



## **Patel Conservatory Student Handbook**

WELCOME!

The Patel Conservatory at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts values its role as a cultural resource for education, pre-professional training and community involvement. Our curriculum provides the opportunity for students of all ages and experience levels to dream, reach and discover all that the performing arts has to offer, with guidance and instruction from an outstanding staff of professional artists and educators.

The true value of the Patel Conservatory is defined by the lasting relationships we have developed with the students, families and communities we serve.

It is our sincere pleasure to welcome all returning students back to the Patel Conservatory. We are equally pleased to welcome all of the new students who will be joining us for the first time. We look forward to serving each and every one of you with the finest educational experience available in the performing arts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Wendy Leigh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping tail.

Wendy Leigh  
Vice President of Education



## **Mission Statement**

The Patel Conservatory provides the finest performing arts training in an inspirational setting by giving you the tools to:

Dream, reach, discover, and create the performing arts

Integrate them into your life

And contribute to your community

## **Artistic Philosophy**

At the Conservatory:

We will provide a place where creativity is celebrated, honored and revered.

We will respect traditional performing arts as well as new forms.

We will encourage students to experience all artistic disciplines in developing their own unique style.

We will listen to our students and help them to realize the practical steps necessary to make their visions a reality.

We will instill in our students a sense of pride that accompanies disciplined work habits and self-determination.

We will offer arts opportunities for all ages and interests.

We will provide a safe space for exploration and development.

We will reinforce the guiding principle that artistic growth never ends and that unrealized ideas are natural components of artistic growth.

We will develop a common artistic vocabulary so that we can communicate across disciplines.

We will reinforce the principle that art is process, not product.

In order to provide and ensure the highest quality of arts experiences to our Conservatory students and the Tampa Bay community, the Patel Conservatory at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts is undertaking a comprehensive evaluation process of the programs we offer both on and off site. This is accomplished through the collection of information on individual characteristics of our program participants and the skills and knowledge

acquired. Cooperation in providing this information is invaluable to this process and is highly encouraged.

### **Commitment Contracts**

At the Patel Conservatory, we are committed to providing an open, friendly environment to explore the arts. We depend on families, students (both adults and children) and Conservatory staff to help us meet this goal and develop positive, constructive relationships. To assist all of us in these efforts, we have created commitment contracts that outline expectations of students, families and Conservatory staff. In clearly outlining expectations and working together, we will be able to fulfill our mission of providing the highest-quality performing arts training to Tampa Bay area residents. All students, families and Conservatory staff members are required to sign commitment contracts.

### **Minor Student Commitment Contract**

- I will be in class, set up and focused before class begins. I will take sole responsibility for being on time to all classes, rehearsals and performances.
- I will come to class prepared. This includes completing any outside class assignments and rehearsals.
- I agree that I will not miss more than two classes during a semester.
- I understand that if I have excessive absences from classes that meet year long, I may be excluded from participating in the end of session performance.
- I will respect all Conservatory equipment by using it only for its intended purpose and taking proper care of it. I will return all equipment to its proper storage place after each class session. I will take responsibility for lost or damaged property.
- I will respect the Conservatory facility and help preserve it for future students by cleaning up after myself and behaving appropriately at all times.
- I will only eat and drink in designated areas (not in classrooms or hallways). Bottled water is encouraged. I will never chew gum in the building.
- I will be focused throughout class. I will be supportive of my peers and participate fully for the duration of each class. I will maintain a consistently respectful attitude toward my class, my peers, my instructor, Conservatory administrators and the facility.
- I understand that attendance at all technical and dress rehearsals is required to participate in the performance. In addition, I understand that my attendance at all scheduled performances is mandatory if the course or program has multiple performances.
- I will commit to daily improvements in my work.
- I will take responsibility for, and contribute to, the success of each class.
- I will attend performances that complement my class work and broaden my understanding of the arts as a whole.

