



# INFORMATION BOOK

# **RINGWOOD BALLET INFORMATION BOOKLET**

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# Ringwood Ballet Group Inc.

Established in 1961, Ringwood Ballet Group has been part of the community for more than fifty years. Our Group is a non-profit organisation constituted to provide expert tuition in the art of dance and to further the enjoyment and understanding of dance and its related arts in the community.

As a community group, Ringwood Ballet is run by a voluntary committee of parents who work in close collaboration with the teaching staff to ensure we meet our objectives.

## Objectives

Ringwood Ballet Group has as its stated aim, the promotion of Classical Ballet and its related arts in the community. In order to achieve this we have a curriculum that offers classical ballet classes from age 5 to advanced levels (young adult) and an introductory level (our Kinder Classes) for younger children from age 4.

We encourage all our students to concentrate on Classical first to establish a secure technique, before attempting any other styles. We endeavour to provide students with a fulfilling experience in their study of classical ballet, Jazz and Tap and to allow all students to reach their full potential. Our aim is to promote the art of dance in a safe, caring and structured environment.

## Curriculum

The curriculum is based on the Southern Federation of Dance and the Royal Academy of Dance, both Graded and Vocational, and offers students a sound training and preparation for examinations and assessments from Pre-Primary to Advanced level. Children from age 4 – 5 enjoy an informal but structured introduction to dance in our Kinder groups.

We also offer Tap (from age 4) and Jazz (from age 6) classes using the Southern Federation of Dance syllabi. These are very popular and once again students may enter examinations in these styles. Acrobatic classes are also available from classical level 2 upwards, and Contemporary from level 5 upwards. Classical students have priority when enrolling in these styles.

Our senior students are offered the RAD Higher Grades and Vocational Graded Examinations Syllabus ensuring a well-rounded and complete training. Elective subjects include Repertoire, Contemporary Dance, Acro and Pointe class.

The school is fairly big, with, around 250 students enrolled. Class sizes are kept to below 16 wherever possible. Teaching staff are all very experienced and qualified. Student teachers are assisted in their teacher training and supported by the senior staff.

Studying dance is a long term prospect. It takes at least 10 years to complete a basic study of any style and requires much in the way of commitment, intelligent approach and self-discipline to succeed. In return it offers enormous satisfaction, provides a social network, improves posture and body awareness which in turn helps self-esteem. It aids concentration and quick response and of course develops greater awareness of all other art forms (such as music and painting). It is an enriching and rewarding hobby or career and brings lifelong pleasure and interest in the arts.



## Expectations common to all class levels and styles

**Punctuality:** Every effort should be made for each student to be ready to dance at the stated commencement time of his/her class. This means he/she needs to arrive at the school several minutes before the class starts in order to change into the uniform and as he/she progresses upwards, to warm up and to focus on the work ahead in class. Where it is not possible for any reason to be on time please let the class teacher know before hand or by excusing oneself on arrival. Late students may NOT join the class until the teacher has been acknowledged and has given permission for him/her to join the class. Teachers will also attempt to commence each class on time - this is usually dependant on how many parents need assistance from the teacher between classes!

**Grooming:** Dance training requires that the teacher can see the body clearly to train the correct technique and that the student is able to move freely and accurately without distraction from clothing or hair. The line of the neck and upper back and the correct holding of the head cannot be trained or successfully felt if the hair is hanging in the way. All students in all classes are expected to comply with our grooming requirements. Long hair should be neatly tied back in a bun and off the face. **The correct uniform should be worn at all times;** however where classes of different styles follow one another it is only necessary to change shoes and not the entire uniform as too much class time is lost in the process. Uniforms should be clean and in good repair at all times, and ALL items MUST be named. Jewellery and watches are not permitted in any classes as they can cause injury or get damaged. **ALL STUDENTS MUST USE THE DRESSING ROOMS TO CHANGE AND NOT THE FOYER OR STUDIOS.**

**Missing Classes:** Should a student miss one or two classes due to ill health, school camp, family holiday etc. there is no refund of fees and the child will be expected to catch up on work missed by, where possible attending extra classes. This is particularly important in the lead up to examinations and where not possible his/her entry may be cancelled. **You are required to inform the teacher by phone or in person of any absences.** We have an 80% attendance requirement for throughout the year all students wishing to participate in exams and concert.

