in the fee)

<b>SDDS SELECT 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY PARADE SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>Parade Rehearsal</b>	<b>Monday, June 30, 2025</b> (6:30-8:30pm)
	<b>Wednesday, July 2, 2025</b> (6:30-8:30pm)
<b>Parade Performance</b>	<b>Friday, July 4, 2025</b> (Call time 9:30am at the Parade Route)
	<b>Parade Start Time: 10:30am</b>

## Financial Expectations

Please note that there will be additional fees associated with being an SDDS Crew Program member.

[To view the SDDS Crew Financial Brochure >>> click here.](#)

SDDS Crew Dancers are required to purchase a Warm up Jacket for the 2024-2025 season! You also have the option to purchase Optional Crew Shorts or Crew Pants.

*There will be a fitting with Ms. Tara, Director of Merchandise. You and your dancer will sign up via a Calendly link. The link will be communicated by Ms. Stephanie via her weekly reminder emails.*

## **Adjudication Panel @ SDSA: Competition Dress Rehearsal**

Every year Ms. Mary brings out some of Broadway's Best to be on a "panel" viewing all of SDSA's Large Group Competition Routines. We've found this to be very helpful and inspiring for our young dancers to meet REAL WORKING PERFORMERS and to hear their feedback, which is always very useful at this stage of the game!! One Grown Up per dancer is invited to be in the room when their dancer performs, to hear the valuable feedback provided by the panel. There will be a block of time when your dancer will need to be present.

## **The Competition Experience**

For dedicated dancers, the satisfaction of an excellent performance is all the motivation they need to work harder to continue improving.

### **The focus is not simply on competition.**

It is our goal to instill in our students a passion for performing rather than merely the desire to win awards. We believe the lessons learned through community performances and services are as valuable, if not **MORE**, than the competition experience.

Our solid reputation for quality reflects our attitude toward competition and our goal is to develop in each student a genuine respect for dance as an art form. We consider students' participation in competitions not merely part of their dance training; it's also an important part of how we influence their growth as people. With the right focus, the experience gained in competition can be an excellent source of self-confidence. If the dancers feel good about a performance and understand that they become better each time they go onstage, they are truly growing through the competition experience. Hitting that stage and doing the best they can is what it's all about. Trophies and the pressure of "winning" become secondary. Being given the opportunity to perform is priceless.

Through participation in competitions, we hope to instill in our students an appreciation for other dancers and schools. Our goal is not to compete against others but to inspire and motivate both students and faculty by showcasing top-tier talent. We believe that by exposing everyone to the highest caliber of skill, we can cultivate exceptional dancers and educators. For us, competition serves as a valuable educational experience that drives us all to become greater artists.

## **Additional Investment: Solo Opportunity for Graduating Seniors in our Crew Program**

We are offering our graduating senior dancers the chance to perform a solo at four competitions—two with your large groups and two with our Elite Company & Select Program. This opportunity allows the graduating senior to learn new choreography, enhance their technique, and gain extra performance experience. You can choose from the genres: Tap, Jazz, Modern, Lyrical, Contemporary, or Hip Hop. Please note that commitment in this solo opportunity, you will need to register for the genre of the Solo for the full dance year. If you are interested, Ms. Stephanie will send you the Small Group Financials Brochure & 4 Competition Weekend Dates. After reviewing this brochure and you are interested in continuing with a solo, please submit your request no later than **October 18, 2024**.

### **You're ready to work on a Solo piece when:**

- ✓ You are already up to date with your regular tuition payments for your monthly tuition.
- ✓ You have made a serious commitment to yourself and to dance.
- ✓ You understand the extra costs of rehearsal time with your teacher and costumes needed.
- ✓ You're willing to work on your own to spend extra time on your dance.
- ✓ You are willing to take your piece apart count by count and make sure you know what needs to happen technically (where your arms are on every count, what the best lines are, and so on).
- ✓ You are willing to rehearse your piece full-out all the time in order to build stamina.
- ✓ You are aware that the time needed for your piece will never interfere with group rehearsals, regular classes, or performances.