- I will be persistent. I will strive for consistency in my class work by accepting setbacks and refocusing my energies.
- I will maintain a mature attitude in dealing with problems by describing the problem clearly, offering potential solutions and remaining open to suggestions.
- I will practice good behavior in and out of the classroom.
- I understand that the Patel has the right to discontinue/sever student relationships at any time for any reason.
- I will exercise common sense in all my activities at the Conservatory.
- I will respect the judgment of the Conservatory's faculty regarding my progress in the program.
- I will be respectful of different viewpoints, cultures and lifestyles.

### **Family Commitment Contract**

- I will support my child in his/her efforts in attending the Patel Conservatory by ensuring punctual transportation for my child, supporting classroom methodology and respecting the relationship between my child and his/her instructor.
- I will be aware of my child's other activities and plan accordingly. I understand that my child may be asked to leave the course if he or she misses more than two classes in a semester.
- I will be aware that excessive absences from classes that meet year long may result in my child's exclusion from end of session performances.
- I will be aware of all Conservatory calendars, schedules and policies and responsible for my child's consistent participation in all scheduled events.
- I understand that my child's attendance at all technical and dress rehearsals is required to participate in the performance. In addition, I understand that my child's attendance at all scheduled performances is mandatory if the course or program has multiple performances.
- I will respect the judgment of the Conservatory's faculty regarding my child's progress in the program.
- Before sessions begin, I will notify the Conservatory of any anticipated absences, via e-mail or in writing.
- I will maintain a mature attitude in dealing with problems by stating the problem clearly, offering potential solutions and remaining open to suggestions.
- I understand that the Patel has the right to discontinue/sever student relationships at any time for any reason.
- I will be respectful of different viewpoints, cultures and lifestyles.

### **Adult Student Commitment Contract**

Please...

- Be on time for all classes, rehearsals and performances.
- Understand that you may not miss more than two classes during a semester.
- Understand that excessive absences from year-long classes may result in the exclusion from end of session performances.
- Return all equipment to its proper storage place after each class session.
- Eat and/or drink in designated areas only. Bottled water is allowed throughout the building. Smoking is not permitted within the building.
- Come to class prepared. This includes completing any outside class assignments and rehearsals.
- Commit to daily improvements in your work.
- Take responsibility for, and contribute to, the success of each class.
- Attend performances that complement your class work and broaden your understanding of the arts as a whole.
- Understand that attendance at all technical and dress rehearsals is required to participate in the performance. In addition, understand that attendance at all scheduled performances is mandatory if the course or program has multiple performances.
- Persist. Strive for consistency in your class work by accepting setbacks and refocusing your energies.
- Respect the judgment of the Conservatory's faculty regarding your progress in the program.
- I understand that the Patel has the right to discontinue/sever student relationships at any time for any reason.
- Be respectful of different viewpoints, cultures and lifestyles.

### **Patel Conservatory Faculty and Staff Commitment Contract**

- We will be fully prepared for each class session and will be in the classroom no later than 15 minutes before class start time.
- We will communicate regularly and clearly with students, parents and colleagues.
- We will treat every student, parent and colleague with respect and dignity.
- We will adhere to the highest professional standards regarding classroom management and professional expertise.
- We will provide quality classroom instruction in every class session.



- We will provide a nurturing, encouraging environment for our students.
- We will maintain a consistently positive, energetic attitude in class, providing inspiration and enthusiasm for our students.
- We will exercise fairness and consistency in applying rules and providing feedback and assessment.
- We will maintain personal and professional integrity inside and outside the Patel Conservatory.
- We will maintain mature attitudes in dealing with problems by stating the problem clearly, offering potential solutions and remaining open to suggestions.
- We will appropriately match teachers with students of different ages, abilities and experience.
- We will maintain professional standards of communication and action within the classroom and in dealing with all Conservatory business.
- We will employ teachers who are experts in their field.
- We will consistently seek to expand our knowledge of art forms outside our disciplines and will be familiar with all performances occurring at the Straz Center.
- We will keep abreast of national and international art movements and performances.
- We will continually develop sensitivity to the many cultures and beliefs that our students embody.
- We will be respectful of different viewpoints, cultures and lifestyles.
- In each session, we will clearly communicate expectations for student success.

