

RP Ruth Page Center School of Dance

Young Dancer Training Program & Pre-Dance Program 2026 – 2027 Handbook

Victor Alexander
Director, Ruth Page School of Dance
Victor@RuthPage.org

Dolores Lipinski Long
Co-Founder & Associate Director, Ruth Page School of Dance
Dolores@RuthPage.org

RUTH PAGE CENTER FOR THE ARTS
1016 N Dearborn St - Chicago, IL 60610
www.RuthPage.org - 312-337-6543

Since 1971, the Ruth Page Foundation and its arts center, Ruth Page Center has committed its resources to creating a dance destination in Chicago, ensuring that children and dance artists have a place to study, work, and perform at the highest level.

Ruth Page Center Staff

Sara S. Schumann – *Executive Director*

Sara@RuthPage.org

Victor Alexander – *Director, Ruth Page School of Dance*

Victor@RuthPage.org

Clintina Taylor – *Director of Operations*

Clintina@RuthPage.org

Dolores Long – *Associate Director, Ruth Page School of Dance*

Dolores@RuthPage.org

Suzy Robertson – *Associate Director of Special Programs*

Suzy@RuthPage.org

Maray Gutierrez – *Artistic Associate, Ruth Page Professional Dance Training Program*

Maray@RuthPage.org

Katie Matteson Campana – *Program Manager – Special Programs & Curriculum*

Katie@RuthPage.org

Austin Shirley – *Enrollment & Operations Coordinator*

Austin@RuthPage.org

Elysia Banks – *Program Coordinator, Keystone Dance Academy*

Elysia@ruthpage.org

Brianna Simms – *Program Assistant, Keystone Dance Academy*

Brianna@ruthpage.org

Sarah Lackner – *Technical Director & Production Manager*

Sarah@RuthPage.org

Solomon Bowser – *Marketing Coordinator*

Solomon@RuthPage.org

Madeline Kiesel – *Summer Intensive Coordinator*

Madeline@RuthPage.org

Sydney Coffey – *Costumer*

Sydney@RuthPage.org

Table of Contents

MISSION AND PURPOSE.....	1
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	1
COMMUNICATION.....	2
Open Door Policy	2
RPSD Meetings.....	2
Monthly Newsletter.....	2
Letters from the Director	2
Production Information	2
Weather-Related or other Emergency Closures.....	2
ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES.....	3
ATTENDANCE.....	3
Make-Up Classes.....	3
Absence Due to Injury.....	3
OBSERVATION	3
EVALUATION PROCEDURES.....	3
Evaluation Process	3
Evaluation Timeline	4
ADVANCEMENT & LEVEL PLACEMENT.....	4
PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES.....	4
Ruth Page's The Nutcracker	4
Ruth Page School of Dance Spring Show.....	4
Fall Show & Center Stage	5
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES	5
SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS.....	5
Code of Conduct	5
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Vision Statement.....	6
Dress Code.....	7
TUITION & ENROLLMENT.....	8
Fees	8
Class Changes and Withdrawals	8
Sibling Discount	8
Scholarships.....	8
LOST AND FOUND/BORROW BIN.....	9

COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE POLICY 9

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT 9

CALENDAR 10

 Important Dates.....10

 Building/School Closed 10

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES 10

 Ruth Page Lending Collection 10

 Apparel Available for Purchase 11

 Physical Therapy 11

 Health Services 11

 How to Get Here 11

THE RUTH PAGE LEGACY 11

ARTISTIC STAFF BIOS..... 12

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 13

Welcome to Ruth Page School of Dance

MISSION AND PURPOSE

Ruth Page Center for the Arts mission is to be a platform for developing great artists and connecting them with audiences and community.

Ruth Page Young Dancer Training Program (YDTP) Purpose

The purpose of the Ruth Page Young Dancer Training Program is to cultivate strong, well-rounded dance artists and lifelong ambassadors for the arts. YDTP provides rigorous, level-appropriate instruction to dancers aged 7-17. As students move through the program, increased commitment is required to develop the skills needed to progress from beginner to intermediate and advanced levels. Emphasis is placed not only on technical skills, but also, the individual's developing artistry. In addition, students develop enduring qualities of commitment, discipline, and consistency.

