

## Festival Note 2018-2019 For Festival Classes

From General Information Note: Festival Programs: These classes are meant for those students wishing to participate in classes that encourage competition participation. These classes require a much greater commitment of time and effort. Home practice time is essential as well as dedication to in class work.. Most festival level classes are required to attend 2-4 evenings per week. Most of the work is done in regular class time however, there are also some required weekends and extra rehearsals that are essential. There are also entry fees for festivals on top of regular class fees. The other requirement is that all festival students must participate in a minimum of 2 ballet classes per week. 4 to Senior level students must be participating in 3 ballet classes per week to maintain and build on the high technical standard required. We recommend as many ballet classes as you can fit into your schedule as this is where you build your technical base! It is up to each individual instructor to determine whether a class is ready to participate in the festivals in that season; It is a privilege, not a given. These classes focus on striving to attain the level required. If your child is not ready to participate in festival they will still be included in yearend show.

- Your child is in a class in which it is likely festival/competition will be attended.
- The same group dance for year-end show is performed at festival.
- The decision as to whether a class does festival or not is left up to the sole discretion of the teacher. The teacher will also have the say as to whether all the students in the class can participate in festival. Some students may not do the required classes(must be doing required ballet classes for technique) to be eligible for festival, or be ready and not yet at a competitive level and will be asked to do year end show only.
- For the most part, as long as classes are attended and practice and participation takes place, and the standard is achieved, everyone can participate in festival.
- **Commitment:** Our studio prides itself in the high calibre of its student body and the high quality of instruction that the instructors provide. All students need to attend regularly, work to their potential, respect others in class and have fun!

### Private Solo and Duo and Extra Group Lesson Fees:

**Solo/Duo Schedule:** The solo/duo rotations run in 3 week increments. Each student is allotted 30 minutes every third week. If you have signed up on the solo duo request sheet, your name will appear on the schedule with the teacher of your choice. **Everyone must make requests on this signup sheet by Friday Sept 21 in order to be included on the schedule.** I will try my best to organize back to back times for students considering the teachers availability. The schedule is updated weekly for private lessons and every Thursday evening I send it out. Also, check the white board at the studio entry way. You must speak to Miss Pavlova directly for her times and I will do my best to work with her so that the times she has co-ordinate with our times.

The solo/duo private lesson deposit is due before your first private lesson. The deposit per dance is \$100.00 in the fall and will be another \$100 by January (duo is \$50/per person etc). This deposit is put toward your private lesson bill and is paid to each individual instructor as well as for studio rental time.

**Company and Inspire Groups:** These are festival groups being done outside of class time and will therefore be billed the private lesson rate for each individual teacher and divided amongst the group. Other fees that go along with festival groups are your entry fees and your extra costume fee. This fee will be billed to the extra group and divided with your company fees.

Teachers are looking for committed, serious dancers only who intend on being at all rehearsals. It is not the intention of the studio to put any of our company numbers into festival to be in a category against an in class group. Therefore, we will not be offering small groups for dances that would conflict with in class groups. Rehearsals will take place on Fridays and missing these rehearsals for any unacceptable reason is not allowed. Do not participate if you have other Friday commitments that may conflict.

Extra Groups will include, Character Groups (Sr. Can Can and Jr Ukrainian), several small tap groups, several small jazz groups, small lyrical group, small contemp group and several acro groups(audition for ACRO only is on the 29<sup>th</sup> of Sept times tba)

Company Audition takes place Friday Sept 21(excluding acro)

4:00-Ballet Grades 5 and Up

4:45-Ballet Grades 2-4

5:30-Ballet Grades Primary and 1

Company will start in mid-Oct. Inspire rehearsals have started and will continue on Friday Sept 21.

**Festivals that are available to us this season are many here are my feelings and I welcome feedback:**

**Early Entry Deadlines This Year are as early as Oct 1 in order to hold our spot.**

**Decisions need to be made immediately.**

**Yates Rehearsal and Festival Group Show: Mar 20-23 booked**

Medicine Hat Festival of Friends: March 29, 30(tentative) A good warm up but undecided if it is running as of yet.

Calgary Dance Power: April 15-20...(19<sup>th</sup> is good Friday) For this one to hold our spot I need to send a deposit by Oct. 1. My feelings on Dance Power: I heard a lot of complaints last season about the fairness of the festivals we chose. These festivals were not run as slick as Dance Power and there were some "unprofessional" things that went on. Dance Power is and always has been a well organized event and we seemed to have a lot of folks that missed doing it last season. Darryl decided not to go again in Lethbridge with the construction taking place at the Yates and booked Medicine Hat instead...early! March 19-23. There is both a festival in Calgary(Apr 15-20)which hits over Good Friday/Saturday or Edmonton the next week which is

completely over Easter, and 5 hours away. Darryl assured me that Div ½ starts the competition and then it moves onto Div 2/3. Depending on how much Div 1 there is, our older students may only be Wed to Sat, and Friday is good fri. The older students may perhaps only miss Thursday of school and be only 2 hours away if they did need to drive home for a day...unlike Moose Jaw where once you are in Moose Jaw you are 5 hours away and can't come and go. I believe we would miss less school Dance Power week than we would Moose Jaw week Wed, Thur, Fri.

It is more expensive than Moose Jaw however! By over double!

Edmonton Dance Power: April 23-28 over Easter and a 5 hour travel???

**Dance for Dreams Lethbridge: April 26-28 at the end of Easter break if everyone would commit over the end of Easter break, it is local and would be good to do a "charity" event now that they have ironed out some kinks!**

Peak Calgary is out as it is the same week as Moose Jaw and longer!

Moose Jaw Festival of Dance: (For Grade 2 and Up?) May 1-5 5 hours away but by far the best run and least expensive festival that we do. Perhaps this could be our "extra" this year if people want to go. Know that kids will miss school. The festival runs Wed to Sunday. They do not take ANY scheduling requests. I love Moose Jaw as it has great opportunities for the kids and wonderful competition that our kids need to push themselves.

**Showtime Lethbridge (Our Home Festival): May 9, 10, 11 I have already sent a deposit to hold our spot. Local and a good one to finish up the season with here in Lethbridge.**

**Showtime Festival Kelowna: July 4-7 This could also be our travel festival this season. Kelowna is always fun and families could make a holiday out of it. Perhaps instead of Moose Jaw?**

I realize that I am not going to make everyone happy but I think we need to attend as a team and not split up this year. It is not as fun for the kids nor does it represent the studio well.

Perhaps this year we only need the 2 local festivals and then we try to qualify for Kelowna as our travel festival???

I'd like to hear some feedback before I finalize decisions.

I would then advise booking hotels immediately as hotels in the immediate area of the festivals tend to book up.

**Yates Rehearsal Time** has been booked for the week of March 20-23 I will post our rehearsal times for groups as well as for soloists to book.

**Festival Show:** I would like to bring in a couple adjudicators and a videographer and do a group festival show at the end of our festival rehearsal week. Video and adjudications could help us do our final preparation for festival season.

**Festival Winnings:** If there is money won at Festival, these Festival winnings are used to pay for props, used to pay for any extra rehearsals for the individual dance and then the balance is divided up between the dancers who participated in the number after all festivals are completed.