### **Conservatory Contact Information**

Office of Registrar: Course Information, Financial Assistance and Registration  
813.222.1040

#### **Registration Office Hours:**

##### **School Year Hours:**

Mon-Thurs.	10am-8pm
Fridays	10am-7pm
Saturdays	9am-2:30pm

##### **Summer Hours:**

Mon-Thurs.	9am-7pm
Fridays	9am-6pm
Saturdays	9am-2:30pm

Website – [patelconservatory.org](http://patelconservatory.org)  
Patel Conservatory Reception Desk – (813) 222.1000  
Security – (813) 222.1070



### **Audition Requirements**

Most Conservatory courses are access courses and do not require auditions. However, many of our excellence level courses do require auditions.\* Please check the catalog or our website for course requirements before registering. Auditions are held before each session. Information on audition dates, times and requirements can be found on our website at [patelconservatory.org](http://patelconservatory.org). All auditions require a \$15 audition fee. Those unable to attend an audition night may make alternate arrangements, depending on class availability.

\* The Patel Conservatory Youth Ballet and the Patel Conservatory Youth Orchestra have separate audition requirements.

### **Forms & Fees**

Registration can be completed online, at [www.patelconservatory.org](http://www.patelconservatory.org). Additionally, students may register by calling the Patel Conservatory Registrar at 813.222-1002, or registering in person at The Patel Conservatory Chairman's Library. Tuition and registration fees are due at the time of registration. Please check the course catalog on the web for tuition for individual classes. Payments may be made with check, cash, MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover Card. A service charge of \$25 will be assessed on all returned checks. Class fees are non-refundable unless the class is cancelled, in which case tuition will be refunded in full. There is a required \$25 registration fee. The registration fee will be waived for all current Straz Center Members. Member information is available online at [strazcenter.org](http://strazcenter.org). Additional fees, including audition fees, may be charged. Tuition fees vary by class. See tuition requirements per program. All fees and registration forms should be mailed to: The Patel Conservatory, P.O. Box 518, Tampa, Florida, 33601, Attention: Registrar

### **Financial Assistance**

Financial assistance is available through the Straz Center's scholarship program and is awarded subject to availability of funds to provide students with the opportunity to participate in our arts education programs. Scholarships are made possible through gifts from donors who believe in the Straz Center's mission and the power of the performing arts to teach and inspire.

To apply, students must submit the Financial Assistance Application by the specified deadlines for each session. Please refer to [patelconservatory.org](http://patelconservatory.org) or the Conservatory brochure for each session deadline. Scholarships are applied to the student's tuition, resulting in a reduced fee for classes. To apply, call the Registrar's office at (813) 222.1002 or visit [patelconservatory.org](http://patelconservatory.org).



### **Complimentary Tickets**

Conservatory students are occasionally offered complimentary or discounted tickets to various performances here at the Straz Center. Notification of complimentary tickets is usually done by e-mail. Be sure the Conservatory office has a current e-mail for your family so you won't miss out. Contact the Registrar to update your address. Please only request tickets that you will actually use.

### **Open Houses**

All students, families and prospective students are invited to attend our open house sessions. During open house, many, though not all, teachers will be available to answer questions. Check the website for open house and showcase times for each session.

### **Attendance Policy**

The performing arts are collaborative arts. Each person's contribution directly affects classroom experiences, the rehearsal process and the success of performances. The Patel Conservatory is committed to providing its students the finest performing arts training available. To achieve and maintain the highest caliber of student experience, mandatory attendance is expected. Absences negatively impact individual and collective program experiences and progress. The Patel Conservatory requires that every student and parent sign a commitment contract. We suggest parents and students review their school and club calendars carefully before signing up for classes. Before class sessions begin, parents are responsible for notifying the Patel Conservatory in writing, if they are aware of an upcoming absence.