Ruth Page Pre-Dance Program Purpose

The purpose of the Ruth Page Pre-Dance Program is to introduce young movers to the foundations of dance education. Through age-appropriate movement, students develop coordination, balance, and strength. Students also learn how to participate in a structured class environment, understand class etiquette, and build the skills needed to confidently progress into more formal dance training. Above all, the program is designed to nurture a love of dance by ensuring that every class is engaging, encouraging, and fun.

My goal is to provide strong leadership that cultivates versatile dancers while honoring where each student begins and supporting how they grow. In the studio, we lead with respect, focus, and care, seeking first to understand, mentor, and guide every student. By pairing high expectations with compassion and consistent standards, we foster not only skilled artists, but a community in which each individual is seen, encouraged, and given the opportunity to thrive.

-Victor Alexander, Director, Ruth Page School of Dance

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Ruth Page School of Dance (RPSD) embraces diverse dance cultures, offering comprehensive training in ballet (incorporating RAD and Vaganova techniques), modern/contemporary, Afro-Cuban, character, hip-hop, jazz, pointe, and tap. Exceptional training, strong mentorship and significant collaborations make RPSD a nurturing home for artists and shape the next generation of dancers. Our highly-qualified faculty is comprised of decades of teaching, performance and professional experience. This ensures instructional quality, program continuity, and alignment with RPSD's educational and artistic goals. Many RPSD students have gone on to professional dance careers around the world. RPSD alumni often credit their dance experience at RPSD for their success in their academic, professional and artistic endeavors.

For further information, view course descriptions online available late Summer 2026.

Important Program Note: During classes and rehearsals, faculty may use tactile corrections to support a student's alignment, posture, limb placement, movement initiation, or movement quality when appropriate. Tactile corrections are used purposefully, respectfully, and only when they serve a clear pedagogical purpose. Faculty are encouraged to consider the most appropriate way to convey corrections for both the class as a whole and each student. Please refer to the full Tactile Correction Policy for additional information.

COMMUNICATION

Open Door Policy

Ruth Page School of Dance welcomes communication from dancers and their families. Since the faculty may not have time between classes to have a thoughtful conversation, please contact the school via email to set up a discussion with faculty members or the school director. If you should have a question or concern about scheduling or level placement, please contact the school director or program manger to set up a meeting or phone call.

RPSD Meetings

School meetings are held twice per year. A start of term meeting is held each August and a Spring Show meeting is held every January. This is an opportunity to hear important updates, ask questions and meet staff, faculty and other RPSD families.

Monthly Newsletter

Ruth Page School of Dance sends an informative newsletter via Constant Contact approximately monthly. Consider these email messages important information and take the time to read them. We don't want anyone to miss out on the latest community news. **PLEASE DO NOT UNSUBSCRIBE from any email from Ruth Page Center, as it will prevent you from receiving the School Newsletter. If you do not receive these email newsletters, please let us know so we can rectify the situation in a timely manner.**

Letters from the Director

From time to time, our school director, Victor Alexander, will send a personal communication to dancers and their families. This form of communication is reserved for special invitations and important, time-sensitive information. Please take special care to read them thoroughly.

Production Information

If you or your child participates in a production, much communication will be required. Most of this communication is handled through the Ruth Page Performance Portal (via Airtable) and can be accessed through the our website or a link that is emailed to you. Please check the portal for updates consistently.

Weather-Related or other Emergency Closures

If Ruth Page Center needs to close unexpectedly, it will be announced via social media, the Ruth Page Center website, and via email if time allows. **During the school year, if CPS schools close for weather, Ruth Page School of Dance will also close.**

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES

Dancers should arrive to, and depart from, Ruth Page School of Dance with street shoes and full attire. Dancers should NOT arrive to RPSD wearing dance shoes or dancewear without the addition of appropriate cover-ups.

For safety, dancers are NOT allowed to wait outside the building for pick-up.

ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance is essential to the success of a dancer. Improvement is largely based on focus, attentiveness, and presence in class and rehearsal. Excessive absences may result in slower level advancement and loss of performance time. Should attendance become a persistent problem, personal conversations will be held with the School Director and Program Manager. Class absences should be reported to the Front Desk. All rehearsal absences must be approved by the School Director and Production Staff in advance.

Make-Up Classes

Make-up classes are available to all students with any absence. Make-up classes must be within current level placement or below. Make-up classes can also be used to try another dance style. Please notify administrative staff and faculty in advance, when possible.

