

NEWSLETTER

All newsletters are available at
www.mwmdance.com



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Diary 2009



Stephanie Williams & Andrew Crawford
in 'Morphoses'
Photo: Prudence Upton

Term 1

27th January – 9th April

Isabel Anderson – Variations

22ND February

Vocational Exams

Entries Close – 1st Session
7th March

Isabel Anderson

26th – 29th March

Term 2

28th April – 10th July

Term 3

27th July – 2nd October

Tentative Graded Exams TBA

4,5,6 August

Term 4

19th October – 18th
December

Bursary Semi Final

December TBA

Dress Rehearsal

11th December
Civic Theatre

End of Year concert

12th December
Civic Theatre

NCD Graduation

13th December

All information is correct, to
the best of our knowledge, at
time of printing. Please check
the studio timetable &
noticeboards regularly

☆ Dear Parents and Students

It's lovely to see all the student's happy faces and that they are all settling into their respective classes. In order to check the technical development of the classical students, the class teachers are taking control of what aspects are detailed in technical lesson. From week 3, after students are all settled in their classes, I will start a roster where I sit in on classes, making notes and reporting to the class teachers. The teachers will, therefore, be involved in continual personal development and if a student is having difficulties it gives me an opportunity to monitor and make an appointment with a parent if necessary.

☆ Vocational Examination

If students are ready for the 1st Vocational examinations; held in Sydney, 22nd June – 3rd July, the students will be handed an entry form. Entries close 7th March.

☆ Isabel Anderson Awards:

If any students have difficulty with travel arrangements to Sydney we will do our best to assist you. Students who make the final (Sunday 29th March – Science Theatre, UNSW) will only be given one day's notice, therefore they will need to have learnt the "Final" set variations prior to the competition. I look on this as a great part of the journey and the more the students learn along the way the clearer the final destination. The students eligible are those that sat for their Vocational RAD exams during 2008. Students enter under the exam they sat last year. The variations will be taught on Sunday 22ND February by Miss Elise Frawley (Mrs Pickering – pianist).

Times will be as follows (Mrs Pickering – pianist)

- 10.30 am – 11.30am: Inter Foundation
- 12 – 1 pm: Intermediate
- 1 – 2pm: Advanced Foundation
- 2.30 – 4pm: Advanced 1

PRICES TO BE ADVISED

After the variations are taught the class teachers will rehearse them in class once a week and encourage the students to practice.

Prize money as follows: Inter Found: 1st \$700, 2nd \$350, 3rd \$175. Intermediate: 1st \$800, 2nd \$400, 3rd \$200. Adv Found: 1st \$900, 2nd \$450, 3rd \$225. Adv1: 1st \$1000, 2nd \$500, 3rd \$250



☆ Intermediate Foundation Girls

The students are ready to be fitted for their 1st Pointe Shoes. The fitting will take time and it is probably best to go to the "Bloch" shop at Charlestown Square when you have time not to rush. It is especially important with the 1st pair to bring them in to the studio to have them checked by your pointe class teacher (before you sew on ribbons/elastic). Place a small hand towel on the floor to try them on. It is extremely important that they don't twist on the foot. Sew your laces on right to the bottom and stitch the elastic for the heel on the outside. You don't have to darn or place anything on the toes as all our floors are tarkett, which are non slip for "safe dance" training.

☆ Intermediate Girls

You need to now commence working in demi Pointes in class, this will promote more strength in the metatarsals.

☆ Intermediate/ Adv. Found Open Class

I was extremely impressed with the discipline with this class on Saturday and the attention that they gave, however it will be a much better balance if Intermediate have their own Open Class and Advanced Foundation join Advanced 1 for their Open Class (also @ 1.45 – 3pm Saturday).

These classes will alternate between myself and Miss Mahon, having Mrs Pickering every second week alternating between studios 3 & 4.