**Etiquette in Class:** Teachers should be addressed as Miss or Mrs followed by their first name or their family name (e.g. Miss Janine or Mrs Frost ). Roll call is done at the start of each lesson and provides a clear record of attendance if case of any enquiries. Talking during class is not permitted unless connected to the work being done and never once the music has begun! With younger students, teachers often allow some time for them to chat to her or each other but we prefer to keep this to a minimum so that the class is not disrupted too much. Awareness of each other and allowing other students their space is vital. Class lines are rotated constantly so each child gets a turn in front and teachers will separate students who seem to distract one another.

**Progress:** Each class has a lesson plan that is carefully followed by the respective teachers and in order to achieve the necessary outcomes (eg examination readiness) the students must be able to keep up. As each level is very carefully graded to normal expectations for that age group the vast majority of students should have no difficulty, provided they apply themselves and attend all classes. We cannot guarantee good progress where student's attendance is erratic or where there are underlying physical and/or emotional problems that will affect this. In such cases there will be communication between the teacher and the parent to try and solve the issue to the benefit of the child.

**Discipline:** A vital part of dance training that includes all of the above and also the self-discipline that must be developed in each student. The teaching staff will encourage self-discipline through the expectation that each child is going to use their class time to work hard and improve. They will be given encouragement to do so and constructive correction which the student should use to extend his/her skills and not take as personal criticism. Where a student is not showing some understanding or where he/she is being disruptive and holding up the rest of the class the teacher will use several strategies. These are laid out clearly in our Behaviour Policy. Our expectation is that problems will be resolved to benefit all concerned and that there will be parental support for the necessary level of commitment and discipline required to study this art form.

## Junior and Middle School Classical

### **Junior School – Kinder, Pre Primary and Classical Levels 1, 2, 3**

We accept students from 4 years old (in 4 year old Kinder) into our Junior School. Once children begin Primary School, they move into our Pre Primary Class, where they will be offered an internal assessment in the middle of the year. Kinder and Pre Primary students are only required to attend once a week, and will participate in our presentation evening, and two performances in our Annual productions.

Level 1 students are expected to attend one lesson a week. They will be offered an examination in the middle of the year, and will also take part in our presentation evening, and two performances in our annual production.

Level 2 and 3 classes are strongly encouraged to attend two lessons a week, as this helps reinforce the amount of work being studied in these levels. They are offered a mid-year examination, and participate in presentation evening, and two performances in our annual production.



### **Middle School – Classical Levels 4, 5, 6**

Our middle school students are required to attend 2 classical lessons per week in order to participate fully in examinations and performances. They are offered a mid-year examination, and participate in our presentation evening, and all performances (up to 5) in our annual production.

Students in the middle school may be selected to perform in our feature ballet. This varies year by year, and depends on numbers, and the feature ballet chosen.

The Level 6 Girls are offered a separate pre-pointe training class, to prepare them for our senior school.

## Senior School Classical

### **Moving into the senior school - Vocational & Higher Grades**

With students preparing to move into the senior school several areas need clarification. This section will include information from the official R.A.D. schedules and gazette information as well as those of Ringwood Ballet Group.

#### **Vocational Graded Examinations in Dance:**

There are 6 examination levels within Vocational Graded Examinations starting with Intermediate Foundation, culminating in the Solo Seal Award.

*"The Vocational Graded Examinations in Dance Syllabus develops the study of classical ballet with the introduction of Pointe work for female candidates. This examination syllabus has been designed to provide a highly focused and relevant training to students wishing to study seriously with a view to pursuing a performing or teaching career in dance or dance related subjects."*

*Students wishing to study for the Vocational Graded Examinations in Dance should have the maturity and technical aptitude, which can respond to demanding study. For example, a relatively proportionate, flexible physique with a degree of rotation in the hip socket necessary for the increased range of movement."*

**( Examinations and Presentation Classes of the Royal Academy of Dance Book September 2001 page 3)**

*"Students studying for Vocational Graded Examinations should expect to take a minimum of three Syllabus classes a week at the lowest level, increasing as the student progresses towards the higher levels.*

*The speed of development of individual students may vary and extra time spent, particularly when growth spurts occur, can only be beneficial in the long term."*

**( Examinations and Presentation Classes of the Royal Academy of Dance Book September 2001 page 4)**

Students must also be able to concentrate for long periods of time and be able to accept and welcome constructive criticism and correction.