Absence Due to Injury

Dance can be physically taxing on the body, and injuries can happen. With dancer health and safety as a primary concern, a doctor's note is requested for any injuries incurred that cause one to sit out of class or rehearsal. If injuries cause extended disruption in attendance, there will be a meeting with the School Director to discuss continued program participation.

OBSERVATION

Pre-Dance & Young Dancer Training Program classes are closed to observation. Parents/Guardians may observe classes during two scheduled observation weeks only (listed on calendar).

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Dancers are evaluated annually for progress and level placement by a panel of RPSD faculty throughout the school year. While ballet and modern are the primary focus, students also study jazz, hip hop, tap, Afro-Cuban and character. Progression is expected in dance quality, musicality, specificity and artistry across all styles.

Evaluation Process

1. Beginner student advancement is based on faculty recommendations.
2. Intermediate and Advanced students are observed in Ballet and Modern classes. Advancement is based on these evaluations and faculty recommendations.
3. Evaluations are based on six key aspects:
 - General Class Work – ability to pick up and retain combinations, right/left confusion, application of corrections, knowledge of class terminology and body positions.
 - Dance Quality – use of dynamics, technicality, precision of movement, control, expression, style, focus and fluidity
 - Physical Development – general posture, core strength, balance/stability, pelvic alignment, flexibility, turnout, feet/ankles, and use of back and upper body.

- Musicality – phrasing, dynamics, rhythm/beat, counts, and fluidity/lyricism.
- Attendance and Punctuality – consistent presence and timeliness.
- Behavior – politeness, attentiveness, and focus.

Evaluation Timeline

1. Initial Placement: At the time of first inquiry, a student is evaluated by RPSD staff and faculty to determine the most appropriate technique level placement.
2. Fall Review: Each fall, students are evaluated to confirm correct level placement.
3. Winter Comprehensive Evaluation: A full evaluation of all Intermediate and Advanced students during the winter months by a panel of RPSD faculty. Selected observations are shared with dancers and families.
4. June Placement Notification: In June, students receive their placement for the upcoming academic year.

ADVANCEMENT & LEVEL PLACEMENT

Dancers not taking the required number of ballet technique classes may not advance with their classmates. Typically, dancers spend 1-4 years each in Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced levels of technique. For new student YDTP level placement, please schedule a trial class with Program Manager (katie@ruthpage.org). Pre-Dance I-IV placement is based on the dancer's age as of September 1, 2026. Dancers in the Ruth Page Pre-Dance program advance to the next level each August.

Level	Required Ballet	Additional Classes	Total Hrs/Week
Basic & Pre-Dance	1 class	1 + classes	1 – 3 hrs
Beginner I	2 classes	1 + classes	2.5 – 6 hrs
Beginner II	2 classes	1 + classes	3 – 6 hrs
Beginner III	3 classes	1 + classes	4.5 – 8 hrs
Intermediate I	4 classes	2 + classes	6 - 10 hrs
Intermediate II	4 classes, 2 pointe	2 + classes	7 – 12 hrs
Intermediate III	4 classes, 2 pointe	3 + classes	8 - 14 hrs
Advanced	5 classes, 3 pointe	3 + classes	9 - 14 hrs

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Productions allow RPSD dancers to perform onstage; participation is not mandatory. However, once committing to a production, dancers are expected to limit class and rehearsal absences. Failure to attend rehearsal or frequent absences may result in dismissal from performance.

Ruth Page's The Nutcracker

- *Ruth Page's The Nutcracker* is by audition only on August 22 (13+) and August 30 (ages 7+) from 11:00am – 3:00pm. Dancers must be 7 years on September 1, 2026 to be considered for a role.
- Performances: Governors State University: December 4 - 6, 2026; Northeastern Illinois University: December 12 – 13, 2026, and College of Lake County: December 19 - 20, 2026.
- There are mandatory full cast rehearsals the week of and prior to Thanksgiving: Nov. 21, 22, 23, 24, 28 and 29, 2026.

Ruth Page School of Dance Spring Show

- *RPSD Spring Show* Information Meeting will be held at Ruth Page Center on Thursday, January 16, 2027 at 5:30pm.

- Performances are Saturday, May 22, 2027: 1pm & 5pm.
- Tech week and dress rehearsals will occur the week of May 16, during the last week of classes. **Tech week rehearsals are mandatory.**
- Rehearsals occur outside of class time for the ballet only. Other styles rehearse during regularly scheduled class time.
- Pre-Dance IV and all higher levels have the option to participate in the *Spring Show*.
- For dancers participating in the *Spring Show*, consistent attendance is expected in all classes April – June, for in-class rehearsals.

