



# 2024 FALL CLASSES | YOUTH



**REGISTRATION OPENS 9AM SEPTEMBER 4TH AT  
MIDDLETOWNARTS.ORG!**

**Questions? Call 732-706-4100**

# WELCOME TO MIDDLETOWN ARTS CENTER'S 2024 FALL CLASSES!

## OVERVIEW

### OUR LOCATIONS

We are proud to have TWO locations - both just minutes apart from each other! Both locations feature easy drive-thru drop off and pick up and expansive outdoor spaces!

**Middletown Arts Center**  
36 Church Street – Middletown, NJ 07748

**MAC Annex (at Middletown Reformed Church)**  
121 Kings Highway - Middletown, NJ 07748

### SECURITY

Both Locations keep all exterior doors locked with the exception of the main entry doors. During class hours, these doors will be manned so that any visitors are monitored. Adults (including parents) will not be allowed in the classroom spaces with the exception drop-off and pick-up. Children are always escorted to the bathrooms by our teachers and assistants. Children will not be released to anyone other than those designated. Any changes in dismissal routine must be made in writing.

### ATTIRE

If your child is registered in the arts and crafts classes, please send them “dressed for mess”! If they are registered in the performing arts or dance classes, campers should wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. Please no flip-flops or sandals. Both facilities are air-conditioned and can be chilly – you should send a sweater or sweatshirt. Please remember to check our Lost and Found boxes for misplaced items. We have quite a collection of clothes, lunch boxes and assorted items!

## NOW OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS AND PAYMENT PLANS

Call 732-706-4100 for more info!



# DANCE

## NEW! DANCE CLASSES WITH NJELAMA DACAS JOHNSON

LOCATION: Middletown Arts Center | 36 Church Street

We are THRILLED to have celebrated dance instructor Njelama Dacas Johnson joining the MAC Dance Instruction team this Fall! Njelama originally hails from Brooklyn, New York but now resides in New Jersey after earning her Ed.M in K-12 Dance Education and her BFA in Dance Performance from Rutgers University.



She previously directed the Rutgers Summer Dance Camp & Conservatory and studied abroad at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, United Kingdom which aided in her growth teaching students dance. During her time as a public school dance educator she wrote K-12 curriculums meant to enrich and prepare students for the changing landscape of the art world. Her passion and love for dance shines through in her teaching practices where she highlights the importance of not only movement but the joy behind it. When she's not cultivating the minds of dancers of all ages, Njelama tries to spend as much time as possible traveling, hiking, painting and crafting.

### ***NEW! Pre-Ballet with Njelama Dacas Johnson***

**Ages 4-6**

**September 14 – December 21 (every other week) | Saturdays: 9:00 – 10:00 am**

**Members \$160 Non-members \$175 (8 classes)**

This fun and engaging class was specially designed for younger beginning dancers, ages 4-6. Under the caring, expert instruction of Njelama Dacas Johnson, students will be introduced to the fundamental building blocks of movement, rhythm/musicality, as well as begin to create movement of their own. Students will develop understanding of movement concepts, flexibility, balance, and coordination through specific ballet-based movements and creative exploration.

### ***NEW! Ballet 1 with Njelama Dacas Johnson***

**Ages 7-9**

**September 14 – December 21 (every other week) | Saturdays: 10:00 – 11:00 am**

**Members \$160 Non-members \$175 (8 classes)**

This fun and engaging class was specially designed for dancers, ages 7-9. Under the caring, expert instruction of Njelama Dacas Johnson, students will be introduced to the fundamental building blocks of movement, rhythm/musicality, as well as begin to create movement of their own. Students will develop understanding of movement concepts, flexibility, balance, and coordination through specific ballet-based movements and creative exploration.