### **You're not ready to commit to a group piece when:**

- ✓ You do not have the time to make the commitment.
- ✓ You do not have the funds required for this optional program.

## Social Media Use

We encourage all Crew Program Families to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Threads, and Tik Tok, as well as download the SDSD Mobile App in order to stay current in last minute changes, news, and updates, in addition to really fun content. This is intended to provide SDSD students and parents and guardians with guidelines to eliminate any confusion concerning the use of social media.

- ✓ We encourage **POSITIVITY** when utilizing social media regarding SDSD. If you are excited about the dance season, parade, recital, competition, convention, etc. feel free encouraged to speak to your positive experiences at Stage Door openly on your personal social platforms. We will just ask that you please adhere to filming / photography requirements below.
  - Parents / Guardians / Students **ARE PERMITTED** to take photos / videos
    - in the lobby
    - in-studio during their private studio time / post class time / private lesson
    - in-studio during Grown-Up Observation Week
    - in-studio during Dress Rehearsal Week
    - Backstage During Recital
      - **INCLUDING:** Footage taken from the backstage wings or in any common areas for dancer's backstage. This also includes footage and photography taken by families from the recital theater house during dress rehearsal performances only.
      - **EXCLUDING:** This excludes photos and videos taken in the dressing rooms 30 minutes prior to a performance, during a performance, and 30 minutes post a performance. This rule is to protect the space, privacy, and safety of all SDSD Select Program dancers who must be provided the opportunity to change their costumes, prepare for their performances, and change out of their costumes in a secure space.
  - **When doing so:**
    - Please tag Stage Door School of Dance within your post, the comments, or within the post's location geotag.
    - Please consider the privacy and safety of your fellow SDSD Select Program dancers and families before tagging their personal handles in any of your posts or in the comment section of any Stage Door School of Dance post.
- Parents / Guardians / Students are **NOT PERMITTED** to take or post photos / videos
  - in-studio during regularly scheduled class times
  - of any other students faces during their regularly scheduled class times, and outside of the permitted parameters above.
  - while our communications team is in the process of filming / taking photos unless explicitly given permission.

## Summer Commitments: *Intensive & Performances*

Our Five-Week summer intensive is encouraged for all SDSD Crew Program members in order to hold your status for the following dance season. While we understand that the summer is a time for vacations and spending time with your family, as a dancer it is not a time to fall behind on your dance technique. Use the summer to focus on your craft and push yourself prior to the new dance season!

We will have 2 Crew Classes for the 2025 Summer Session: Hip Hop Crew Production & Broadway Jazz Crew Production. These 2 Classes will have an opportunity to perform in our Annual Bellport Dock Show on Saturday, August 9 at 7pm. In order to take part in these Crew Classes, you will be required to take an additional class during our Summer Session. If you would like to take both classes, you will be required to take 2 additional classes.

### For example:

- ✓ The dancer is enrolled in Hip Hop Production: The dancer will take an additional genre to support their artistry, growth, and stamina.
- ✓ The dancer is enrolled in Broadway Jazz Production: The dancer will take an additional genre to support their artistry, growth, and stamina.
- ✓ The dancer is enrolled in Hip Hop Production & Broadway Jazz Production: The dancer will take 2 additional classes to support their artistry, growth, and stamina.

**Summer Classes:** *Monday, July 7, 2025– Saturday, August 9, 2025*

## Staying Informed

We work hard to make your dance experience organized and fun! We aim to keep all Crew Families informed via our Studio-wide newsletters, Stage Door School of Dance App Notifications, our website emails, and emails from Ms. Stephanie.

- ✓ **Website:** [stagedoordancer.com](http://stagedoordancer.com)
- ✓ **#SDSDstrong Blog:** [stagedoordancer.com/news](http://stagedoordancer.com/news)
- ✓ **Studio Calendar:** [stagedoordancer.com/studio-calendar](http://stagedoordancer.com/studio-calendar)
- ✓ **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stagedoordancer](http://www.facebook.com/stagedoordancer)
- ✓ **Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/stagedoordancer/](http://www.instagram.com/stagedoordancer/)
- ✓ **TikTok:** [www.tiktok.com/@stagedoordancerny](http://www.tiktok.com/@stagedoordancerny)
- ✓ **YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/c/StageDoorSchoolofDance](http://www.youtube.com/c/StageDoorSchoolofDance)
- ✓ **SDSD Mobile App:** [www.stagedoordancer.com/sdsd-mobile-app/](http://www.stagedoordancer.com/sdsd-mobile-app/)

We are constantly updating our website. News, important parent, and student information, contact information, and more are available online.

