

BENNETT SCHOOL OF BALLET & JAZZ - END OF YEAR SHOW 2019

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A Xmas Carol

Friday 6 December at 6.00pm
Saturday 7 December at 1.00pm
Saturday 7 December at 4.30pm



Each year the BSBJ production team receives many of the same questions from parents regarding the end of year show so we've put the most frequently asked questions (and answers) into a notice for you all to read and refer back to as we get closer to the time of the end of year show.

"The end of year show is a wonderful way to give your child an experience they will never forget. I still remember my first concert when I was six! I remember how exciting it all was, watching the senior students, the smell of the theatre and the make-up - these memories will stay with me for life, I hope." (Mrs Bennett)

"Does my child have to take part in all 3 performances?"

The Tiny Tots may dance in all 3 performances or you can chose for them to participate in just 2 performances. If they're only going to be in 2 of the performances then you decide which 2 your child will participate in. Yes your child will get tired during the weekend of the shows, but generally once they are off stage they are then excited about doing their next performance.

All other children - pre-primary ballet (Miss Jemma's Monday 4pm, Thursday 4pm and Saturday 11.30am classes) and beginners jazz (Miss Emma's Thursday 4pm class) and upwards - are required to perform in all 3 shows.

"Do I have to watch all the shows?"

Parents do not need to attend and pay for more than 1 show as you can drop off your child at their dressing room and collect them from the same place once the show is over. All children in dressing rooms during the shows are fully supervised by adults.

Alternatively you are welcome to stay with your child in the dressing room and Tiny Tots can be taken home after they have performed which is usually within the first 45 minutes of the show.

You may wish to watch all the shows your child is in, but you will have to pay for tickets to each individual show. Watching from the side of the auditorium is strictly prohibited as it's dangerous to have people in the auditorium in addition to the facility's seating capacity and it's a health and safety hazard if people are standing on the side blocking the exits in case of a fire or other emergency. Also, people constantly coming in and out of the theatre during the performance causes major distraction to the students dancing on stage. And, it's not fair to those who pay for their tickets to have other people "sneaking in" only to watch their own child dance – the dance school needs the revenue from the sale of tickets to cover all the costs associated with staging the production.

"Who will look after my child during the performances?"

There are always plenty of volunteer adult helpers in the dressing rooms supervising the children, helping them with anything they need, taking the small children to the toilet as required, etc. Also, a responsible senior student is assigned to each Tiny Tots Class. This senior student takes the children from the dressing room to the stage, dances with them on stage and then takes them back to the dressing room so at no time are your little ones left alone. Please pack some things for your child that will keep them occupied while they're waiting, as well as some food/snacks and water. Children are welcome to bring along electronic devices, but we cannot accept responsibility if equipment is lost or damaged.

"Why don't you run 2 separate shows - one for the junior kids and another for the senior kids at a smaller venue?"

It would be a logistical nightmare to organise two separate shows (senior and junior shows) at smaller venues. I could have the Tiny Tots perform at a school hall with no lighting and parents would pay a lesser amount to watch about 8 items. However, this is not the way this dance school operates and the small children love being part of a whole big story show and watching the big kids. Conversely, the big kids love being involved with the little ones. The experience of the end of year show teaches the kids huge life skills for the future and also enhances the family atmosphere and togetherness that we want for the dance school.

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COSTS

The end of year show is not a money-making venture, but we do need to cover all the costs so it doesn't put pressure on the dance school's finances.

"Do the costs have to be so high?"

The costs charged by the Bennett School of Ballet & Jazz are cheaper than other local dance schools. Several schools charge a higher term fee, a higher production fee and the ticket prices to their end of year show are higher than ours.

"What are the costs associated with putting on a production?"

The production fee and ticket prices have to cover all of the following:

- Venue hire for 2 performance days plus 3 rehearsal days
- Lighting technician for 2 days of shows and 2 rehearsals
- Hiring extra lighting to enhance the visuals of the show
- Costumes (To make many of the costumes costs more than the \$30 production fee charged. As many people do not sew I'm unable to get parents to make their own child's costume.)
- Props
- 2 copyright music licences
- Extra wages
- Liability insurance
- GST
- Thank you flowers and gifts
- Toilet paper - 350 students go through a lot of toilet paper in a week!

All these costs need to be met not by term tuition fees but by the production itself.

REHEARSALS AT THE THEATRE

The week leading up to the show (Monday 2 December – Thursday 5 December) there will not be any regular dance classes but instead there will be rehearsals at the Kavanagh College Auditorium (corner of York Place and Tennyson St). It's important that we have some rehearsals at the theatre as it can be quite confusing as a student to suddenly go from a dance studio to a theatre space where there's a stage and bright lighting. Rehearsals at the theatre are also essential as any worry and stress is reduced if the students are familiar with the environment in which they'll be performing. Prior to this week, all rehearsals take place at the dance school.