Fall Show & Center Stage

Int & Adv Dancers may be invited to performance in other community events such as the *Fall Show* (October 16, 2026), *Center Stage* (March 19 – 20, 2027), and/or the Ruth Page Legacy Gala (TBD).

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Ruth Page School of Dance provides world-class training and expertise. As one of the country's finest dance education centers, RPSD teaches and mentors hundreds of young, aspiring artists each year. With a strong commitment to international partnerships and collaborations, Ruth Page School of Dance has developed a network of exceptional programs at esteemed dance training centers around the world.

Dedicated intermediate and advanced RPSD students may be invited to travel internationally to take part in cultural exchange programs. These travel opportunities are valuable to further both technical and artistic training as a dancer and in providing unique cultural experiences. Travel information, including detailed pricing, will be shared when it becomes available.

International Travel is not covered by program tuition or scholarships. YTDP dancers are responsible for the cost of travel. Additionally, dancers maintain the right to refuse travel, both locally and internationally. **Payment plans are available for travel.**

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Code of Conduct

Violations may result in immediate dismissal from Ruth Page School of Dance. Tuition will not be reimbursed.

1. Dancers are expected to be fully prepared to begin class on time. Fully prepared means:
 - Appropriate dress code
 - No extraneous clothing
 - Jewelry removed (including smartwatches)
 - Hair neatly pulled back off the face and secured up (hair ties, bobby pins, and hairnet, hairspray, as needed)
2. Dancers should use the restroom prior to the start of class.
3. Should a dancer arrive late to class, class participation is at the discretion of RPSD faculty.
4. Dancers **must** arrive and depart wearing street shoes and clothing over their leotards. Dance shoes should not be worn outside.
5. Food & drink are not allowed in studios, except water. Dancers may bring water bottles into class.
6. Cell phones & smartwatches are not to be used during class time. Sound should be turned off and stored in dance bag.
7. Street shoes are not allowed in studios.

8. As dancers progress in RPSD's programs, expectations in participation and attendance increase. RPSD strongly encourages dancers to add modern/contemporary, conditioning, Pilates, and character to their schedule. This helps strengthen, cross train and develop well-rounded dancers.
9. Be quiet in the halls out of respect for the classes and performances in session.
10. Dancers are expected to bring a positive attitude to class. Bullying, gossip, and profanity will not be tolerated.
11. No RPSD student, parent, faculty, or staff person will discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or on any other basis that would constitute illegal discrimination.
12. RPSD students must treat each other, the staff, and the faculty with respect.
13. RPSD students shall treat Ruth Page Center building with care, particularly as it relates to the studio spaces, dressing rooms and restrooms. Students are expected to clean up after themselves. Destruction of property will not be tolerated.
14. RPSD students should maintain good overall physical and mental health to maintain optimal conditions for a rigorous physical training and performance schedule. If you feel that you are struggling with your health, please come to us so we can assist. Should Ruth Page Center (RPC) feel that any dancer is at risk or suffering from an eating disorder, RPC will arrange a meeting to discuss.
15. RPSD students shall not possess, actively seek, solicit, sell, or be under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs/controlled substances, look-alike drugs, steroids or other illegal performance enhancing drugs/supplements, or possess drug related paraphernalia.
16. Theft or possession of stolen property will result in termination from RPSD.
17. Out of respect for other classes in session, all RPSD students must maintain conduct appropriate to the presence of young children and students.
18. Be mindful of social media postings. We are ambassadors of the Ruth Page Center and RPSD, and should be respectful of the school, dancers and faculty that is portrayed for public view.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Vision Statement

Ruth Page Center is committed to, and accountable for, advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in our space and maintaining a welcoming environment where all can have a sense of safety and belonging. We align our artistic vision and business culture with our mission by developing a talented and diverse community. We value and respect the qualities that make each person unique, including race, ethnicity, gender identity, age, sexuality, ability, religion, national origin, and other identities. Ruth Page Center strives to foster an inclusive workplace by respecting the diversity of each other's talents, abilities, and experiences, valuing the input of others, and embracing an atmosphere of trust, openness, and empowerment. Recognizing that systemic racism and discrimination is pervasive, we understand that diversity, equity, and inclusion is not just a statement, but a process. Ruth Page Center resolves to continue this work.