<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>What</b>
<b>September 5, 2024</b>	ALL DAY	First Day of SDSD Classes
<b>October 2, 2024</b>	7:00pm	SDSD Crew Welcome Meeting
<b>January 4, 2025</b>	10:00am-12:00pm	Carnegie Crew Jazz Mandatory Rehearsal with Ms. Paige
<b>January 11, 2025</b>	3:30-5:30pm	Liberty/Carnegie Crew Tap Mandatory Rehearsal with Ms. Jillian
	5:45-7:45pm	Rockefeller/Empire Crew Tap Mandatory Rehearsal with Ms. Stephanie V-B
	8:00-10:00pm	Rockefeller/Empire Crew Hip Hop Mandatory Rehearsal with Ms. Joss
<b>January 18, 2025</b>	5:45-7:45pm	Empire Crew Jazz Mandatory Competition Rehearsal with Ms. Stephanie V-B
<b>January 25, 2025</b>	3:30-5:30pm	Liberty Crew Jazz Mandatory Rehearsal with Ms. Stacey
	3:30-5:30pm	Rockefeller Crew Jazz Mandatory Rehearsal with Ms. Jillian
	5:45-7:45pm	Liberty/Carnegie Crew Hip Hop Mandatory Rehearsal with Ms. Joss
<b>February 8-9, 2025</b>	Time TBD	Small Group Dress Rehearsal for Crew Graduating Senior ONLY
<b>March 1, 2025</b>	3:30-6:30pm	Crew Panel Day, Dress Rehearsal for ALL Crew Classes
<b>March 14-16, 2025</b>	TBD	Competition: Long Island
<b>April 4- April 6, 2025</b>	TBD	Competition: Long Island
<b>May 9, 2025</b>	8:00-9:00pm	All Crews End of Year Party
<b>June 30, 2025</b>	6:30-8:30pm	4th of July Parade Rehearsal #1
<b>July 2, 2025</b>	6:30-8:30pm	4th of July Parade Rehearsal #2
<b>July 4, 2025</b>	9:30am: Call Time	4th of July Parade
	10:30am: Parade Start	
<b>July 7-August 9, 2025</b>		Summer 2025 Classes

<b>STUDIO CLOSURES</b>	
<b>October 3-4, 2024</b>	Rosh Hashanah
<b>October 12, 2024</b>	Yom Kippur
<b>October 14, 2024</b>	Indigenous People's/Columbus Day
<b>October 31, 2024</b>	Halloween
<b>November 5, 2024</b>	Election Day
<b>November 11, 2024</b>	Veteran's Day
<b>Nov. 26-Dec. 1, 2024</b>	Thanksgiving Break
<b>December 23, 2024 – January 5, 2025</b>	Winter Break
<b>January 20, 2025</b>	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
<b>January 29, 2025</b>	Lunar New Year
<b>February 17-23, 2025</b>	Mid-Winter Break
<b>March 15, 2025</b>	SDSD Administrative Day
<b>March 19, 2025</b>	SDSD Administrative Day
<b>March 28, 2025</b>	SDSD Administrative Day
<b>April 14-20, 2025</b>	Spring Break
<b>April 29, 2025</b>	SDSD Administrative Day
<b>May 22-26, 2025</b>	Memorial Day Break

*May every step your dancer takes be full of grace and passion, and may each rehearsal and performance bring your dancer closer to his/her goals. Here's to pushing boundaries, embracing new challenges, and celebrating every achievement along the way. Dance with joy, inspire others, and let your hard work shine in the studio and on stage! Thank you for being part of our Stage Door School of Dance Crew Program! Cheers to a great dance season!*