

Develop An Appreciation For The Arts With The State Ballet of Rhode Island GUIDE

By [Elisha Neubauer](#)

For dancers in Rhode Island, the town of Lincoln holds a special gem: The State Ballet of Rhode Island with its official school the Brae Crest School of Ballet. Launched in 1960, the ballet company is the longest running semi-professional regional ballet in the state and is one of the oldest still operating in the country, as well.

In addition to the company's performances for the community and culturally enriching programs, Brae Crest School of Ballet gives individuals of all ages including adults, an opportunity to study and dance the art form. Both the school and the company were founded by Prima Ballerina Herci Marsden and her family. And on most days you will find Ms. Marsden's surrounded by her four generations of dancers, teachers and family. The school continues to teach only the highest standards in classical ballet education.



Herci Marsden's daughter says "As teachers, we strive to bring out the best in all of our students. Those who want to dance professionally must persevere. Never give up on your dreams."

The State Ballet of Rhode Island enjoys expanding others' cultural awareness of the art form. The company offers a wide range of performances in multiple venues, allowing them to reach multiple viewers. To bring in new viewers, they offer Pay What You Can events for not only students and seniors but for the general public as well. "It is so exciting for us as artists to see a person's reaction when they attend a ballet for the very first time," Fox said.



People of all ages are affected in a number of ways when visiting the ballet. The State Ballet of Rhode Island recognizes this mark the art form leaves on its viewers. It is for this reason, since its inception, that the company believes that people need to experience the arts in order to develop an understanding and appreciation of it. "The State Ballet of Rhode Island's mission is to create, to present, to preserve and extend the great repertoire of classical dancing to the widest possible audience, while providing exciting performances and educational programming of the highest quality," said Fox.