Dress Code

RPSD requires a dress code for all YDTP & Pre-Dance classes. This is to ensure safety, promote discipline and allow instructors to check alignment. RPSD directors and faculty reserve the right to address any attire that does not align with the dress code.

Ballet – Option 1:

Pre-Dance: Lilac (attached skirt optional)
Beg I: Pink
Beg II: Light Blue (French)
Beg III: Dark Blue (Royal)
Int I: Purple
Int II: Burgundy
Int III: Forest Green
Adv: Black

Ballet – Option 2:

Black, white or level appropriate color t-shirt/leotard,
Black fitted shorts or dance tights, dance belt (if applicable)
Black ballet slippers

Level-appropriate color leotard – cap or tank style preferred
Skin tone or classic pink footed dance tights - no seam
Ballet slippers to match tights
Skirts (black) in pointe classes only
White elastic waist alignment belt (optional)

Character:

Ballet uniform
Black character heels no higher than 2.5" (no t-straps)
Black character skirt (i.e., WearMoi Fado style) - no ballet skirts

Hip Hop:

T-shirt, leggings or athletic pants, knee pads
Clean gym shoes, not street shoes
Hair pulled back

Jazz:

Solid leotard or top, black leggings or shorts
Jazz shoes – black or tan

Modern & Afro-Cuban:

Solid leotard or top, black leggings or shorts
Barefoot or socks, with instructor approval

Tap:

Solid leotard or top, black leggings or shorts
Tap shoes – black leather or patent, tie or buckle

See ADDITIONAL RESOURCES for where to buy dancewear.

TUITION & ENROLLMENT

Completed registration forms may either be submitted to the RPC Front Desk or emailed to registration@ruthpage.org. The registration fee and first tuition payment are required at the time of enrollment. All required enrollment forms must be completed in full, including payment information. RPSD accepts cash, checks, and major credit cards, including Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express. Payment plans and tuition assistance are available. Tuition must be paid in full by May 15 of the school year. RPSD offers rolling admissions - tuition may be prorated for students who enroll after a session has begun. Once a student is enrolled, written notice for cancellation of payment plan is required. Tuition for classes missed prior to notification will not be refunded..

RPSD reserves the right to cancel classes due to low enrollment. Class instructors are subject to change.

Fees

- **Tuition - Please refer to the registration form for class tuition fee schedule.**
- \$25.00 - Trial/Placement classes. Each dancer may take up to three trial classes prior to enrollment.
- \$100.00 - Registration Fee. Annually per school year, per dancer. \$75 Early Bird Discount through July 31, 2026.
- \$200 - \$350 Production Fees: *Ruth Page's The Nutcracker, RPSD Spring Show*
- \$50.00 - Drop Fee. Applied to early cancellation.
- \$25.00 – Administrative Fee for returned payments due to insufficient funds.

Class Changes and Withdrawals

To change a current schedule, a Class Add/Drop Form must be completed and returned to registration@ruthpage.org. A \$50.00 drop fee applies to all class withdrawals. Please note that this fee applies in all cases and cannot be waived. In the case of a serious injury or long-term illness, families may request a medical credit. Requests must be submitted in writing and include documentation from a licensed physician for review.

Sibling Discount

RPSD offers a 10% sibling discount for families enrolling more than one child in YDTP classes during the same term. The discount is applied to the tuition of each additional sibling after the first enrolled student. Sibling discounts apply only while all siblings remain enrolled and do not apply retroactively. Please contact registration@ruthpage.org with any questions.

Scholarships

Ruth Page School of Dance has limited scholarships available for RPSD students, including need-based support. Please contact scholarships@ruthpage.org for more information or to apply.

- **Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)**

The Tuition Assistance Program offers financial support to families who cannot afford tuition and fees at the Ruth Page School of Dance, ensuring that all students, regardless of their financial situation, have access to quality dance education. The program promotes talent development at every level and allows students to focus on their training without overwhelming financial burdens.

- **Victor Alexander Young Men's Scholarship (VAYMS)**

The Victor Alexander Young Men's Scholarship provides financial support for YDTP male dancers aged 7 to 18. This scholarship offers pre-professional training each week, **including at least one ballet class**, to help cultivate strong, versatile dance artists.