### ***NEW! Ballet 2 with Njelama Dacas Johnson***

**Ages 10-12**

**September 25 – December 18 (No class November 6 or November 27) | Wednesdays: 4:30 – 5:30 pm**

**Members \$160 Non-members \$175 (10 classes)**

### ***NEW! Ballet 3 with Njelama Dacas Johnson***

**Ages 13+**

**September 25 – December 18 (No class November 6 or November 27) | Wednesdays: 5:45 – 6:45 pm**

**Members \$160 Non-members \$175 (10 classes)**

### ***NEW! Modern 1 with Njelama Dacas Johnson***

**Ages 7-9**

**September 26 – December 19 (No class October 31 OR November 7 OR November 28)**

**Thursdays: 4:30 – 5:30 pm**

**Members \$145 Non-members \$160 (9 classes)**

This fun and exploratory class is an opportunity to engage in the art of modern dance and movement. Under the caring, expert instruction of Njelama Dacas Johnson, students will be introduced to the fundamental building blocks of modern dance technique and movement concepts. Students will grow their technical ability as well as discover improvisation and choreography experiences, also placing emphasis on flexibility, balance, and coordination. Students will develop their own individuality and style through movement as well as work collaboratively with one another.

### ***NEW! Modern 2 with Njelama Dacas Johnson***

**Ages 10+**

**September 26 – December 19 (No class October 31 OR November 7 OR November 28)**

**Thursdays: 5:45 – 6:45 pm**

**Members \$145 Non-members \$160 (9 classes)**

Under the caring, expert instruction of Njelama Dacas Johnson, students will continue to build their understanding of modern dance technique and movement concepts. Students will grow their technical ability as well as discover improvisation and choreography experiences, also placing emphasis on flexibility, balance, and coordination. Students will develop their own individuality and style through movement as well as work collaboratively with one another.

## **NEW! DANCE CLASSES WITH MARISSA FINKELSTEIN**

**LOCATION: Middletown Arts Center | 36 Church Street**

We are SO EXCITED to announce that celebrated dance instructor **Marissa Finkelstein** will be joining the MAC this Fall! Marissa has been dancing for over 20 years and earned her BA in Dance and Business from Muhlenberg College and her MFA in Dance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), where she also worked as an instructor for college students studying dance and musical theatre.



Marissa has taught in New York City schools and studios in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and North Carolina. She has worked for Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and the National Dance Education Organization and her choreography has been presented at festivals and performances with highlights including the American College Dance Association, Dance New Jersey's Annual Festival, the Creative Aging Network in Greensboro, NC, and the Berkshires' 30under30 festival. She has taught dance at Middletown Arts Center's Summer Arts Camps for the last three years and has choreographed several of their youth musicals.

### ***NEW! Intro to Jazz and Musical Theater with Marissa Finkelstein***

**Ages 7-9**

**September 30 – December 16 (no class October 14 OR November 4) | Mondays: 5:30 - 6:30 pm**

**Members \$160 Non-members \$175 (10 classes)**

A perfect class for musical theater performers or new dance students (ages 7-9) who love Broadway and want to learn the many different styles from their favorite shows. Learn how to pick up combinations quickly and perform them with confidence!

### ***NEW! Jazz and Musical Theater LEVEL TWO with Marissa Finkelstein***

**Ages 10-14**

**October 9 – December 18 (no class November 6) | Wednesdays: 5:00 - 6:00 pm**

**Members \$160 Non-members \$175 (10 classes)**

Perfect for musical theater performers or continuing dance students (ages 10-14) who love Broadway and want to learn the many different styles from their favorite shows. Learn how to pick up combinations quickly and perform them with confidence!

### ***NEW! Tap with Marissa Finkelstein***

**Ages 10-14**

**September 30 – December 16 (no class October 14 OR November 4) | Mondays: 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

**Members \$160 Non-members \$175 (10 classes)**

A highly energetic class in the timeless art of Tap. Under the skilled instruction of Marissa Finkelstein beginning and intermediate students will have a blast while learning and improving foundational rhythms and classic combinations, in a variety of tap styles from Broadway to Rhythm and Contemporary Tap.

# MUSICAL THEATER

## ***Perform ELF, JR. this Fall at the MAC!***

Ages 10+

Instructor: Kathy Connolly

September 25 – December 11 (No class November 6 OR 27) | Wednesdays 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Auditions: Wednesday, September 18th from 5-7pm.

Performances: Friday, December 13 (7pm) / Saturday, December 14 (3pm & 7pm)

Students must be available through December 14

Members \$585 Non-members \$625 (10 weeks)

Start the school year right with this high-energy musical theater class. Students will have voice, acting and dance training culminating in our traditional annual production of Elf, Jr. Although students will audition for roles, every student will receive a part. Each child will receive two free tickets to the performance and a T-shirt. Additional tickets will be available for \$10 per ticket.