The following information relates to this school's policies on pointe work (and therefore on taking of vocational examinations): There are a number of factors relating to the introduction of Pointe work that require careful assessment before proceeding. These include: length and quality of training – the individual application of that training – the need to attend at least 3 ballet classes a week – the student's mental readiness –and the necessary physical facility and strength. At least 3 years of prior training with 2 lessons a week are required.

A student who dances for pleasure but has not, for whatever reasons, succeeded in developing her technical proficiency and the strength necessary to the required standard; or one who does not attend all lessons regularly and so has an erratic approach and does not fully understand the seriousness of such training will not be mentally ready for the demands pointe work makes on the body.

Three lessons a week are usual from Intermediate Foundation Progress onwards. This is necessary to develop the strength and added anatomical awareness that is vital if pointe work is to be safe and injury less likely. Up to the age of approx. 11-12 years the bone development is incomplete and some bone may still be soft cartilage which is very easily damaged by the strain of pointe work. It is essential that the child is old enough for us to be sure that the bones – in particular those in the feet and ankles have had time to harden and become strong enough for the extra stress of pointe work.

Most correctly trained students should be able to cope with basic pointe work. However a few have special problems that may mean delaying the start of pointe work or possibly never being able to study this area of technique. This includes: those with very stiff and inflexible ankles and feet, physical weaknesses such as poor muscle tone, tightness in the hips that causes postural problems preventing the correct pull up through the hips and lifting of the weight away from the feet; any weakness in the knees, back or upper body that produce instability; pronated or supinated feet that can be re-trained with 100% application from the student.

In these cases pointe work may be delayed until such problems have been fixed. Students are encouraged to visit a specialist Dance Therapist for a Pre Pointe check to eliminate any doubts about suitability for Pointe. In some cases Pointe work would be too risky and these students would not be able to train in this area of technique.

Not being allowed on pointe does not mean the child is unable to continue her training to examination level, or has to give up dancing! We have a full programme in place for ALL our students including the Higher Grades Syllabus (which has no pointe component in it), making it possible for everyone to continue to enjoy dance and to be able to achieve and participate in all that we offer.

### **HIGHER GRADES EXAMINATIONS:**

These examinations are an extension of the Graded Examination in Dance Syllabus designed to enable the majority of senior students to continue to achieve and to take examinations throughout their training. There are 3 levels – Grades 6, 7 and Grade 8 award.

At Ringwood Ballet we feel these exams are an essential part of the dance training for all our students and so we incorporate both the higher grades and the Vocational Graded Examination Syllabus into the curriculum for all senior students. As you will note above, not all students should expect to be entered for a vocational exam, however we do endeavour to prepare all students who are able to devote the necessary time to their training for higher grades. These exams require a high degree of dance quality and artistry and require a minimum of 2 x 1 ½ hour classes a week to prepare. It is preferable to take these exams in the correct order as each level requires more maturity and deeper understanding, however the RAD will accept candidates at each level regardless of whether they have taken the prior exam.

The Higher Grade Exams are for both Female and Male candidates

*"The academy feels that the complexity of technique and style required for Grade 6 requires a longer period of study than is necessary for previous grades. A two year interval between entering candidates for Grade 5 and Grade 6 is recommended."*

**(Royal Academy of Dancing Tech)**

## Other Styles Offered

### **Tap and Jazz**

SFD Tap and Jazz syllabus classes offer our classical students alternative dance styles that are fun and popular as well as broadening their experience and knowledge of dance. It was felt that a structured syllabus with the possibility of taking exams would help maintain a high standard of training and also offer those wishing to teach at a later stage greater scope than a purely classical background.

We believe that classical training is the best training for all styles and we actively encourage all our students to take classical classes. Our youngest students begin their training with basic motor skills necessary for classical and in the Kinder and Pre Primary classes, approx. 15 minutes of Tap technique are included. From age 6 (or when the student is promoted to the Level 1 class) the students may begin to study Jazz and Tap in separate, specialised classes.



