



The Dance Design School
Teaching the heart of dance & music

The Mel Johnson Ballet Scholarship For the promising male dancer.

Mel Johnson was born in Cornwall NY and began dancing at age 12. He went on to dance with State Ballet of Rhode Island, New Haven Ballet, Miami Ballet, and Joffrey ballet. Mr. Johnson was the director of the Fort Walton Beach Ballet Association. When Mr. Johnson wasn't dancing, he was a decorated Vietnam veteran and an archivist at Washington's Headquarters. Mr. Johnson was well known for his portrayal of Herr. Drosselmeyer in the HVDT's 'Nutcracker Short & Sweet'. He taught Men's Class and was a guest teacher at D&MDS for many years. Mr. Johnson loved encouraging the next generation of dancer.

The M.J. Scholarship will be awarded to one male ballet dancer and cover the cost of one ballet class per week for the duration of the 2024-2025 school year.

Eligibility:

- *Applicant may be any age at the time of the audition.
- *Applicant may not miss any class except in the case of illness. All missed classes must be made up with an additional class. Any missed classes that are not made up within 1 month could cause the loss of scholarship money.

Application Process:

- *Fill out the scholarship application and submit before July 20.
- *Schedule an audition time. Applicants should wear a ballet leotard, tights, and ballet slippers. If this is not possible, please wear plain shorts, plain shirt, and bare feet. Applicants will be taught a dance class appropriate to their age/level.

Scholarship winner will be announced at our Open House in September.

