

SUBJECTS
DANCE ARTIST TRAINING SPECIALIZED IN CLASSICAL BALLET
AT THE HUNGARIAN DANCE ACADEMY

Basic subjects:

History of the Arts (ELM-001-1,2,3,4)

The aim of teaching the history of arts is to pass on the basic methods in historic approach to the arts, the knowledge of the different art forms and genres, as well as the analytic principles used in the history of arts. The course introduces to history, the mental background of pieces of arts, historic periods and the roots of the cultures of different people. Students should become able to understand pieces of arts, should develop a feeling for aesthetics and should know about the presentation of movement during the different periods of arts.

History of Music (ELM-002-1,2,3,4)

Dance cannot be imagined without music, so music history – including also theoretical knowledge – is taught to dancers. The information on music history should always be linked to the dance history of the given period. The theoretical knowledge is to be transformed to practical use in dance. The subject focuses on the classics, the romantic composers as well as those of the 20th century. The music composed for stage gets special emphasis.

History of Dance (ELM-003-1,2,3, and ELM-013-1,2,3)

The first three semesters guide the student through the history of dance from the beginnings till the early 20th century. The work of major dance artist, the development of important styles, schools and their characteristics are presented. The material refers to the general history of culture.

The aim is to develop a complex knowledge and taste for dance, and give access to further individual learning. The subject intends to develop an open attitude towards the artistic reception.

The fourth and fifth semester focuses on classical ballet: present major ballet companies, choreographers, pieces and schools.

The last semester gives an overview on Hungarian ballet and invites the student to research in the ballet traditions of his/her own country.

History of Culture (ELM-004-1,2)

The aim is to enlarge the already covered topics and knowledge, and to link the different disciplines to each other, so to get a complex approach on the human development including the development of culture. This general knowledge will serve as the background of the future artistic work of the student.

The student should know the major historical periods and their specific cultural phenomena, the major art and literature pieces of each period, the philosophic streams as well as the development of sciences.

General knowledge and skills:

Dance-in-home country (KBL-009-1,2,3,4)

Due to the language barriers the subject „Acting” is replaced by the subject: dance-in-home country. Students are requested to make research – based on personal experiences – on their home countries dance life during four semesters:

- dance in general, dance in social life
- dance ensembles (different genres)
- dance education
- financing of dance

This subject also replaces the „Cultural management” subject in the Hungarian curriculum, due to the different legislation etc. systems.

Motion biology (ELM-005-1,2)

Students learn on the body, bones, ... (izület). and muscles, the regulation of movements (including the nerve system). They also learn about the internal ... as well as their regulation. Each part of knowledge is linked to the practical knowledge on dance and movement. It intends to help the future of the dancer: during intensive exercise periods, injuries and rehabilitation process the theoretical knowledge can serve the interest of health or fast recovery.

Graduation performance and thesis (ELM-010-1,2,3 and KBL-007-1,2,3)

The closing of studies for a dancer is the performance itself, in addition to it: a thesis presenting the theoretical knowledge. The casting of the graduation performance takes into consideration the individual characteristics of each student. But the performance also introduces the student to ensemble-work, to the procedure of rehearsal, staging and performance. The graduation performance is always result of a serious group-work. The examination board evaluates the skills, the technical merits, the performance style, the artistic expression.

The thesis linked to the graduation performances asks on one hand for theoretical knowledge acquired during classes, on the other hand offers the possibility of expressing individual thoughts taking into consideration historical, aesthetical, cultural facts and trends.

Special subjects in classical ballet training:

Classical ballet (major subject, KBL-001-1,2,3,4,5,6)

During the classes students are systematically trained to all steps and movements of classical ballet as developed during the centuries. The technical perfection serves as basis to artistic expression. It prepares the student to different positions in a ballet company (chorus, minor solos, major roles etc.) The daily training teaches the technical elements in growing difficulty, develops virtuosity and puts emphasis on the beauty of performance, too.

Pas de deux (major subject, KBL-003-1,2,3,4,5)

Partnering is a major request in all dance forms, but in classical ballet it is in the core of the art form. During classes students are introduced to the different elements (lifting, turning etc.). Besides the technical perfection also the artistic expression is constantly developed. For good results in the subject girl students must follow strict weight control, boy students need to develop physical strength.

Modern dances (additional technique, MOD-002-1,2,3,4)

Students are introduced to the major techniques developed during the 20th century (Limón-techn., Graham-techn., Laban-techn., jazz, art-jazz, kontakt, improvisation etc.). The aim is to lead the student to conscious performance in the different techniques. The use of muscles, the isolation, the sense of gravitation, the readiness to improvisation etc. are all parts of the curriculum. Besides the practical training also the correct use of the different terms – linked to the different schools – is expected.

Modern ballroom dances (MOD-006-1, 2)

Standard dances, Latin-American dances and fashion dances are taught during the classes. Students should learn the steps and combinations, as well as achieve stylistic feeling of the different dances. Dances introduced during the classes: waltzes, tango, slowfox, quickstep, rumba, samba, cha-cha-cha, paso doble, jive, salsa, mambo, charleston.

Repertoire (classical ballet, KBL-005-1,2,3,4,5,6)

The subject occurs during the entire training period of the students and is closely linked to their major subject as well as their stage practice. During classes they learn different excerpts of classical, neo-classical as well as modern ballet pieces. The selection of material takes into consideration the technical elements already covered during the classical ballet and pas de deux classes, but builds also on the individual talent (character, strength etc.) of the student; so the different students will learn different roles and excerpts.

Stage practice (classical ballet, KBL-006-1,2,3,4,5,6)

Artistic training is followed in the interest to final stage presentation, so stage practice is a core subject during the entire training. Students get several different roles during the performances held at the Hungarian Dance Academy or in performances outside the premises of the school. By participating in performances they get used to rehearsal periods, repeated performances, cast changes, the way of work in ensembles and theatres.

Dance work analysis (classical ballet, ELM-007-1,2)

The subject is a follow-up of the dance history training and is closely linked to the repertoire classes, too. It takes under thorough analysis some of the most important ballet works of history and through the systematical analysis of these works introduces the student to the method of analytic approach.