Students may not miss more than 2 classes per semester for the class's scheduled run before being asked to leave the class. Twelve week classes only allow two absences. (Specific program guidelines may appear in their specific handbooks online.) Please understand that if you have excessive absences from classes that meet year long, you may be excluded from participating in the end of session performance. In a summer camp, students may not miss more than 2 classes of the camp. (If it's a one week camp that meets five days per week, students may not miss more than one day.) No refunds will be provided. The student may re-register for the following session. Instructors will consistently enforce the attendance policy. Exceptions will be heard on a case-by-case basis. Teachers are not required to make up a student's missed lessons or classes. However, any teacher absences or school class cancellations will be rescheduled.

Students are counted tardy if they are late to class. Three tardies count as one unexcused absence from class.



Parents are responsible for notifying The Conservatory if their child is going to be absent from class. Please call the Conservatory before the class begins. For unexpected absences, students are to bring a note to the following class.

Please notify the administrator on duty if a student is going to leave class early. Some programs will not allow participation that day if the student is leaving early.

Students are expected to be in class, ready to work, at the scheduled class starting time. In other words, students are responsible for dressing out and/or readying themselves for class before the class start time.

### **Class Cancellations**

In the event of weather-related or other unexpected cancellations, The Conservatory will follow the Hillsborough County School District decision. If school is canceled because of weather or other emergencies, Conservatory classes are also canceled. A message will be placed on the reception desk voice mail. Every endeavor will be made to reschedule any unexpected cancellation.

### **Open Classrooms and Showcases**

The Patel Conservatory will periodically offer students the chance to perform in student showcases or open classroom events. Both are a natural extension of performance-based training and will be open to the public. Admission charges may apply. Students are expected to participate.

### **Conduct Policy**

Students of the Patel Conservatory are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. It is the policy of the Patel Conservatory to maintain a positive, safe and secure learning and working environment. Patel Conservatory students and Straz Center employees have a right to learn and work in a safe environment. Violent behavior against students, staff or employees will not be tolerated. The Patel Conservatory has a zero tolerance policy for any form of violence. Any form of violence or aggression is grounds for immediate dismissal from class/program and is at the sole discretion of Conservatory administration.

If any student is found with drugs or alcohol it is grounds for immediate dismissal from class/program and is at the sole discretion of Conservatory administration.

Classrooms are shared spaces used by many groups. Students are expected to handle equipment respectfully and to store it properly, leaving the classroom ready for the next group. Students also are responsible for assisting Conservatory staff to maintain the cleanliness and appearance of the building.



Successful performing arts programs instill in students a mature, responsible and accountable approach to their work. Troublesome student or parent behavior impedes the individual student as well as the overall goals of the program. All students and parents are required to sign the commitment contract. A copy of the contract appears at the beginning of this handbook. By signing the contract, students and parents agree to abide by the Conservatory's guidelines for successful training. The Conservatory relies on parents to set appropriate guidelines and codes of behavior for their children. The Conservatory views consistently troublesome student or parent behavior as an indication that the self-discipline necessary for successful performing arts training is lacking. Every effort will be made to correct such problems, but students or parents who continue to display behavior in conflict with the contract are subject to dismissal from the program without refund.

Because they are collaborative in nature, performing arts classes provide students with a unique opportunity to develop important work habits and life skills, in addition to the obvious benefits of honing one's craft. Patel Conservatory staff members will make every effort to teach the whole person.

### **Patel Conservatory Disciplinary Process**

- 1) A verbal warning is issued to the student.
- 2) A written warning is filed with the appropriate Manager/Director, who contacts the parent/guardian and discusses the student issue. The Manager/Director will explain to the parent/guardian that if the student's behavior does not improve, he/she will be asked to leave the class/program
- 3) If a third incident occurs, the student is asked to leave the class/program.

\*Depending on the severity of the student issue The Patel Conservatory reserves the right to inform the student/parent that they will be asked to leave the class/program. This will be at the sole discretion of Conservatory administration.