- **Service Learning**

Service Learning (work-study) may be available on a limited basis for those who do not qualify for tuition assistance. Service Learning provides up to \$1000 in assistance per year. This can not be combined with other scholarships.

LOST AND FOUND/BORROW BIN

Lost and Found

RPSD is not responsible for lost or stolen property. The Lost and Found bin is on the lower level and is regularly cleaned out. Unclaimed items will be donated. Lost items should be collected as soon as possible.

Borrow Bin

RPSD has some items for students to borrow in a pinch. Please see the front desk for assistance. After use, items should be laundered and returned to the Front Desk. Shoes (located outside the women's dressing room on the third floor) should be returned immediately after class so they are available for the next student who needs them. Please consider donating outgrown dress code leotards and shoes for this purpose.

COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE POLICY

Concerns or complaints should be communicated to the School Director and/or Program Manager. Matters will be addressed in a timely, respectful, and professional manner.

Students are encouraged to first seek informal resolution when appropriate. If a concern is not resolved, a formal complaint may be submitted in writing and will be reviewed in accordance with the Ruth Page School of Dance Complaint & Grievance Policy.

Please refer to the RPSD Complaint & Grievance Policy for full procedures and guidelines.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Ruth Page School of Dance thrives with community involvement. With multiple performances outside of the Ruth Page School of Dance building, thousands of people throughout Chicago are touched with the magic of dance. Families are encouraged to support RPSD by attending community events and with volunteer time.

CALENDAR

Ruth Page School of Dance operates a 36 week school year term beginning **Monday, August 24, 2026** and running through Sunday, May 23, 2027. Important dates and building closures listed below.

2026/2027 Calendar

Important Dates

- Sunday, August 2, 2026 – RPSD New Student Placement & Open House – 10am-2pm
- **Thursday, August 20, 2026 – RPSD Back to School Meeting 5:30pm**
- Saturday, August 22, 2026 – Adult Nutcracker Auditions 11am-3pm
- **Monday, August 24 – First day of new term**
- Wednesday, August 26, 2026 – Nutcracker Callbacks 7:30-9pm
- Sunday, August 30, 2026 – Children’s Nutcracker Auditions 11am-3pm
- Friday, October 16, 2026 – Fall Show 2026
- October 19-25, 2026 – RPSD Observation Week
- December 4-6, 2026 – *Ruth Page’s The Nutcracker* @ GSU
- December 12-13, 2026 – *Ruth Page’s The Nutcracker* @ NEIU
- December 19-20, 2026 – *Ruth Page’s The Nutcracker* @ CLC
- January 2027- Bring a Friend to Dance Month
- **Thursday, January 14, 2027 – Spring Show Meeting 5:30pm**
- Friday, March 19- Saturday, March 20, 2027 – Center Stage at Ruth Page
- Sunday, April 25, 2027 – International Dance Day Open House
- May 2027 – Ruth Page Legacy Gala
- April 26 – May 2, 2027 – RPSD Observation Week
- Saturday, May 22, 2027 – Ruth Page School of Dance Spring Show 1pm & 5pm

Building/School Closed

Sun, Sep 6 – Mon, Sep 7, 2026 – Labor Day

Mon, Nov 23 – Sun, Nov 29, 2026 – Fall Break

Mon, Dec 21, 2026 – Sun, Jan 3, 2027 – Winter Break

Thurs, Jan 21 – Sun, Jan 24, 2027 – IABD Conference & Auditions at RPC (No RPSD Classes)

Sun, May 30 – Mon, May 31, 2027 – Memorial Day

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Ruth Page Lending Collection

Current RPSD students, faculty and staff may check out articles from the Ruth Page Lending Collection. Check out can be requested and completed at the Ruth Page Center front desk during any full hours of operation. Items may be checked out for two weeks at a time. Books can be renewed up to two times unless there is a hold placed on it by another student. Failure to return books or any excessive damage to the book will result in charge on account for the cost to replace. In addition to the RP Lending Collection, Ruth Page Center partners with Newberry Library, where staff, faculty and students have free access to delve further into Ruth Page archives.

