



DANCE THEATRE of ORANGE  
Marianne Bankovic  
RAD Teaching Diploma  
Associate Diploma ISTD Tap  
Associate Diploma ISTD Modern  
PO Box 1728 Orange 2800 Ph. 63 600 585

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to dancing for 2016! I hope everyone has had a restorative break and a safe holiday. This year sees our timetable include the concert in term 1, exam entries due in term 2, and exams in term 3 and 4.

I am pleased to say we have Karen Haberecht and Hanna Parker continuing to teach at the studio this year. Hanna will continue to offer yoga lessons on Friday afternoons. If you're looking for a great way to finish off the week then come along! Contact Hanna or me for details.

### **TERM 1**

Our focus for term 1 will be the concert. We are dancing four different fairy tales: The Ugly Duckling, Sleeping Beauty, The Little Match Girl and Snow White.

We will commence learning choreography and organising costumes from the first lesson. Most students only have seven or eight lessons before the performance, so all systems are go!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to costume co-ordinate, we now have coordinators for all but three groups. If you could see your way to coordinating your child's costume you would be performing a great service. The remaining groups are Kindy, Primary Tap and Grade 3 Tap. As always, the efforts of the costume coordinators make it possible for students to shine without parents having to outlay several hundreds of dollars. Your efforts are *very* much appreciated!

### **CONCERT DATE AND REHEARSALS**

Easter occurs towards the end of term 1. Due to this our rehearsal and concert dates are erratic. The concert date is after school on Thursday March 31. Students will need to arrive at the Civic Theatre at 5pm for a 6pm start.

We will have 2 stage rehearsals and a dress rehearsal leading up to the concert. The stage rehearsals will be from 4pm on Wednesday March 23 and Tuesday March 29. Not all students will be required at both stage rehearsals. The dress rehearsal is Wednesday March 30. All students will be required for this!

The concert will conclude the term. Due to the numerous hours of outside-lesson time I put in to preparing the concert choreography and organisation, I am exhausted by the end of the performance. Therefore, there will be no lessons from April 1 – April 9. Lessons resume Tuesday April 26 for term 2.

### **HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS**

Concert term is always incredibly busy. I will keep you constantly up to date with information. This will happen via notes given to your child during lesson time and via email. Your child's costume coordinator will have information regarding hair, makeup and costuming for your child's performance so she is your point of call for all costuming queries. Each child will receive the contact details for their costume coordinator in the first or second week of term.

If you are uncertain as to details regarding the concert please consult all notes given out, your costume coordinator and then me if you are still uncertain.

## **UP TO DATE CONTACT INFORMATION**

In order to give you information as it comes to hand I need to ensure I have the correct contact details for your child. All parents will need to fill out an enrolment form for 2016. This is the contact information I have for you and is vital in the event of an emergency. The form also needs to be signed regarding video/photographic permission. Many parents signed forms for last year; however, I do require a new form to be signed for each new year. If you did not attend enrolment day, you will receive an enrolment form in your child's first lesson.

## **REGISTRATION FEE**

There is an annual registration fee for all students. The cost is \$20 per child. This fee contributes to copyright and insurance costs. This fee is payable in week 1.

## **CLOTHING POOL**

The clothing pool will be operating during the first week on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45 – 5:00 and Saturday from 9:00 – 11:00. If you have items to sell, please put them in a zip lock bag labelled with your name, a brief description, size and asking price. Also, include an envelope with the same details. To increase your chances of selling the item ensure items are clean and in best possible condition.

## **DANCE FEES**

There is no fee increase this year. If a lesson seems to have increased in cost it would be that the lesson times have increased, for example a modern lesson may have been for 45 minutes last year but is now 60 minutes long. If you are uncertain as to your dance fees, please ask.