### **Dress Code**

Students are expected to dress appropriately for each class while maintaining a basic level of decency and appropriate modesty. Students are not to wear clothing that may be offensive to others. This includes T-shirts with offensive graphics and/or language and sexually explicit clothing that is revealing and/or restricts movement. Excessive jewelry inhibits most artistic disciplines. Proper shoes are necessary; no bare feet. Additional program requirements appear at the end of this handbook and/or online.



### **Backpacks, duffle bags, cell phones and other equipment**

Space is limited at The Conservatory. Students are encouraged to attend classes without backpacks, duffle bags or other extraneous items as there is no dedicated storage for such items. Cell phones must be turned off in class. The Conservatory is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items.

### **Emergency Contact**

In case of emergency, please contact the Registrar at 813.222.1002 during registrar hours. If you need to contact someone outside of the scheduled registrar office hours please call 813-222-1070. Please note the registrar hours at the beginning of this handbook. On the student registration form, parents are to provide an emergency contact telephone number as well as important medical information. Please fill out the information completely.

### **Security**

The Straz Center for the Performing Arts has a security station set up at all times to control the flow of visitors, employees, performers and guests. There is a security presence in the TECO lobby. The Patel Conservatory and the Straz Center are committed to providing a safe learning environment and are equipped with security staff and video surveillance of the campus facility. Parents and students are encouraged to report any suspicious or inappropriate behavior.

### **Arriving and Departing**

Parents are responsible for their child's safe and timely arrival to Patel classes AND their departure from the building. A \$25 fee per 15 minutes will be assessed for any unsupervised student found onsite more than 15 minutes before class time. A \$25 fee per 15 minutes will be assessed for any student not picked up within 15 minutes after class ends. The Patel Conservatory CANNOT maintain responsibility for students who arrive or depart outside of these time parameters or upon leaving the school premises. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent to be in the library. A student drop-off and pick-up land is at the end of the TECO theater pathway. This is only a drop-off, pick-up lane, not a parking area and is subject to ticketing fines by Tampa Police.

## **Parking**

We're very fortunate that the Patel Conservatory of the Straz Center for the Performing Arts is in the heart of downtown. The benefits are numerous, but please remember that The Conservatory is a large and busy place located in a downtown area. Parents should review personal safety and traffic rules with their children on a regular basis. The Straz Center does not provide onsite parking.

Parking can be a challenge on event evenings because street parking becomes filled and the parking lots charge a fee. Parking is your responsibility.

- As a courtesy for our students, Poe Garage Parking is validated for class time only. Current students may have their parking validated on the day and during the time of their scheduled class if they park in the Poe Parking Garage and have a current, active student ID badge. Complimentary parking in the Poe Garage is conditional on space availability and is not provided for special events, showcases or performances.
- There is a Drop off/Pick up Lane on Fortune Street (directions are at the end of this handbook). Parking is not allowed in this area. This is only a drop-off, pick-up lane, not a parking area and is subject to ticketing fines by Tampa Police.
- Additional parking may be available in adjacent lots, and street meters for a fee.

## **ID Badges**

Each student will receive an ID/Access badge. All Conservatory students are required to wear their ID/Access badges throughout the Straz Center. With instructor approval, students may remove them during class.

There will be a \$15 replacement charge for lost badges.

- Students are required to swipe in and out at the security desk upon arrival and dismissal from the Conservatory.
- Students must use access passes to gain entry to classroom areas
- Only registered students are allowed in classroom areas.

## **Elevators**

For the safety of our students, we ask that you abide by the following guidelines: all Conservatory students are to use the stairs. Children are not permitted to use the elevators without staff supervision. Students with special needs are permitted to use elevator access as needed.

**Families and Visitors**

The TECO lobby and the library are approved waiting areas for families and guests. Parents are not permitted to observe classes other than the designated open classroom days.

- Food and drinks are allowed in the TECO lobby area. Please be courteous of the space and leave the space as you found it.