☆ Message from Miss Erin Bradshaw

"I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the students, parents and staff who have made my time at MWMDA a truly enjoyable experience that I will treasure for eternity. I thank you for allowing me to be a part of your lives and am grateful to every one of you for being a part of mine. I've watched so many students grow from babies to young teens and children to young adults and can proudly say that you have not only grown into beautiful dancers by also, more importantly, beautiful people. While it is unfortunate that I will no longer be teaching at MWM everyday, I do believe that everything in life happens for a reason – even if it's hard to see at the time. I hope that you will take that philosophy on board, particularly if you do follow a career in dance to ensure that you view set-backs and injuries as just a turn in the path your life will take. I am sad to be leaving but do hope that you will keep in touch... Lots of love always, Miss Erin"

★Newcastle Eisteddfod

The tentative starting date for this eisteddfod is Tuesday 14th April. Solo entries close Friday 27th February, late entries will not be accepted. According to the survey, the majority of parents only wanted groups entered in the Sydney eisteddfod this year. Please ask your private lesson teacher to check and sign your entry forms for solo dances. Syllabus and entry forms can be downloaded from their website: www.newcastleballeteisteddfod.org.au

★Open Age Contemporary Group

This group will be placed in the 17yrs/U section for the Sydney Eisteddfod. Students who are participating in the 14/U Contemporary Group and prepared to come to Wednesday rehearsals are also welcome to audition for this group.

★Sydney Eisteddfod

Sydney Eisteddfod entries close 16th March.

Entries should be made online: www.sydneyeisteddfod.com.au (after consulting your private teacher).

We will enter the groups when decided and the names will be posted on the notice board.

Tentative Dates for Groups are:

U12 Classical – 22nd August (Science Theatre, UNSW or Opera House)

U14 Classical – 1st August

Open Age Classical – 5th July @ Opera House

U12 Jazz – 15th August

U14 Jazz – 9th August (Science Theatre, UNSW or Opera House)

Open Age Jazz – Heats: 5th July @ Opera House

Finals 2nd August @ Opera House

U12 Contemporary – 22nd August

U14 Contemporary – 1st August (Science Theatre, UNSW or Opera House)

Open Age Contemporary – 5th July @ Opera House

Open Age Modern – 5th July @ Opera House

GROUP LISTS
will be posted on the
noticeboard next week

★Technical Lessons

As a staff body we cannot stress enough the importance of technical lessons for the classical ballet. This lesson is a part of your child's **exam preparation**. In ensuring technical lessons are being utilised there will now be a roll marked in every technical lesson and a follow up phone call or appointment if there is consistent absences, as is the case for all classes. I have personally allocated students into their technical groups, however this is not a reflection on their ability as the lessons are not graded.

★Grooming

Respect and discipline in all classes as well as correct uniform will be part of the criteria for scholarships being awarded during 2009.

★ Open Days

Parents viewing will be in week 11. You will be permitted to view any classes you wish including private lessons; with the exception of groups and technical lessons.

★ Photos from the concert 08

Photos books will be available to look at from Saturday 7th February. Pre ordered photos are available to be picked up from the office. We thank Katie O'Brien for her continued support.



★ Studio Parking

A reminder to all parents that the studio car park is **reverse parking** only. This is extremely important, especially on Saturday mornings as it is a small area and very busy with so many young children leaving and entering the building. Thank you for your co-operation.

★ New Classes

All new classes will be given a trial period and will only continue if enrolments are stable. These include Stretch classes for junior school, middle school, Adv F & Adv 1, Adv 2, Drama classes for junior, middle and senior students, Adult contemporary and adult ballet classes.

★ Congratulations

To Lewis Formby who has been accepted into the Australian Ballet ITP program

★Miss Linnert – 'So You Think You Can Dance...'

Due to commitments to 'So You Think You Can Dance...!' Miss Linnert will not be taking classes over the next 3 weeks. Her classes will be covered by Miss Thomas with private lessons allocated at my discretion. Miss Linnert has given details on choreography and music to the covering teachers for all of her private students as well as the Level 5 classes.

★Stephanie Williams – former MWM student

I recently saw Stephanie in the performance of Morphoses by Christopher Wheeldon. He chose only 16 dancers from prominent companies around the world to be apart of this brilliant masterpiece. Stephanie was one of these, another being Damien Smith, from San Francisco Ballet (taught by us as a young boy). What an absolutely wonderful thrill to be in the audience.

★Email – If you haven't done so already please register your reliable email address with Christine in the office as we will be trailing email communication for accounts and newsletters.

Fond wishes
Marie Walton-Mahon