Please remember that all fees are due within 28 days of receiving your invoice and we have the option of direct deposit.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> STUDIO**

If you have a lesson scheduled to start in the 2<sup>nd</sup> studio please use the waiting room and change room as usual and move to the second room at the start of your lesson. While the timetable indicates specific grades will be in specific studios, students will actually be using both rooms throughout the term. Outside scheduled lesson times, students may continue to use the 2<sup>nd</sup> studio as a practice space. Students in Vocational Grades (Intermediate Foundation and above) may use the room unsupervised. Younger students are permitted to use the room with a supervising adult present.

## **WEBSITE**

Don't forget we have a website! All newsletters, concert notes, exam notes and events will be posted on our site. Please check it out! [www.dancetheatreoforange.com.au](http://www.dancetheatreoforange.com.au)

## **GROOMING**

As we've all experienced a certain amount of freedom over the school holidays, it may take some coaxing to get hair into a bun (for girls). Please ensure your child has her hair in a bun for class. Long hair which gets in the student's face, particularly the eyes, alters the ability to practice correct technique, is distracting, impedes performance and is bad discipline. Long, wispy bits can be tamed by using a water spray and bobby pins. Please ask if you would like help with doing a bun.

## **HOLIDAY LESSONS**

I attended three different courses during the break, which occasioned a few trips to Sydney. Firstly, for Advanced 1 Modern where Bernadette Langshaw, the ISTD coordinator for Australia, conducted lessons for students and teachers from around the country. It was great to see this very new and incredibly challenging work in action and thrilling to see that our students are performing to a comparable level! Secondly, I attended a Pointe Work course at RAD HQ which was designed to ensure safe dance practise with young bodies on pointe. (We ticked all the boxes here.) And thirdly was a course on musicality given by the Artistic Director of the RAD who had travelled from London. Her course has inspired me to continue to find greater harmony between the dancer and her/his relationship with the music they move to.

## GET OUT YOUR DIARIES

Please note the dates below for events in our calendar.

- 1<sup>st</sup> March** – Concert tickets go on sale.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March** – Stage rehearsal at Civic Theatre – 4pm start
- 25<sup>th</sup> March** – Good Friday - no lessons
- 26<sup>th</sup> March** – Easter Saturday - all lessons on as normal
- 28<sup>th</sup> March** – Easter Monday - all regular lessons cancelled
- 29<sup>th</sup> March** – Stage rehearsal at Civic Theatre – 4pm start
- 30<sup>th</sup> March** – Dress rehearsal at Civic Theatre – 4pm start
- 31<sup>st</sup> March** – Concert – 5pm arrival, 6pm show commences
- 31<sup>st</sup> March** – end of term 1.
- 25<sup>th</sup> April** – no lessons due to Anzac Day
- 26<sup>th</sup> April** – Term 2 commences
- 1<sup>st</sup> June** – ISTD modern and tap exam entries due.
- 13<sup>th</sup> June** – no lessons due to Queen's Birthday long weekend (lessons as normal for Sat 11<sup>th</sup> June)
- 30<sup>th</sup> June** – RAD ballet grades exam entries due. RAD exam entries due Sydney 2<sup>nd</sup> session
- 30<sup>th</sup> June** - last day of lessons for term 3.
- 18<sup>th</sup> July** – Term 3 commences
- 12<sup>th</sup> August – 25<sup>th</sup> September** – approx exam dates for ISTD modern and tap exams in Orange
- 6<sup>th</sup> September - 24<sup>th</sup> September** – approx exam dates for RAD grades exams in Orange
- 10<sup>th</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> December** – approx exam dates for RAD Vocational candidates Sydney
- 10<sup>th</sup> December** – last day of lessons for term 4

## BRIEF OVERVIEW

- \* Update your enrolment for 2016
- \* \$20 registration fee due week 1
- \* Clothing pool open week 1 – Tuesday and Thursday 3:45 – 5:00 and Saturday 9:00-11:00
- \* Pay attention to grooming
- \* Fees due by week 4
- \* Theatre Rehearsals March 23, 29, 30
- \* Concert March 31

Happy term 1,  
Marianne