**While we do accept students who only wish to do Jazz or Tap, places in each class will be allocated first to our ballet students. Should there be any free places after this we welcome other children into the classes, however they may not attain a high enough standard to be entered for examinations once they reach the higher levels where classical technique is vital to success.**

Exams in these styles are strongly encouraged for all the same reasons we encourage classical exams - motivation, goal setting, confidence etc., provided the teacher feels the standard required has been attained.

Participation in extra performances through the year and of course in our annual concert gives these students ample performing opportunity and occasionally we offer them the chance to enter competitions as well.

### **Acrobatics, Character, Contemporary, and Pas de Deux**

These extra - curricular classes are ONLY available to our classical students to provide extensions to their basic training. All classes are taken by teachers qualified in that particular style.

**Acrobatics** classes are designed to safely increase flexibility and confidence and require the student to have a degree of natural flexibility and fearlessness. It is essential that even beginners are prepared to do movements that require them to be upside down such as a cartwheel.

**Character** is an essential part of classical ballet – almost every full length ballet features some national dance and character is taught alongside classical in every major ballet school in the world. It develops rhythm and style, speed and dexterity and provides students with in depth knowledge of many world regions and their dances and costumes. Juniors can begin from classical level 4 to level 6 and seniors from Classical Grade 6P/Inter Found Progress

**Contemporary** is a strongly technical extension of classical and requires a really good classical technique in order to understand and develop this style. It is open to students from Classical Level 6 upwards.

**Pas de Deux** (beginner level) is for our senior boys and selected senior girls. Selection is based on number of available boys, and girls from Advanced Foundation upwards, with strong pointe technique.

## Examinations

### General Information about Graded Examinations and Jazz and Tap examinations

#### **SFD CLASSICAL EXAMINATIONS:**

Levels 1 to 6 offer a carefully graded classical progression that will prepare students for the demands of the RAD higher and vocational levels while still allowing all students to reach their potential and be able to participate successfully in the exam process. Exams take place early in term 3 and are where possible scheduled on weekends to avoid the necessity of taking children out of school. Where this is unavoidable you will need to inform the school of your child's absence. Entry forms are distributed by Operoo via Email late term 1 and entries close after the school holidays. The forms must be returned on time with payment which is non-refundable.

If you wish your child to enter (we strongly recommend this), the forms MUST be returned on time. Should you choose to withdraw after the entry has closed you will have to forfeit the entry fee. Exact dates and times can only be given once the organizing body has processed the entry. This takes several weeks, and once set times cannot be changed.

The final polishing is done during the July holidays and it is compulsory that all candidates attend these classes as this is when the finishing touches are put to dances etc. The cost of the extra classes is covered by the Exam Levy we charge.

Successful candidates receive their certificates and RBG badges at the Presentation Evening that follows in September.

**SFD TAP AND JAZZ EXAMS:** These are scheduled to fall within the same period as the RAD Graded examinations and the benefits are identical. Once again the final polishing is done during the July holidays and it is strongly recommended that all candidates attend these classes as this is when the finishing touches are put to dances etc. The cost of the extra classes is covered by the Exam Levy we charge. Successful candidates receive their certificates and RBG badges at the Presentation Evening that follows in September.

#### **ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE - HIGHER GRADE EXAMINATIONS IN DANCE :**

At present we offer RAD exams to our senior students from grade 6 upwards to grade 8 (Major or Vocational exams will be dealt with separately). The examination period falls at the start of term 3 and extends from Mid-July to early September. We ask for our session to fall at the end of July/beginning of August. RAD exams are conducted on weekdays and candidates must therefore miss some school to attend. It is the responsibility of each parent to arrange for their absence from school at this time. Exact dates and times can only be given once the RAD have returned our entry forms - usually shortly before the end of term 2. Successful candidates receive their certificates and RBG badges at the Presentation evening that follows in September provided the RAD have returned them to us by this date.