Kavanagh College Rehearsal Schedule

Monday 2 December	ACT 1	4pm-6pm - All Ballet & Jazz students up to and including Grade 4 (but not Tiny Tots) who are in Act 1 4pm-7pm - All Ballet & Jazz students Grade 5 and above (but not Adults) who are in Act 1 7pm-7.30pm – Adult students
Wednesday 4 December	ACT 2	4pm-6pm - All Ballet & Jazz students up to and including Grade 4 (but not Tiny Tots) who are in Act 2 4pm-7pm - All Ballet & Jazz students Grade 5 and above (but not Adults) who are in Act 2 7pm-7.30pm – Adult students
Thursday 5 December	DRESS REHEARSAL ACTS 1 & 2	3.45pm-5pm - Tiny Tots 4pm-7pm – All students (except Tiny Tots & Adults) 7pm-7.30pm – Adult students

NOTE: Closer to the time of the above rehearsals there will be lists up at the dance school indicating which classes/dances are in each Act. These will also be emailed to families.

All rehearsals at Kavanagh College are **CLOSED REHEARSALS** which means that no parents/caregivers or anyone else who is not a member of the Production Team or dancing on stage is allowed to attend. This is to ensure the smooth running of the rehearsals and also for safety reasons. Children are dropped off and collected from the foyer of the Auditorium.

"What if you need to get in touch with me during a rehearsal at Kavanagh College? Do you take all the student contact information with you?"

All our student details, including parent/caregiver contact details, are stored in an online database so we can access information and phone numbers at all times. If we ever need to contact a parent/caregiver during a rehearsal at the Kavanagh College Auditorium, then we can do so quickly and easily.

NOTE: If your phone/cell number has changed recently, please let Tor know by emailing endofyearshowbennettschool@gmail.com so your contact details can be updated in the database.

MAKE-UP, HAIR & COSTUMES

On the days of the shows, your child needs to come to Kavanagh College with their hair and make-up already done. Finishing touches can be done in the dressing rooms once they're in their costume, but all or most of this preparation should be done before they arrive.

NOTE: Make-up is not required at any of the rehearsals, including the dress rehearsal.

"Can someone show me what to do with my child's hair and what kind of make-up do they need?"

Prior to the show we hold a make-up and hair session specifically aimed at parents who are new to the dance school. Anyone who has questions about hair or make-up is also very welcome to attend. In addition, Tor will be in the dressing room on Saturday mornings for the 3 weeks leading up to the show selling tickets and answering questions. There will also be links on the BSBJ Facebook page leading up to the show demonstrating how the hair and make-up should be done.

"Can my child take their costume home?"

Costumes remain at the dance school or theatre at all times. Costumes are not taken home in case they are lost, left behind or get dirty before the show. Please also do not take costumes home after the show as they all need to be laundered and then put away. I sometimes hire/lend out costumes to local schools for their end of year shows, so I need to have all the costumes available and not be trying to track down costumes that haven't been returned.

All costumes are tried on during class rehearsals during the weeks leading up to the show. If your child is away the week costumes are tried on, then we'll do it the following week.

All students are required to provide their own dance shoes for the performances, as well as ballet tights (girls), socks (boys) and black leggings (jazz students). No jewellery or nail polish is allowed to be worn for the performances. Please leave all valuable jewellery at home so it doesn't get lost and please remove nail polish before coming to the theatre.

VOLUNTEER HELPERS

"Is there anything parents/caregivers can do to help with the show?"

We do require some help from parents/caregivers to make the show happen. If you're able to sew and have some time, then Mrs Bennett would welcome your assistance with making costumes. Please contact Tor (on the email address below) if you're able to help with this.

Also, a number of helpers are required during the performances to assist with front of house and supervising children in the dressing rooms and we always need some extra hands to help with the little ones at the dress rehearsal. You will be advised closer to the time about how you can sign up for these jobs.

If you haven't been involved with a BSBJ end of year show before then it can all seem a bit confusing at first. However, please be aware that Mrs Bennett and her team have been doing this for many, many years now and the systems that we have in place are there to ensure that the students have an enjoyable and safe experience and that the show runs smoothly.

There will be a meeting about the show for new parents in November (details will be provided closer to the time).

If anyone has any questions whatsoever about the end of year show, then please contact Tor Devereux on endofyearshowbennettschool@gmail.com

