

# AUSTRALIAN DANCE ACADEMY

April/May2020 - Newsletter



*Australian Dance Academy*

## BRILLIANT START UNUSUAL FINISH!

We did have a brilliant start to 2020 and I had a good feeling about the whole year - our dance students were learning quickly with us already planning our open weeks. Duprada Dance Company's Swan Lake performance was 'stage ready' with final rehearsals being held at Araluen. How quickly the situation changed and everyone had to band together and re-adjust everything.

Our first concern was to prepare our ballet classes to try and make sure our dance students could stay connected, stay healthy and still expend their energy to keep up with some sort of dance and exercise. Then our concern was about our parents who suddenly became School teachers, music teachers, ballet teachers etc., for each child. We were trying to imagine home schooling three different grades, supervise or help three in each activity while trying to work from home. Certainly challenging from here and for you at home. It is difficult to teach dance any other way than face to face. Classes of likeminded happy people provide an energy which creates a type of magic.

## NOTES FROM MY DESK

*Updated - 27th April, 2020*

Tamara, Tiffanie, Billy & Erin along with our full-time students immediately whipped into action recording ballet classes for each level, editing and uploading onto our website. Emailing groups to join the website then managing access and content while learning how to use 'Zoom' for Company classes and meetings. We talked quickly, ironing out problems. While preparing take home packages for everyone. It was overwhelming for a couple of weeks but fortunately we had lots of skills we didn't know we had and almost enough resources. We have Leisa's School of Dancing in Darwin as a sister school run by my daughter Leisa Jackson. 2020 is their 20th Anniversary (plans are of course on hold). As you know we created access pages on the Website for our dance students and we have managed 1,040 website members who have thousands of dancers access their classes. This is not ideal but we are very pleased that our young dancers can at least do their class if they want to.



## NOTES FROM THE STUDIOS

Updated - 27th April, 2020

## BALLET AGAIN?

We are just waiting for a date to re-commence in Term 2. We plan to have a 5 week term and June/July School Holidays Classes.

We have had several Production Meetings to prepare our Jazz Performance, Morning Melodies and the Magic of Dance. My dusty crystal ball tells me that our experience at Araluen in 2020 will be different but please know that we will be making sure that our dancers experience a wonderful year of dance whatever it looks like.

In the Studio last week we worked on our '**back to ballet**' schedules- which essentially is aiming to have no more than 10 or 12 students in each class, ensuring that we take out some components of class which requires partnering and keeping up our safe health practices. Students who are sick will not be attending classes and rather than gathering our young dancers together in reception they will immediately enter the studio where their own mat will be on the floor waiting. We will ask that one parent pick up students. We will initially have to stretch every studio and teacher but in theory our plan works.

We will contact you with slight adjustments to class times and if you have a clash with another activity please let us know because we have some options.

### Fees and Invoicing

***I have to say a big thank you to those who have paid Term 2 Fees your support is incredibly valuable.***

*What keeps me awake at night is knowing that without fees the ballet school will struggle to continue and although there is the promise of assistance it is unlikely. Our Term 2 Fee structure with 3 options will be sent through on a separate email.*

### HOPING TO SEE YOU VERY SOON

