



## Shows & Performances FAQ

### 1. **What are shows?**

Shows are performances we produce for our pupils to dance in. These may be in house, at public events, or in a theatre.

### 2. **Why do we do shows?**

We want you to see how awesome our pupils are! They work so hard and deserve to show off what they've been working on. Shows go great alongside exam work. Exam work focuses on technique, rhythm, learning new moves and improving your dance skills. Shows focus on combining all those elements with performance skills to create a well-rounded dancer. Shows promote confidence, team work, and commitment. Because we are a theatre branch school, we teach dance styles that are designed to be performed on stage (for example at a ballet or on a West End musical). Performance experience is essential for any child learning these styles, firstly so they have context and understand why we teach what we do, and secondly for any children who want to go and dance in adult hood knowing how theatres work and about performance is essential preparation.

### 3. **When are the shows?**

We usually have a couple of events per year on rotation. We will let you know as soon as we set show dates.

### 4. **What do we do in the show?**

This depends on the production. Our lower school performance of Peter Pan included main parts to tell the story, along with each class in the lower school performing in at least two dances. Sometimes they run more like showcases where there will be one dance for each class (e.g. prep ballet, primary ballet, grade 1 ballet, prep street dance etc.). And sometimes we put on a whole school production like The Nutcracker 2019. There were main parts, smaller solo parts, and a dance or two for every class in the school, including our adult classes.

### 5. **How can I help?**

When we are organising productions, we always need help. People to help the children backstage, make sure they get to the stage on time and don't miss their cues, helping them change and organise their costumes, ushering the audience in to the theatre, collecting tickets, selling tickets, and collecting costumes. If anyone is ever in any way able to help, please let us know as it is impossible for us to put on full scale shows for the children at cost as we do without support from the broader school community.

### 6. **How/when do we learn the show dances?**

These will be taught in class time alongside exam work. There will also be whole school rehearsals and a dress rehearsal. It is vital that pupils attend all rehearsals not only so they can learn the dances, but also out of respect for their fellow dancers. It is very hard to move forward with choreography when people have been missing the previous week and we have to re-teach work that has already been set.

### 7. **Why do we have whole school rehearsals?**

Backstage can be hectic and this is a great chance for pupils to get to know the running order, see how much time they have to get changed between dances, and interact with other pupils they might not usually see at the studio. It allows teachers to block choreography, set entrances and exits, and see that the whole show runs smoothly.

**8. What's a dress rehearsal?**

This is a rehearsal for all pupils involved in the show to practice in costume. We make sure the costumes fit, that they are suitable for dancing in, and it gives the performers chance to dance in what they will be wearing for the show. This can often feel very different to rehearsing in your class uniform. Dancers usually take their costumes home on this day.

**9. How much do shows cost?**

There is no performance fee, but we do require a costume hire fee. This fee will depend on how many classes the dancer takes and usually starts at under £10pp. If you take ballet, tap, modern, street dance and ballroom, your fee will be higher than someone who only takes one class because there will be more costumes for us to buy/make/alter/laundry.

**10. Tickets!**

Tickets will go on sale around 6 weeks before the show and can be bought directly from us. Depending on the venue your seats may be allocated, or you may just find a seat when you arrive. Tickets usually sell out in advance so make sure you're not waiting to buy on the day.

**11. What happens on show day?**

We will give you a time to arrive for our final rehearsal, there will be a break to eat, then the performance!

For example the day has run like this in the past:

3pm pupils arrive/sign in for tech rehearsal on stage

5.30pm food break

6.30pm get ready/warm up/doors open for audience

7pm show starts

9.30pm show ends/sign out/go home

(Baby ballet dancers arrive just before the show and do not rehearse all afternoon)

>>>All pupils MUST be signed in on the day with their medical form and emergency contact details. Pupils must be signed out by their parent/carer before leaving the venue. This is a legal requirement.

**12. What happens to costumes after the show?**

Please bring your costumes back to your next class after the show. It helps if they come in a bag with the dancer's name on so we can tick you off the list (and chase up missing costumes).

**13. Any other questions?**

If you think of anything else we haven't covered here, drop us a message and we will be happy to help you.