

## COMPETITION INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

At The Perth School of Ballet we encourage students to participate in competitions throughout the year. Competitions are a great way to be part of the larger dance community. Students have the opportunity to dance on stage and perform for an audience. This is not only a great experience but it's also a big part of the art of dance. Competitions also build resilience as students must face disappointments while learning to be graceful in their losses. They are a learning experience that helps build character and there is much to be gained in the coaching during the lead up to a competition. Competitions are open to *all* students – they are not invitation only!!!

Many of our students experience success at the competitions we enter. We feel, however, that what is more important than placing, is whether or not our students have done their best. We also value how supportive they are of their fellow competitors.

To participate in competitions students must do regular privates and dedicate themselves to perfecting their solo/duo/trio/ensemble.

Please find below information on privates and competition recommendations. There is a LOT of information to take in, feel free to speak to a Director should you have any queries.

### PRIVATES

- Students must bring their own music to every private lesson.
- Students should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their private to warm up/practice.
- Students may wear any colour/style leotards to private lessons.
- Hair must be groomed as for regular classes.
- Students must endeavour to remember their choreography. We suggest videoing the solo at the end of their private lesson so that they can practice at home and learn the choreography. It's best to bring along a phone or tablet to record on.
- It is important that parents and students understand the level of commitment required to be ready to compete and are ready to make this commitment.

## PAYMENT

- Payment for each private will be deducted from your nominated account 1-2 days before your scheduled private.
- Refunds will not be given for last minute cancellations and/or no-shows. If you must cancel due to medical reason or an emergency, your payment will be credited to a future private.

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED PRIVATES

- It is important to have regular privates leading up to a competition to consolidate what has been taught, to build the student's confidence & to ensure technique is at its peak.
- A prepared student is more physically and emotionally ready to compete. Regular privates enable us to work thoroughly with the student and ensure they are fully prepared. With ad hoc privates, students inevitably feel rushed and less prepared.
- If a teacher feels a student is insufficiently prepared they may recommend the student does not compete however they'll arrange for the student to compete at a later stage.

## GROUP PRIVATES

- In an effort to help families keep the costs of competitions lower while maintaining the required weekly private lessons, some students opt to share the cost of a private lesson with other students.
- Before students can share a private lesson they must first have lessons by themselves to get all choreography completed, once the choreography has been learnt then sharing is permitted.
- Costs of shared privates depends on the number of students (no more than 4) and length of lesson.
- Should you be interested in sharing a private lesson please speak directly to your teacher.

## COMPETITIONS & GENRES OFFERED AT PSB

- Students may choose what style of dance they would like to compete in at competitions. As ballet is the basis of all forms of dance, we strongly recommend that all students begin their competition experience with a ballet solo.

- Competitions can be done as a solo, but also as a duo or trio should a group of friends with similar abilities wish to dance together.
- The genres of dance PSB enter into competitions are: Ballet, Contemporary, Demi Character, Neo-Classical & Lyrical. If you're unsure of the name of what you are wishing to do just speak to a teacher and they can help you.
- Competition eligibility is very individual, depending on the student's level of training. All competitions should be discussed with a PSB Director prior to entering. Not all competitions are suited to all students.
- There are a number of different local competitions suitable for PSB students – please speak to your child's solo coach *before* entering them in any competition to ensure it is suitable and they will be ready to compete.
- If you are unsure about what competitions to enter please speak to your child's coach. As a general rule PSB enters students into the following competitions and registrations close a month or two *before* the competition so please get in early.
  - Elite Eisteddfod – April & October School Holidays
  - RAD Festival – long weekend in June
  - AICD – Late term 3
  - WA Young Dancer – October
- Once you have entered a competition please email a copy of your entry advice to [laura@perthschoolofballet.com.au](mailto:laura@perthschoolofballet.com.au).

## COSTUMES

- It is the student's/parent's responsibility to organise a costume however parents *must* consult with their coach/choreographer before hiring, buying or making a costume.
- PSB has a number of costumes for hire. Ballet costumes & tutus (pancake and romantic) can also be hired privately from Nelwyn MacNulty. Please contact Nelwyn on 0449 583 105 to arrange any ballet costume hires.
- Costumes can be individually made for a student. The cost of making a costume can be quite expensive. We recommend you speak with Nelwyn if you wish to consider this.
- PSB also recommends that students should do at least 1 rehearsal in full costume before the day of the performance - to make sure that everything fits, doesn't get in the way and that hair and/or headpieces behave themselves.

## COMPETITION DAY

- Arrive early enough to warm up and rehearse on stage. If unsure ask your coach what time you should arrive.
- Wear appropriate clothing to warm up and practice (leotard and tights).
- Do not arrive to theatre in costume.
- Students must wear clean shoes and new tights for classical based solos.
- Wear 'full stage' make up to the theatre. Also, bring all your make up to the theatre for touch ups before going on stage.
- Students must have 2 copies of their music in individual CD cases with:
  - Name clearly on both CD and CD case
  - Comp number on both CD and CD case
  - Section name (Novice, under 12yrs classical solo) on CD only
- Some competitions are moving toward having music on USB – if you need help with this just speak to your coach.

**Note:** A \$10 fee is charged for PSB to edit and burn 2 copies for you – we can email a digital copy to you too should you request it.

We currently have several teachers available to choreograph solos and conduct privates. Please ring one of the Directors below to ask for a teacher to be allocated to you to choreograph a dance.

Simone Jackson-Pike

0413 176 176 (Ballet, Demi-Character & Neo-Classical)

Janine Ban

0401 637 000 (Ballet, Demi-Character & Neo-Classical)

Kathryn Harris

0412 022 923 (Contemporary, Lyrical & Modern)