**Patel Conservatory Library Policies**

**Behaviors and Actions Prohibited in the Library**

- Engaging in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the library, or disturbs library staff or customers, including, but not limited to, conduct that involves the use of abusive or threatening language or gestures, conduct that creates unreasonable noise, or conduct that consists of loud or boisterous behavior or talking.
- Leaving one or more children under the age of 12, who appear to be unsupervised or unattended, anywhere in the library.
- Removing Library materials from the premises without authorization
- Distributing or posting printed materials/literature that have not been approved by the Library
- Abusing books, materials or equipment
- Cell phones should not be answered in the library, users are to answer their cell phones outside of the library or in the TECO lobby. Cell phones should be set to silent or vibration mode.
- All audible devices should be used with headphones and set at a volume that is not disruptive to others

**Library Hours**

School Year Hours:

Monday – Thursday 10 am – 8 pm

Friday 10 am – 7 pm

Saturday 9 am – 2:30 pm

**Library Hours**

Summer Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9 am – 7 pm

Friday 9 am – 6 pm

Saturday 9 am – 2:30 pm

### **Class Concerns**

Students or parents who have concerns regarding the Patel Conservatory should first talk to the instructor before or after class. If the situation cannot be resolved at that level, they should then contact the appropriate Manager/Director.

### **Program Requirements**

#### **Dance**

##### **Tap (all levels Gr. 9-Adult):**

- Capris (no preference on color or fabric)
- Comfortable t-shirt or camisole
- Black tap shoes (any style)
- Hair out of face, free from distraction

##### **Contemporary Dance:**

- Black tights or tight form fitting athletic pants
- Tight fitting shirt or leotard
- No shoes
- Hair out of face, free from distraction

##### **Adult Hip Hop:**

- Capris (no preference on color or fabric)
- Comfortable t-shirt or camisole
- Jazz sneakers or flexible sneaker
- Hair out of face, free from distraction

##### **Flamenco:**

Women:

- Long flamenco style skirt (preferably black)
- Close toe shoes with a heel- Character shoes minimum
- Leotard style top
- Dance trunks/shorts

Men:

- Dance boots
- Trouser style pants
- Shirt that allows movement

**Ballet (Gr. 9-adult class)**

Women:

**(all levels):**

- Preferably pink tights and a black leotard
- Black tights and colored leotards are okay
- If students want to cover up ballet skirts are okay-no shorts
- Pink split sole ballet shoes (canvas or leather)
- Preferably hair in bun or out of the face if too short for bun

Men:

**(all levels):**

- Jazz pants
- Fitted cotton T-shirt
- Ballet slippers
- Long hair pulled out of face and secured with a band or hair gel
- Warm-up clothing is permitted, but should have clean lines that allow you and the instructor to see the alignment of your body
- No dangling jewelry

**Music****Rock School**

- Guitarists and bassists must provide their own cables.
- Drummers must provide their own sticks.
- No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the rehearsal room, although bottled water is encouraged.
- Please do not play while the instructor speaks and come prepared each week, as you will always have specific pieces to work on.

**Theater****Toddler Classes**

Establishing good classroom behavior is an important part of early childhood classes, but it should do more than elicit predictable responses. It should enhance a student's self-esteem, self-evaluation and allow for the internalization of self-control. Our educational goal is to empower young students and encourage them to be responsible for their actions and behavior. As Barbara Coloroso, an internationally recognized educator states, "I believe children should like themselves, think for themselves, and learn that there is no problem so

great that it cannot be solved.” If we teach children how to think and take responsibility for their actions, then we will succeed in empowering and influencing them.

Therefore, on the first day of class students will be taught the following rules:

1. Respect Others
2. Work Quietly
3. Listen
4. Always Be Prepared
5. Do Your Best

We are responsible for gaining and maintaining your child’s attention. Therefore, younger siblings are not allowed to attend classes. If your child is not following the rules, we will verbally ask them twice to change their behavior (after modeling appropriate behavior) and then place them in a time out. They will be left in time out for a few minutes and then be personally invited to rejoin the group.