Apparel Available for Purchase

- **Ruth Page Center:** RP logo leotards, tights & warm ups
- **Bloch:** all types of shoes, leotards, tights & warm ups - 1710 N. Wells St., Chicago, IL – *discount code RUTHPAGE10*
- **Wear Moi:** leotards, tights, and ballet shoes - 3352 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL—*discount code RP2022XAT*
- **Plié Dancewear:** all types of shoes, leotards, tights - 5361 W. Devon Ave. Chicago, IL
- **Allegro Dance Boutique:** all types of shoes, leotards, tights - 2114 Central St. Evanston, IL AND 104 S. Cook St Barrington, IL 60010
- **Discount Dance** – www.discountdance.com – Ruth Page Center “Teacher Code”: **139161**

Physical Therapy

Ruth Page School of Dance has long-standing partnerships with highly trained physical therapists with particular knowledge of the dance field. Should dancers need an injury screening, RPSD recommends the following organizations:

- **Shirley Ryan Ability Lab:** Dr. Kathleen Darley, a student of the Ruth Page School of Dance and an accomplished ballet dancer and teacher, is a DPT with Ability Lab. Kathleen conducts screenings for our dancers and has practical knowledge of dancer injuries and recovery. <http://www.sralab.org>
- **Athletico Physical Therapy:** Athletico has numerous locations in the city and works with many dancers & dance companies
- **Body Gears Physical Therapy:** Reliable, highly respected physical therapists in Lincoln Park. <https://bodygears.com/>

Health Services

- **Chicago Dance Health Fund:** provides financial relief for preventative health care and critical medical needs for Chicago dance industry professionals www.cdhf.org
- **Dr. Jennifer Warnick:** offers education to dancers, studios and instructors to support dancers in creating safe spaces that promote physical and mental wellness www.drjennywarnick.com/
- **Dr. Karen Bernstein - UChicago Medicine:** adolescent doctor with an expertise in eating disorders. If you feel you need more information or help getting started, please reach out to RPSD staff for more support.

How to Get Here

Ruth Page Center is in Chicago’s Near North Side, in the heart of the Gold Coast Neighborhood. The neighborhood is a favored tourist destination two blocks from Oak Street Beach and Michigan Avenue - Chicago’s major shopping district. It is very accessible by public transit. Ruth Page Center can be reached by public transportation on the Red Line (Clark & Division stop) and #22, #36, #70 and #156 bus lines.

THE RUTH PAGE LEGACY

Ruth Page School of Dance reflects the legendary career and work of its visionary leader and namesake, Ruth Page. *Ruth Page’s The Nutcracker* is classical and iconic, displaying her foundation in ballet. We also honor her collaborations with notable choreographers such as Harald Kreutzberg, a cutting-edge modern dance expressionist, and her jazz-influenced work at the Music Box Theater in NYC. This work speaks to her dedication to exploring all forms and styles of dance. Ruth Page’s school embodies her vision of the versatile, well-trained, and exceptional dancer.

While Ruth Page's Center is based in Chicago, her work carried her all over the world. As a continuation of her international legacy, Ruth Page School of Dance maintains relationships with five international "sister schools": Escuela Nacional de Ballet de Cuba in Havana, Cuba, Mandala Dance Company in Rome, Italy, Conservatorio Profesional de Danza A Coruña in Coruña, Spain, Instituto Colombiano de Ballet Clásico (IncolBallet) in Cali, Colombia and Ironi Aleph High School of Arts in Tel Aviv, Israel Escuela Moderna de Musica y Danza , Chile. These international relationships allow our students to experience dance in other cultures and continue training with renowned international instructors. We believe that exposure to diverse cultures is a valuable source of inspiration for creativity and human self-expression in dance while also creating well-rounded individuals and empowering them with worldly knowledge.

ARTISTIC STAFF BIOS

For additional teacher information and bios, please go to the [Ruth Page Center website](#).

Victor Alexander – Director, Ruth Page School of Dance

Victor Alexander joined the artistic and administrative team of the Ruth Page Center in the summer of 2013. As both the Director of the Ruth Page School of Dance and of the Ruth Page Professional Dance Training Program, he continues a nearly 50-year tradition of exceptional training and mentoring of the next generation of the nation's best young dancers. Through developing international partnerships and networks, Alexander has also expanded the school's reach with important collaborations and exchanges with other leading dance institutions. Significant among these is the historic relationship with Cuba's National School of Ballet (Escuela Nacional de Ballet), begun in 2015, and the placement of a Ruth Page School of Dance student in the prestigious Cuban training program – the first American student to be invited since the normalization of relations between the two countries.

