

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

FSTA Advanced Musical Theater (AMT) Lead Teaching Artist Dance (9-12 grade)



Position: Lead Teaching Artist - Dance

Status: Non-exempt, Part Time

Reports to: Academy Director

Dates: September 26, 2026 - May 22, 2027, Saturdays 1:00PM-2:30PM, with the possibility of yearly contract renewal should both parties agree.

Compensation: \$65/hour for teaching; \$15/hour for administrative and curriculum development

Location: Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (Downtown Milwaukee)

About First Stage

First Stage, Milwaukee's premiere non-profit theater for young people and families, is a nationally acclaimed professional theater company drawing annual audiences of more than 120,000 people. First Stage's production season includes four to five productions at the Todd Wehr Theater, as well as our First Steps and Young Company Series of productions at Goodman Mainstage Hall at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center - a total of more than 400 performances annually. First Stage also offers Theater in-Education programs, serving 20,000 students in classrooms annually throughout southeastern Wisconsin. The First Stage Theater Academy, the largest and most high-impact training program of its kind in the nation, teaches "life skills through stage skills" to nearly 2,000 young people ages 3-18 each year.

First Stage is committed to dismantling structures that may prevent ALL people from applying for employment with us. First Stage celebrates the richness of our world by cultivating Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity as they inspire the creativity that nurtures great art, artists, and audiences. First Stage strongly encourages candidates from historically underrepresented groups to apply.

First Stage is an equal opportunity employer and as such, we consider individuals for employment according to their abilities and performance. Employment decisions are made without regard to race, age, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, physical or mental disability, marital or veteran status, or any other classification protected by law.

Position Summary

Dance in Advanced Musical Theater focuses on building strength, versatility, and confidence in movement while developing the physical skills needed for musical theater performance. Students explore choreography, technique, and style, with an emphasis on musicality, storytelling, and ensemble awareness.

The Dance Teaching Artist is responsible for helping students grow both technically and artistically, supporting their ability to move with intention, clarity, and confidence. Instruction should reinforce the integration of movement with voice and acting, contributing to a cohesive and expressive performance approach.

Responsibilities and Duties

- Develop and submit age and contextually appropriate lesson plans based on Academy guideposts.
- Lead movement-based instruction focused on technique, musicality, and storytelling.
- Teach and develop choreography that supports musical theater performance.
- Support students in building strength, coordination, and versatility in movement.
- Integrate dance work in collaboration with Voice Teaching Artists.
- Work with the Academy Director on a continual basis to develop and facilitate curriculum.
- Maintain a safe learning environment through supporting student well-being, confidence, and personal growth.
- Manage classroom behavior, procedures, and assessments.
- Attend all required meetings and trainings.
- Engage with and support the efforts of First Stage and the Belonging-Equity-Access-Diversity (BEAD) Committee to create a safe, equitable, and inclusive work environment.

Qualifications: The requirements listed below are representative of knowledge, skills, and/or abilities required. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable individuals with accessibility needs to perform essential functions

- Prior teaching experience, including creating curriculum, managing a classroom, and writing lesson plans.
- Strong background in dance, choreography, or movement training, with an understanding of musical theater performance.
- Ability to collaborate within a multi-disciplinary teaching environment.
- Ability to travel to the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (325 W Walnut St, Milwaukee, WI).
- This position involves working with young people; therefore, a satisfactory background check is a condition of employment and must be successfully completed prior to hire.

Education/Experience

- A Bachelor's degree or higher in Dance, Education, Theatre Arts or similar training is preferred.

TO APPLY

Please send cover letter and resume with your experience, teaching philosophy, a sample Dance lesson plan, and optional materials such as a choreography reel to Academy Director, J.T. Backes with AMT Lead Teaching Artist- Dance in the subject line. jtbackes@firststage.org

No phone calls, please. Application submission period will remain open until position is filled.