

17th January 2008



Welcome to 2008!

We are sending you a "bundle of goodies" to provide you with some information for the up coming year.

Our terrific news for 2008 is that we have another teacher on board Jo McDonald. We have danced and taught alongside Jo for many years and are looking forward to all that she will bring to Directions Dance Academy.

Jo has experience teaching jazz, contemporary and ballet to students of all ages, including pre-schoolers, teenagers and adults. Jo holds a Graduate Diploma in Dance Teaching through the Queensland University of Technology, as well as an honours degree in psychology, a certificate of workplace assessment and training, and a certificate of commercial music. Jo has trained in the ISTD ballet and modern syllabi and was awarded Honours for her Advanced 2 Modern exam. She is also the director and founder of the Move Through Life Dance Company.



Jo is bringing to the school a new style of dance called contemporary. Contemporary draws on a variety of disciplines to include acrobatics, martial arts, yoga and classical ballet which can be performed in a lyrical style or an explosive and energetic capacity. One thing common to contemporary dance is a free style utilising the natural movement and momentum of the dancer's own unique body.

Included in this package is our new timetable. You will notice that some of the times have changed and also some of the class times have been extended to forty five minutes instead of half hour. Fees for these classes have increased to reflect this. Please refer to the ages as a guide as to which class you need to attend.

Last year we successfully implemented one group of examinations. This year we will be having modern and ballet exams. The modern exams are intended to be held in March/April with the ballet to follow in September. Exams are not compulsory however we do encourage all students to take part as they provide students with a graded result on how well they are doing in their class work.

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Part of the process of taking exams will include attending extra classes for approximately 5-6 weeks leading up to the exam. For the first term which will be the modern exams we anticipate these classes to be held on a Friday evening. These classes and the examination will attract a fee. Further details to come.

We are also planning to implement a school coloured leotard which is to be used for exams and also for class work. Again details on this to come.

The Tap and Jazz syllabus will remain as open subjects (not subject to exams).

In your package you will also find a "Talent Release form" asking for the permission of students photographs to be used on any media including the website, names however are not included in any publications. If you have not completed one of these please either mail it to our PO Box number or hand it to Vicki at the front desk at the studio at the beginning of term 1.

For those of you that ordered photos or the DVD during last year's 2007 Directions Dance Academy performance, we will have them ready for you to pick up at the front desk at the studio in first term. For anyone else who would like to order photos and or the DVD from last years performance and missed out please see Vicki at the front desk.

We are extremely excited about getting started for 2008 and we are looking forward to seeing all of you on the first week back starting the 29th of January.

Not long to go now so make sure you have your dancing shoes ready for a fun packed year to come!!

Kind Regards,

Leigh and Effie

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