Alexander's keen insight, experience, and dedication to the craft come from an international dancing, choreography, and teaching career. A native of Pinar del Rio, Cuba, he was trained at the prestigious Escuela Nacional de Arte (ENA) in Havana, graduating in 1992 with a degree in Modern and Cuban folkloric dance. As a student, his exceptional talents were recognized in 1992 when he won first place for dance in the 4th National Union of Writers and Artists in Havana. He went on to be a principal dancer for the prominent Danza Contemporánea de Cuba from 1992 to 2002, where both his technical talent and expressive dance style gained national prominence. Alexander has studied with distinguished teachers such as Donald McKayle, Chuck Davis, and Jeffrey Bullock and has performed throughout Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, and the United States. Since relocating from Cuba to Chicago in 2002, Alexander has performed with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Hedwig Dances, CDI/Concert Dance Inc, and Luna Negra Dance Theater. While with CDI, Alexander was a featured artist in the 2008 Emmy Award-nominated production of the re-envisioned Ruth Page's Billy Sunday on PBS. While with Hedwig, Alexander was a dance artist in the 2016 Emmy-nominated film Arch of Repose.

His teaching experience is extensive, encompassing local, national, and international dance institutions. Teaching outreach programs that bring dance to youth is particularly important to Alexander. Recent outreach programs include Dance Art (2007–2010) and the Elementary Dance Scholarship Program (2010–2011) within the Chicago Public Schools. Included in Dance Magazine's prestigious "25 to Watch in 2013" list, Alexander is known for his riveting stage presence as he mixes

the formidable technique he gained in the rigorous training ground of Cuban dance schools with his strong facility and theatrical interpretation.

In 2012, he was one of four choreographers selected for the Lab Artists Program, a one-year program of the Chicago Dancemakers Forum that focuses on developing new choreography. In addition to the Chicago Dancemakers Forum grant, he received a fellowship from the Illinois Arts Council for his work, *Line of Sighs*. He was selected as one of the 2013 Novel Affair Artists selected by The Ragdale Curatorial Board. In December 2013, *Line of Sighs* was highlighted in the Chicago Tribune's "Top 10 Best Dance Performances of 2013."

Alexander was one of the choreographers chosen to participate in Chicago's Afro-Latino Festival 2014 with his work *Among Us*. Additionally, in 2014, he was selected to participate in Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's choreographic initiative, The International Commissioning Project, which provides residencies to choreographers, offering them the opportunity to create original works for HS2's dancers and to conduct master classes.

Dolores Long – Co-Founder & Associate Director, Ruth Page School of Dance

Mrs. Long began her dance studies as a scholarship student with Bentley Stone and Walter Camryn. Her continuing studies over the years included classes with Valentina Pereyaslavets, Felia Doubrovskaya, Bill Griffith, Leon Danielian, Patricia Wilde, Melissa Hayden, and Richard Thomas. Her professional career began as a teen with the Lyric Opera of Chicago. She started in the Corps de Ballet and left as a Principal Dancer. She appeared in the Lyric's production of "Prince Igor" with Rudolph Nureyev as the Polevetsian Maiden and has danced principal roles with every Ruth Page company from 1954 to 1973, including all principal roles in *The Merry Widow*, *Carmen*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Carmina Burana* and *Bolero*.

Mrs. Long joined the National Ballet of Washington, D.C.. She had the opportunity to dance in many Balanchine ballets and performed such classics as *Giselle*, *Coppelia*, *Pas de Quatre*, *Les Sylphides*, and *The Nutcracker*. She also danced in the Chicago Tribune production of *Ruth Page's The Nutcracker* as the American Beauty Rose and Sugar Plum Fairy for many years. Upon her retirement, she became ballet mistress for the company and was instrumental in choosing the new design for the production in 1990 by Jose Varona.

With her celebrated husband of 47 years, Larry Long (1936-2009), Mrs. Long co-founded the Ruth Page School of Dance. There, she and Mr. Long taught for over 38 years, and together, they created the Civic Ballet of Chicago in 1998.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Link to the Ruth Page School of Dance website online (available late Summer 2026), or inquire at the front desk for more policy information.

- [Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [Tactile Correction Policy](#)
- [Complaint and Grievance Policy](#)
- [Lending Collection Procedure](#)



Founded in 1971 by Ruth Page, Larry Long & Dolores Lipinski Long, Ruth Page School of Dance is a landmark in the Chicago dance community and continues the legacy of exemplary dance education for the next generation of dancers.