



dance company

Engagement & Outreach Guide

For Presenters and Educators



Photo by Adam Tolbert | JanpiStar & Students

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Photo by David DeSilva | Dancers JanpiStar, Zara Anwar, David Calhoun, Louisa Mann, and Alaja Badalich

AXIS Redefines Dance and Disability

Our Mission

AXIS collaborates with disabled, non-disabled, and neurodiverse artists to create world-class productions that challenge perceptions of dance and disability.

Our Vision

AXIS strives to create a radically inclusive dance sector and world by removing barriers and showcasing the beauty of difference for artists, audiences, and community across the disability spectrum.

Our Three Pillars

AXIS works towards this vision through our three pillars of Artistry, Engagement and Advocacy.



Photo by David DeSilva | Dancers JanpiStar and Zara Anwar

About AXIS Dance Company

Led by Artistic Director Nadia Adame and Managing Director Danae Rees, AXIS is one of the nation's most acclaimed ensembles of disabled, non-disabled and neurodiverse performers.

In tandem with a robust performance calendar, AXIS provides unparalleled integrated dance education and outreach programs. AXIS builds paths to dance education for people of all ages, experiences, and spectrum of disabilities.

Our Engagement Programs embody our philosophy that **ANYONE CAN DANCE**. We believe that by providing arts opportunities to all people, breaking through social, economic or physical barriers, the entire community is enriched. We trust that any AXIS program will serve as a vehicle to educate students about the diversity of dance, while creating a better understanding of the capabilities and achievements of all people.



In order to help you to choose the activities that best fit your needs, please review our Engagement & Outreach Guide. Here you will find an overview of our programs for youth, adults, and educators, along with our Accessibility and Technical requirements. AXIS will work with schools to be able to provide a well rounded experience for your students, however please note that accessibility and the health and safety of our dancers is paramount, which is why these requirements are in place.

For questions about Engagement and Outreach activities, please contact Katherine Nauman, Engagement Project Manager at engagement@axisdance.org. We look forward to working with you to create an unforgettable experience.


A circular portrait of Katherine Nauman, a woman with long brown hair, smiling.

Katherine Nauman

Engagement Project Manager



 engagement@axisdance.org

 axisdance.org

Who This Guide Serves

- Disabled, non-disabled and neurodivergent dancers and non-dancers, K-12, postsecondary, and adults
- Performing Arts Venues and Service Organizations
- Colleges & Universities (Students, Staff and Faculty)
- Disability Organizations, Community Organizations, Senior Centers
- Corporations and Government
- Health Care Professionals, Hospitals, Rehabilitation Centers



Photo by Adam Tolbert



Photo by Nick Flagg

AXIS Dance Company requests the following conditions be recognized for all engagement activities:

- Building community and trust is important. We want to be sure everyone who attends our activities is there of their own free will and isn't being forced to participate.
- A credentialed teacher must be in the room with students through the duration of the engagement, as the AXIS dancers & staff are not credentialed.
- Educators are asked to manage any disruptive behavior or distractions that may occur during the activity.
- Our activities are open to participants of all experiences and spectrum of disabilities. If someone needs one-on-one assistance from a paraprofessional or aide, we ask that an aide be available and present for the duration of the activity.

Engagement for Youth K-12

Assemblies grades K-12 (45 min)

AXIS in-school or in-theater assemblies provide students with the exciting experience of enjoying a live AXIS performance. We offer two assemblies - one for grades K-5 and one for grades 6-12. AXIS dancers showcase artistic repertory, provide educational information on disability, share personal dance history, and introduce the audience to an integrated dance experience. Programs include a 5-minute Q&A session at the end. AXIS provides an Activity Guide for teachers to use with their students prior to and after the assembly.

Creative Dance grades K-5 (45-60 min)

AXIS will teach creative dance classes to disabled, non-disabled, and neurodiverse youth. Participants will be led through activities that encourage them to explore their own movement vocabulary, build confidence, practice cooperation, and develop an appreciation of each other's individual, creative expression. This workshop pairs well with our AXIS Assembly Program for students in grades K-5. Maximum of 25 participants.

Integrated Dance grades 6-12 (90 minutes)

AXIS will introduce elements of integrated dance for disabled, non-disabled, and neurodiverse students. The emphasis of this class will be on investigation and exploration, using creative movement, improvisation, and modern dance technique. Target audiences are students with some level of dance, athletic, or movement experience. This workshop pairs well with our AXIS Assembly Program for students in grades 6-12. Maximum of 25 participants.



Photo courtesy of Glenview Elementary, Oakland

Engagement for Postsecondary, Educators, and Adults

Movement Based Master Classes

Integrated Dance (90 minutes): AXIS will introduce elements of integrated dance for disabled, non-disabled, and neurodiverse people. Using techniques of translation, improvisation, and contemporary dance, we will expand our embodied potential for creative expression. Target audiences are people with some level of dance, athletic, or movement experience. Maximum of 30 participants.

Repertory (90 minutes): This class focuses on AXIS' diverse repertory as a tool to explore the infinite possibilities of integrated dance for disabled, non-disabled, and neurodiverse people. Using repertory movement, translation, and modern dance technique, we will explore solo, duet, and ensemble material. Target audiences are people with some level of dance, athletic, or movement experience. Maximum of 30 participants.

Composition (90 minutes): AXIS will introduce elements of choreographic composition through the lens of integrated dance for disabled, non-disabled, and neurodiverse people. Using improvisation, translation, and modern dance technique, we will explore how to create a piece of choreography that celebrates the artistry of disabled dancers. Target audiences are people with some level of dance, athletic, or movement experience. Maximum of 30 participants.