#### **USE OF THE PIANIST:**

All RAD examinations are accompanied by a pianist. The students need to have at least two practices with her before the exams. These are arranged for the July school holidays and also for a day of Mock Exams shortly before the session begins. Should your child be away on holiday at this time he/she should not be entered for the exams/assessments as the extra classes in the lead up to the exams are absolutely essential. The children also work as a group and this is not possible if someone is missing. To cover the extra costs for the pianist and the extra classes we charge an exam levy for all RAD graded exam candidates.

**R.B.G. ASSESSMENT CLASSES** are encouraged for our Pre Primary students as well our progress levels JAZZ/TAP 4P. They set an achievable goal as well as preparing for future participation in external examination. The classes are conducted within the same time frame as the R.A.D. and S.F.D. exams and an impartial assessor observes the children performing their set work in a class conducted by their usual class teacher. A report is issued following the assessment by the assessor and the class teacher and a certificate and badge is presented at the Presentation Evening to each candidate.

As with all exams, students are judged by their performance on the day, and results reflect this. However the most important benefits are found in the lead up to such an event. The need to be consistent and to attend regularly; to be prepared to work to improve each lesson with a specific goal in mind is very motivating and a great help in other walks of life. To be part of a close knit group all working towards the same goal - the sense of friendly competition as each student strives to do his/her best are all skills worth developing and the sense of achievement at the end is reward in itself.

Examinations should be treated as a special event not something to be feared. They require certain formalities and these are rehearsed with all the children so that they are comfortable with them. Parents are requested to co-operate and encourage their children to look forward to the exam and to practice the required etiquette as well as their dancing.

Where a student has been entered for an exam and then for any number of reasons does not continue to show enough progress to achieve the right standard by the exam date, he or she may be withdrawn at the teacher's discretion. Unfortunately this means forfeiting the exam fees unless there is a doctor's certificate.

'In order to be ready to undertake exams the student must be making satisfactory progress and showing the ability to undertake the stated exam criteria. The teachers are the only people qualified to judge the readiness of each student and their decision will be based on the best interests of the child. Their decision will also be final. Should the staff feel your child is not yet ready for an exam you will be advised and can speak to your child's teacher regarding their progress and other options that may be available to assist their progress. Please note that if your child chooses not to undertake their exam or is not ready, they will still, in most circumstances, remain with their class group and move up with them to the next level.



## Annual Concert – General Information

**When:** Early to Mid December

**Venue:** Karralyka Theatre, Mines Road, Ringwood

**Production fees** are payable by each student from Primary upwards 4 times in the year and are charged on your invoice. They are scaled according to class level and the number of different styles a child is studying. This fee covers many things including: costume fabrics/hire/refurbishment; scenery and props; extra rehearsal times for which staff have to be paid but which are not covered by normal class fees; stage manager/lighting and sound technicians at the theatre and a number of other administrative necessities such as information packs, advertising and so on. The rest of the cost is met through ticket sales. The Kinder and Pre Primary classes are not charged a production fee until 4<sup>th</sup> Term as participation cannot be guaranteed until then.

### **RED, BLUE AND PURPLE JUNIOR CASTS:**

**Performance requirements:** The junior school is divided into RED and BLUE casts each cast dancing 2 shows (red cast performs in the Friday and Sat NIGHT shows and Blue cast in the Thursday evening and Sat night shows) The PURPLE cast (middle school still in the junior items dance in all 4 shows. These divisions include all styles studied.

**Permission slips:** these are sent out in 3rd term with detailed information as to which cast your child is in and the necessary dates including dates for combined rehearsals. The signed forms MUST be returned before end of term 3 or your child will NOT be included in the cast as rehearsals will have started.

Combined rehearsals and the 2 full dress rehearsals commence mid-November and we expect 100% attendance—where this is not possible an absolute minimum of 80% is required for the combined rehearsals however the 2 DRESS REHEARSALS are compulsory and missing one will result in withdrawal from the show.

***Any student that withdraws from the concert after the acceptance date will be charged a substantial cancellation fee.***

Should any middle school students be included in the Feature ballet the level of commitment and the many extra rehearsals they will need to attend will all be carefully explained to the parents beforehand. Should you feel we are asking too much of your child he/she would then not be included in the cast but would still perform in the other sections of the programme such as the junior ballet. **Middle School students MUST attend 2 classical classes a week – one of which MUST be Mrs Frost's Exam class to be included in the Feature ballet.**

We also ask for volunteers to help with the mounting of our productions - helpers for scenery construction, costume cutting and making, helpers to work backstage shifting the scenery and a roster for helpers in the various dressing rooms. Working together in such a creative way is great fun and those students whose families help in this way draw enormous satisfaction from it.