## ***Fall Mini-Musical Theater Intensive***

Ages 6-9

Instructor: Kathy Connolly

September 26 - December 12 (No class November 7 OR November 28) | Thursdays: 4:00 – 6:00pm

Members \$385 Non-members \$420 (10 weeks)

This exciting class is for younger performers ages 6-9. Using a professional conservatory approach, the students will take individual classes in Acting, Dance, Improv, and Voice. Under the expert instruction of award-winning Director and teaching artist, Kathy Connolly and our team of professional theater artists, and visiting Master Class presenters, the students will explore their creativity and develop their confidence and skills in a fun and nurturing environment!

# THEATER

## ***Acting with Kathy Connolly***

Ages 9-12

Instructor: Kathy Connolly

September 27 - December 13 (No class November 8 OR November 29) | Fridays: 4:00 – 5:30pm

Members \$250 Non-members \$275 (10 weeks)

In this fun and exciting class, students will study the fundamentals of acting technique and theater through theater games, scene work and improvisation. Under the expert instruction of award-winning Director and Teaching Artist, Kathy Connolly, students will work on monologues and scenes in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. While the focus is always on fun, this class also has wonderful additional benefits including; strengthened self-esteem, improved reading comprehension, and the continuing development of positive social skills.

## ***Beginning Acting with Felicia Russell***

Ages 6-8

Instructor: Felicia Russell

September 27 - December 13 (No class November 8 OR November 29) | Fridays: 4:00 – 5:00pm

Members \$160 Non-members \$175 (10 weeks)

Students will have a blast and build confidence exploring theater games, storytelling, improv & more! Under the nurturing instruction of NJ performer and Teaching Artist, Felicia Russell (a proud MAC alum!), students will learn the fundamentals of acting technique and theater in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. Students will also work on monologues and scenes and even collaborate to create new short pieces together!

# ART

## NEW! ART CLASSES WITH GIANNA MANZARDO

LOCATION: Middletown Arts Center | 36 Church Street



We are extremely pleased to announce that celebrated art instructor and community youth leader, Gianna Manzardo will be joining the MAC this Fall!

Gianna is a passionate teacher with more than twenty years of experience delivering visual and art education for elementary, middle and high school students. She uses a positive teaching approach to motivate and encourage students' talents and growth and cultivate their talents while deepening their knowledge of art design and history.

### ***Adventures in Art for Older Students with Gianna Manzardo***

Ages 12+

Instructor: Gianna Manzardo

October 3 - December 19 (No class 10/17, 10/24, 11/7, 11/28) | Thursdays: 5:00 – 6:00pm

Members \$140 Non-members \$160 (8 weeks)

Join Gianna Manzardo for this art sampler class, designed for older students looking to expand their artistic horizons! This class will cover a variety of media, including watercolor, acrylic, colored pencil, and pastel. As we work with the various materials, we will also learn about art history, the elements and principles of design, and how to use them to create dynamic pieces of art.

### ***Child and Parent Art with Gianna Manzardo***

Ages 4-6

Instructor: Gianna Manzardo

September 30 - December 12 (No class 10/14, 10/21, 11/4, 11/25) | Mondays: 10:30 – 11:15am

Members \$140 Non-members \$160 (8 weeks) | no charge for second child!

For children 4-6 years old with a caregiver. Every class offers something new to create a lifelong love of art and a special bonding experience for all involved. The class focuses on energy, FUN, and play to contribute towards the natural development of artistic, cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills

## DOODLE DUDE CLASSES

LOCATION: MAC ANNEX | 121 Kings Highway

### ***Halloween and the Holiday Scene! with Doodle Dude***

Ages 5-12

Instructor: Doodle Dude

October 7 - December 9 (No class October 14 OR November 4) | Mondays: 4:00 – 5:00pm

Members \$140 Non-members \$160 (8 weeks)

Back by popular demand! We will have a blast working with different media while we bring art into the Fall season and celebrate all of it's amazing Holidays (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, New Years and MORE!) From the amazing worlds of Tim Burton, Rankin and Bass, and Aardman Animations, each class will have plenty of character creation and more! What you create will AMAZE you! No one brings art to life like Art Kaney, the Doodle Dude! From the cute and cool, to the crazy, and from the basics to more advanced techniques, the Doodle Dude will educate, entertain and inspire!