Photo by Yuko Monden Juma | Workshop with LINES Ballet Community Programs



Photo by Doug Kaye | Dancers Alaja Badalich, JanpiStar, David Calhoun, Louisa Mann

Residencies

Residency offerings span a period of time, allowing for a creative process and exchange between participants and AXIS Artists. Residencies focus on building skills, creative tools, confidence and exploration in a supportive environment. Target audiences are disabled, non-disabled, and neurodiverse people with some level of dance, athletic, or movement experience.

Improvisation and Site Specific Residency: Dancers will be led through the fundamentals of improvisation and site-specific performance through the lens of integrated dance. The site specific location must be fully wheelchair accessible. Maximum of 30 participants.

Choreography and Performance Residency: Dancers will be led through the fundamentals of choreography and performance through the lens of integrated dance. The residency will conclude with an informal sharing of the choreographic works created. Maximum of 30 participants.

For Educators

Fundamentals of Inclusive Teaching (90 minutes): AXIS offers this movement-based workshop geared toward teachers and faculty working with diverse populations. The session includes learning and experiencing participatory exercises and activities for use in classrooms as well as discussion about disability, language, and the development of AXIS' extraordinary inclusive community education program. Maximum of 30 participants.

Teacher Training in Accessible Dance - Modules 1 and 2 (2 days): AXIS Dance Company offers this opportunity for an in-depth exploration of methods for teaching dance to disabled, non-disabled, and neurodiverse people. Sample some of the AXIS curriculum through discussion and movement exercises. Each module is 4 hours and can be offered on consecutive days or separately. Target audience is dance/movement educators. Maximum of 30 participants. Please note, completion of Module 1 is required to attend Module 2.

Module 1 includes a discussion about the ADA, models of disability, and introduces the use of inclusive language and practices. The session includes learning and experiencing participatory exercises and activities for use in the classroom and dance studio. Educators will learn about how to structure an accessible class, which can be practiced in Module 2.

Module 2 begins with an inclusive dance class taught by AXIS. Participants will have the opportunity to work in groups to adapt some of their favorite exercises and/or design an inclusive class, exploring new approaches to teaching movement, while receiving support and feedback from AXIS and fellow teaching artists.



Photo courtesy of the Lied Center

Engagement Accessibility and Technical Requirements

AXIS has specific access and technical requirements that need to be met in order to book us for in-person Assemblies or other activities. Please review these requirements below and feel free to contact us with any questions at engagement@axisdance.org. The requirements in this Guide are intended for education and engagement activities only, not for main stage performances. Please note that if these requirements aren't met when AXIS arrives on site, we have the right to cancel an engagement without a full refund.

I. Accessibility Requirements

A. Assembly/Activity Space

1. Must be wheelchair-accessible for both AXIS and the audience. (Space must either be ground level or have a working lift or ramp to a stage.)
2. All stage lifts must be tested at least 1 week prior to the engagement date. If lift does not work, we will not be able to come in.
3. Must be completely clear and clean upon the arrival of AXIS. We ask for all tables & chairs to be removed from the middle of the space, and floor swept & mopped.
4. No carpet or concrete please. Carpet is not accessible for our dancers, and concrete is a health and safety concern.
5. We ask for a table and chairs at a wheelchair accessible height and location for props and personal belongings.

B. Show Us Your Facility

1. An informal video (filmed on a phone is fine) showing where parking will be, the path from parking to accessible building entrance, path to Assembly/Activity space, where the accessible bathrooms are in relation to the Assembly/Activity space.

C. Restrooms

1. Wheelchair-accessible restrooms must be available in close proximity to the Assembly/Activity space.
2. Entry must accommodate a wheelchair - 30"x48" - and there must be room to maneuver in the bathroom and stall.

D. Parking

1. Accessible parking spaces, and permits if required, must be provided for 2 automobiles, in close proximity to the Assembly/Activity Space.
2. Space and permits must be available at no cost to AXIS.

II. Technical Requirements

A. Assembly/Activity Space

1. Minimum space requirements for performance area: 28 ft depth x 34 ft width.
2. Temperature must be a minimum of 68 degrees.
3. Space must be indoors. Alternative spaces need to be discussed with AXIS in advance approval.

B. Arrival/Set Up

1. AXIS will arrive 1 hour before scheduled start time.
2. Please have a host representative available upon AXIS' arrival to assist/direct.
3. Space needs to be clean, ready, and accessible to the AXIS team upon arrival.
4. Please note that AXIS has the right to cancel the engagement if performance is space is not ready and accessible.

C. Sound

1. Sound system that can connect to an iPad.
2. For Assemblies - 2 mics - 1 cordless, handheld mic for audience participation, 1 corded or cordless for AXIS dancers.

D. Lighting for Assemblies

1. General lighting is fine. If it is possible to distinguish between performers and audience with lighting, great, but not required.

E. Seating for Assemblies

1. Floor seating is best for sightlines as we do interact with the audience, but an accessible stage will work, too.
2. If floor seating, please leave at least 8 feet of space between performers and the first row of the audience.
3. If floor seating, please create a center aisle between the students seated on the floor.
4. Please keep the seating arrangement in front of the performance area and not surrounding it.
5. Please have a conversation with students prior to the start of the assembly that they should not touch an artists mobility device during the assembly unless invited to do so by the dancer

F. Strike

1. We tend to strike our props rather quickly but need at least 15-20 minutes to clear out of the space after the program.



Photo courtesy Lucas Valley Elementary, San Rafael, California