### **On Camera**

- Students must wear appropriate on-camera wardrobe based on the wardrobe handout given out on the first day of class, unless specifically requested by the instructor.
- If inappropriate wardrobe is worn to class, the student may be asked to observe the class only.
- No nail polish, excessive make-up, hair gel or excessive jewelry may be worn to class.
- Women may wear small ear studs and one ring. No jewelry for men. Hair must be clean, neat and not detract from the student’s on-camera marketability. No facial hair unless specifically requested.

### **General Rules For On Camera**

- Critique is done by the instructor only.
- No food, gum, candy or smoking is permitted. Bottled water is allowed.
- Students must bring a class binder/folder to class and place any copy/scripts into folder for future reference.
- The instructor is not obligated to show all that was taped in class.
- Students may not leave the building during rehearsal or class.
- Students perform once, and often twice in class. Students may not refuse to perform their work. The learning process is derived from seeing their work, and the work of their peers, on-camera.

- Students must show consistent effort and progress. They must consistently behave in a disciplined, responsible and proper manner. Improper behavior is cause for immediate dismissal from the On-Camera classes.
- Each student is required to research other acting classes, casting opportunities and agent opportunities and notify the instructor of the progress made by the end of the program.
- Please do not expect the teacher to make any special arrangements with students. The rules will applied fairly and consistently to all involved in the On-Camera class.

### **Other Theater classes**

Theater classes are fun and can be incredibly energizing. But they are not open invitations to run free. A performer's instrument is his body, mind and soul. A good performer continually develops his/her voice, body and imagination. In order to be an accomplished performer, students must adhere to some basic rules of good practice:

- Students are encouraged to attend every class.
- No gum chewing.
- No food or drink in the classroom. Bottled water is permitted and encouraged.
- No clothing that restricts movement or is revealing (mini-skirts, high heels, excessively baggy clothes, etc.)
- Always wear appropriate shoes (no bare feet, sandals or flip-flops).
- Do not touch props on the prop table, or costumes.
- Do not move or use any rehearsal set pieces without prior instructor approval. Sit in class seating only.
- When in performances spaces, do not go backstage. Sit in class seating only.
- No talking during class except in class discussions. Please give your full attention to others when they are working.
- Please maintain an encouraging and involved attitude in every class. Come to class to learn and participate actively.
- Refrain from making any derogatory comments about other students.
- Return all rehearsal props and furniture to their storage space.
- Stack all chairs and straighten the classroom at the end of every class.



**Directions to the Patel Conservatory and the Straz Center for the Performing Arts:**

**Please remember, U-turns are not permitted on Fortune St. or Doyle Carlton.**

If you are traveling north on I-275, take the Ashley Drive/West Tampa Exit #44 (old exit 25) to downtown. Once on Ashley Drive, go to the first traffic light and turn right on Tyler Street and go a half-block to The Center.

If you are traveling south on I-275, take the Downtown East-West Exit #45A to downtown. **Please note that the exit point for Downtown East-West Exit 45A is well in advance of the previous Ashley Drive Exit #44.** Follow the Ashley Drive sign. Turn right on Tyler Street and go a half-block to The Center.

From the Orlando-Lakeland area, take I-4 west to I-275 South and take the Downtown East/West Exit #45A.

From I-75 North or South, take I-4 West to Tampa then to I-275 South. Take the Downtown East/West Exit #45A.

If you are coming via Bayshore Boulevard, go over the Platt Street bridge and turn left on Florida Avenue. Go straight 9 blocks, turn left on Tyler Street and drive three-and-a-half blocks to The Center.

From the Crosstown or Lee Roy Selmon Expressway east-bound, take Kennedy Boulevard and turn right on to Florida Avenue. Turn left on Tyler Street and go three-and-a-half blocks to The Center.

**To get home ...**

When you exit the Poe Parking Garage, turn right on Cass Street and follow the street signs for I-275 North, I-275 South, I-4 or the Crosstown.