

BALLET CHARACTER

We will be re-introducing Character Dance to Grades 1-8 ballet students commencing the week of November 7, 2005. In order that the students learn Character Dance properly, it is helpful that they wear the correct clothing attire as stated in the studio dress requirement sheet.

Kindly have your daughters bring black character or black hard heeled shoes (no rubber soles-the shoes must make a sound) to class, along with their character skirts. (instructions for sewing are available at the office). Please note that all students wishing to enter an exam in the spring will be required to have a character skirt and black shoes.

If you already have character wear please begin bringing it the week of November 7, otherwise please bring it by the week of November 21st.

We have included a brief introduction on Character Dance, which we hope you will find both informative and interesting.

INTRODUCTION

Character Dance helps to develop a child's natural sense of rhythm. The very definite nature of character work with such basic movements as walks, runs, claps, stamps, and heel beats make it an invaluable training for rhythmicality. Some of the movements have been arranged to develop an understanding of basic pulse beats, musical beats, simple rhythm patterns and syncopation. Character work also provides an opportunity to experience dancing to a different type of music to that used for classical ballet, and as a result, an ear for new types of harmonies and rhythm is developed. Examples of character dance can be seen in ballets such as Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty.

* A sample character skirt is hanging in the studio for viewing.

Thank-you.

Gillian Howatt

Counterpoint Dance Academy

If you are unable to have your character skirt made yourself the studio is able to have it sewn for you. The cost is \$45.00 including materials, ribbons and sewing fees.

Please fill out the information below and return to the office by October 27, 2005.

Your daughter will be measured in class.

I wish to have the studio sew my daughter's character skirt. _____

Dancer's name: _____

Class-Day: _____ Time: _____

Fees included: _____ (Please make cheques payable to Judy Samson)