### ***Cartooning and Clay with Doodle Dude***

Ages 5-12

Instructor: Doodle Dude

October 9 - December 11 (No class November 6 OR November 27) | Wednesdays: 4:00 – 5:00pm

Members \$140 Non-members \$160 (8 weeks)

Celebrate fall with MAC legend, Doodle Dude! Get creative drawing, sculpting, crafting and cartooning with the artsy awesome colors of Fall! No one brings cartooning, clay and animation to life like Art Kaney, the Doodle Dude! From the cute and cool, to the crazy, and from the basics to more advanced techniques, the Doodle Dude will educate, entertain and inspire!

### ***The Art of Gaming with Doodle Dude***

Ages 5-12

Instructor: Doodle Dude

October 10 - December 12 (No class November 6 OR November 27) | Thursdays: 4:00 – 5:00pm

Members \$140 Non-members \$160 (8 weeks)

Do your kids love video games? Minecraft, Roblox, Fortnite, Among us, Pokémon and of course, Sonic! Well, let's get them off the consoles and onto the drawing board! Painting, Drawing, Animatics, Video Game and Character Design... PLUS clay and 8 bit art! No one brings art and painting to life like Art Kaney, the Doodle Dude! From the cute and cool, to the crazy, and from the basics to more advanced techniques, the Doodle Dude will educate, entertain and inspire!





## MISS FISH CLASSES

LOCATION: MAC ANNEX | 121 Kings Highway

### ***Watercolors and MORE with Miss Fish!***

Ages 4-8

Instructor: Miss Fish

September 30 – December 16 (No class 10/14, 11/4)

CLASS 1: MONDAYS 4:00 – 5:00 pm

CLASS 2: MONDAYS 5:15 – 6:15 pm

Members \$175 Non-members \$200 (10 weeks)

For those little artists who just LOVE to PAINT and CREATE! Under the loving and expert direction of Miss Fish students will use watercolors to make beautiful paintings and make AMAZING art pieces and craft projects with clay, cray pas, paper and more! Students will love these classes run by legendary art educator, Miss Fish, who will stir the imagination and bring out the creative best in every child! Each week, students will learn new tips for painting and create their own masterpieces! Supplies included.

### ***FABULOUS Art for FANTASTIC Artists with Miss Fish!***

Ages 8-12

Instructor: Miss Fish

October 2 – December 18 (No class 11/6, 11/27) | Wednesdays 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Members \$175 Non-members \$200 (10 weeks)

For those older artists (ages 8-12)! Under the loving and expert direction of Miss Fish, students study the elements of art and the creative process in this hands-on, multi-media class. Learn about art fundamentals such as line, shape, composition, and color. Students will explore a variety of materials including graphite, charcoal, pastel, paint, and more. Students will love these classes run by legendary art educator, Miss Fish, who will stir the imagination and bring out the creative best in every child! Each week, students will learn new tips for painting and create their own masterpieces! Supplies included.



# MUSIC

## ZUMBINI MOMMY AND ME CLASSES

LOCATION: Middletown Arts Center | 36 Church Street



### ***ZUMBINI with Lisa Zwerin***

**Ages 0-4**

**Instructor: Lisa Zwerin**

**October 3 – November 21 (No class 117 | Wednesdays 10:00 – 10:45am)**

**Members \$130 Non-members \$150 (7 weeks)**

A child-focused journey into the world of music, movement, and dance, and the natural response music provokes in both children and adults. A Zumbini class is a celebration of the power of music to enhance our lives, stimulate learning, inspire dance movement, and strengthen the bond between parent and child. What is Zumbini you ask? A 45-minute music and movement experience, which is developmentally appropriate for the age range of the class. Every class, designed for children 0-4 years old with a caregiver and includes dancing, singing and playing instruments. A bonding experience for all is involved, including caregiver to child, child-to-child, and caregiver to caregiver. Focuses on energy, fun, and play to contribute toward the natural development of cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills.