

Why should I take Ballet? I want to be a Tap, Jazz or Hip Hop dancer.

Ballet is not only for dancers who want to be ballerinas. When children learn the fundamentals of dance, ballet is established as THE foundation for other styles. Ballet is the first structured dance form. It has become a basic to any performing dance field. Jazz dance, modern dance, and even ballroom dancing use many ballet terms. Most good film and Broadway choreographers use ballet terms when talking to their dancers. Many choreographers prefer and expect that their dancers to have a strong ballet background, even the ones that dance jazz and hip hop. Some very prominent and popular dance agents will not even represent dancers who do not have a strong ballet background. Ballet gives a dancer grace and presence.

Ballet gives the dancer the technical expertise to turn out ones legs, to point toes, to extend legs higher and with ease, to dance with correct posture (resulting in less injury) and more. Exercises learned in ballet class build coordination and muscle development that is needed in so many different styles. Good ballet instruction imparts duplication skills so that the student can pick up steps and routines.

Ultimately a mature dancer is one who has good ballet basics and can duplicate any other style of dance he or she wishes to. When a dancer has their ballet techniques down and can also perform while applying other basics, their longevity as a performer will no longer be in question. They can duplicate any style and deliver anything the choreographer or director asks of their dancing.

When you apply your ballet technique to your jazz dancing, you will notice a big improvement. The best dancers in the world always take classical ballet instruction in addition to their jazz and other dance classes. The best dancers in a troupe, group, company or show are always the dancers with a ballet background and they always present a very special presence. Also, the actor with posture and poise gained from ballet class will get noticed. Ballet training has given many actors recognizable "stage presence."

Here are a few celebrities that have studied ballet to enhance their dance and acting careers: Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, Paula Abdul, Madonna, Brittany Spear, Gene Kelly, Christian Bale, Audrey Hepburn, Tupac Shakur, and even Arnold Schwarzenegge.

Did you know that Mikhail Baryshnikov is a world famous ballet dancer who has recently shown the world that he can also dance jazz, hip hop, tap, and ballroom and undoubtedly anything he wants to dance? He also is a natural actor...gaining stage presence and confidence through dance.

If your desire is to become a good tap, jazz, ballroom or even hip hop dancer, ballet is essential ... don't take it lightly!