**Attending our concerts:** Ticket bookings open in November each year and they tend to sell very fast.



## Competitions

Students are selected each year to be part of the competition group. The criteria for selection include excellent attendance, passion and willingness to improve and work on corrections, very good technique and coordination, great attitude to peers and teachers and good manners, to ensure the school is well represented and our standards are upheld. When possible we also try and do a couple of troupes to enable more students to take part. This all depends on studio space/time and the willingness of a whole group to attend all rehearsals.

Staff support and attend two main comps per year – the SFD competitions in June/July holidays and Southern Dance Festival in the September holidays. Should you wish to enter your child in other competitions and provided there is no clash with regular RBG scheduling you may do so after obtaining the consent of your child's comp coach/coaches (you will need to speak to each one if they have more than one).

Costumes are hired from Mrs Frost's vast collection and a hire fee is charged. Invoices are sent out as soon as the costumes have been chosen and fitted and is payable before the comp dress rehearsal which takes place one week before the SFD Comps (mid to late June).



## Information for parents/guardians

As a parent/guardian when you enrol your child YOU automatically become a member of the Ringwood Ballet Group. We are a 'not for profit' community group, run by a committee of management made up of parents, who are elected annually at the AGM in March. All parents are encouraged to participate actively in the work of the school in the following ways:

**Financial obligations** - All members must be financial, that is class fees must be paid in advance of each term. Commitment to exams and concert also requires that those fees are paid in full before being entered or participating in performances. Payment plans are able to be set up upon request.

**Participation on committee** - We are always seeking new committee members to participate actively in the management of the school and in the support of our teaching staff. The AGM is held in March each year.

**Support of committee and staff** - If you do not wish to become a member of the committee you can show your support by offering to help in other ways throughout the year such as parent helpers during exam and concert time, participating in working bees and sewing days, on BBQ's or fundraising events.

**Fundraising, Administration** - As a 'not for profit' group we need to raise extra funds to purchase much required items for the students and school. Fundraising activities are usually held once a term and parents are encouraged to participate as much as they can. We have an administration/maintenance fee which goes towards the running of the school.

**Support of students** - The study of dance is a long and often hard training requiring determination and commitment from the students but also from his/her family. As a parent you will be expected to ensure your child attends all classes for which you have enrolled and to communicate with the staff when absence is unavoidable. You will also need to ensure your child fulfils our uniform and grooming requirements. ***Participation in exams and concert requires a minimum of 80% attendance throughout the year*** and at the discretion of the staff a student unable to fulfill this commitment for any reason may not be permitted to participate in exams or concerts.

**Policies** - We have a range of policies that govern the way the school is run and as a member you must uphold them and ensure your children do so as well.

**Open weeks** - The last week will of term 1 and 2 will be set aside when you will be able to observe classes. Any parents or children observing need to remain quiet during this time and you are not permitted to interject or prompt your own child or that of anyone else. No photography or video recording is permitted in class.

**Enrolment and classes** - New students are not accepted into any levels/styles after week 3 of term 3 except with the express approval of the artistic director where the student is able to enrol into a technique class. No students will be taken into classes that become concert classes. Students already enrolled in the school will not be permitted to take a new style after week 3 term 3. They must have completed at least a term in any one style to be included in the concert dance/s of that style.

Any student enrolling with the school cannot be enrolled at another dance school for any of the styles that we offer. All such classes must be taken with us. Where a student studies another dance style elsewhere this school should be notified and they will not be permitted to participate in concert where any clashes occur.

# The Ringwood Ballet Group Inc. Staff and Committee

## Staff

Heading our excellent team of teachers is our Artistic Director Rosemary Frost A.R.A.D (RAD RTS) life member – M.S.F.D. (classical examiner). All staff members are qualified and experienced, with excellent backgrounds in dance and dance education. Continued professional development ensure up to date methods and best practice are used in all styles and classes. Staff all hold a current W.W.C.C. and are first aid trained. Each teacher creates lessons that are carefully constructed to provide a safe, progressive and fun learning experience for all participants, and lessons are structured to allow every student to reach their full potential.

## Committee

The committee are all volunteers and look after the 'management' side of the school while supporting the Artistic Director and teachers as they concentrate on 'all matters dancing'. Joining the committee means making a commitment to do that 'little bit extra' - there is always something to do for most of the year, but it is even busier around Presentation Evening and in the lead up to the Concert. If you do feel like joining, have a chat with any of the current committee. A list of current Committee Members can be found on our website and in the studio on our noticeboard.

## Important Dates – a guideline

ALL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS – there are usually no classes scheduled on Public Holidays.

### MAY

- Southern Federation of Dance Masterclasses (held on Sundays throughout the month)

### JUNE

- RAD Vocational Exams (early June, and occasionally late May)
- SFD Comp Dress Rehearsal (late June)

### JULY

- SFD Competitions (first week of school holidays)
- RAD and SFD Exam Preparation Classes (second week of school holidays)
- RAD and SFD Classical Mock Exams (end of school holidays)
- RAD and SFD Exams (first 3 weeks of term 3)

### AUGUST

- RAD and SFD Exams (first 3 weeks of term 3)
- Internal Assessments (early August)
- Senior Ballet Audition (early to mid August)

### SEPTEMBER

- Presentation Evening (early to mid September)
- Southern Dance Festival (School holidays)

### OCTOBER

- Level 10 Exams
- RAD Vocational Exams
- SFD Choreographic Competition

### NOVEMBER

- Combined Rehearsals for Annual Production (begin Mid November)
- Concert Ticket Sales (mid November)

### DECEMBER

- Combined Rehearsals
- Annual Concert (Early to Mid December)

## How to make the most from each class -

- Come to class!
- Come to class physically ready to work
- Come to class mentally ready to learn
- Come to class emotionally ready to change
- Come to class prepared to share what you know
- Come to class prepared to accept you don't know everything
- Be receptive in class to the possibility of all forms of change
- Actively listen to what we say as well as look at what we do
- Ask questions- there are no unintentionally dumb questions!
- Seek to answer your own questions – you might well know the answer!
- Help to find answers to the questions of your colleagues
- Give guidance to your colleagues and receive it graciously from them
- Watch your colleagues when you are not dancing
- Don't talk about things irrelevant to the class work
- Think about, practice and discuss class work between classes
- Give us feedback about what is not working for you
- Give us feedback about things you feel you are missing
- Give us feedback about things with which you disagree
- Take our constructive criticism personally, as a dancer, not as a person
- Respect us as fellow human beings with all my frailties
- Expect us to respect you as a fellow human being with all your frailties
- Respect your colleagues as fellow human beings with all their frailties
- Work seriously but have fun with your work. We'll all enjoy class more!
- Make every class worth coming to, know why you are here
- Don't get bored, get better!
- Transform jealousy into a constructive learning experience
- Don't forsake dancing for technique
- Don't forsake technique for superficial or unsafe achievement
- Sing the music with the text of your limbs, body, eyes and soul
- Be courageous, sometimes outrageous, but never foolish, in your dancing
- Be critical of our classes but share the criticism with us
- Obey the "rules" so that we don't have to enforce them
- We aim passionate about our work. We expect the same passion from you.

## Communication

This is imperative to the successful running of the school and to make your life easier. The first point of contact is email – please check your emails (and junk folder) regularly for communication from RBG. Throughout the year notices and forms will be sent out via Email, Operoo, or **given to your child in class**. Please check your child's bag regularly! Information will also be posted on the noticeboard in the Foyer.

We have a Facebook page and Instagram Account that members can ask to join – just ensure we know that your Facebook name actually belongs to a member of the school - let us know if you have requested and not been accepted and we will sort it out!

The WEBSITE is also a goldmine full of handy information – everything ends up on here. Again sign up with your email to access the member's page and also keep watching the other pages for dates, information and FAQ.

We wish you a fulfilling and exciting time with us at  
Ringwood Ballet Group