

SHOW INFORMATION PACK

The Summer Term 2022 brings the excitement of our school production at The Radlett Centre

Please find attached some information, especially for those taking part for the first time. Please make a special note of the dates for your diaries.

OVERVIEW

All school students (except adults and Ballet prep classes) have the option of taking part in the show. It provides a fantastic opportunity for our dancers to experience the thrill of performing in a professional theatre and preparing for a large-scale production.

Each class will perform in a dance which is choreographed and rehearsed during their normal class time. Younger students will also have senior helpers in their dance to support them on stage. Some classes are combined with other classes and will perform in a longer number. Any students who are not able to perform will still learn the dance and be included fully in their classes throughout the preparations. Normal syllabus work will continue alongside show work although the balance will obviously tip in favour of the show work as the performance dates approach.

Any additional rehearsals are kept to a minimum and will be called towards the end of the summer term.

At no point will any of the performers be required to take time off school as the rehearsals are after school and shows at the weekend. For the younger dancers, there will only be 2 late nights, one dress rehearsal and one performance. Younger students will be allowed to leave once performed and will be given more specific time allocations later. For the older dancers, there is likely to be 4 late nights.

All the staff at LDA aim to make the whole experience an exciting, enjoyable, and valuable event for students and parents alike but for us to be able to achieve this, parental co-operation is essential and very much appreciated.

We have included a timeline as a guide to what you can expect. Although the timings and commitment may seem a lot initially, it makes for a smooth show process, where everyone knows exactly what to expect when. You will be kept informed of all the important details regarding the whole show process as we go along, but here are a few general points, which will hopefully answer any immediate queries. If you ask any "experienced show parent" I hope they will agree the show is an amazing experience for the students!

TICKETS

Tickets will be on sale around April, and you will be notified by email. Tickets are sold on a first-come-first-served basis, and usually no ticket limitations. Although, if we are unsure of the COVID situation we may need to change this. Tickets are sold with the expectation that parents will watch the whole show. Please do not plan to leave at the interval as this is so unfair to those performing in Act 2. Every student has worked equally hard to prepare for the show and it is only right that they all have the same support from the whole audience. **Tickets always sell out so please do not leave it to the last minute, once they're gone, they're gone.**

This year we have also decided to open the dress rehearsals to an audience at a reduced rate. If you do not plan to stay for the whole show, or only want to watch your child's dance and then leave, please book a ticket on the dress rehearsal dates, where the audience will be less formal, and you will be able to leave part way through. The dress rehearsal is primarily for us to check lighting and sound, for the students to practice before the real show, and for us to stop if there are any problems or changes needed. Therefore, there may be stops or times when the teachers come on stage or talk over the microphone. There will also be a photographer taking pictures. The Show is filmed, and you will get a chance to buy the professionally edited DVD.

CHAPERONES AND BACKSTAGE HELP

A production of this size cannot operate without some help from parents. The students will need to be supervised in the Dressing Rooms, accompanied to the toilets, and helped with changing into and out of their costumes. We require approximately 30 chaperones per rehearsal and show, so your help would be very much appreciated, no matter how small. I'd really appreciate if you could spare any time over the show process, either in a dressing room, front of house, helping with the raffle or even just signing students in and out! Parents with DBS's or Chaperone Licenses are a bonus, but these are not essential. If you are unable to chaperone, or you are watching, then your child would be fully looked after backstage, either for the duration of the show if watching or until they are collected. We will be able to give you more specific pick-up details nearer the time.

HAIR AND MAKE UP

Due to the strength of the professional lighting at the theatre, we do recommend that all performers wear some make-up. This should be done before arriving at the theatre as there will be no staff available to do hair and make-up unless you have made previous arrangements with Becky. There may be a few seniors happy to do hair as has been done previously, but this will be confirmed nearer the time.

All performers hair will need to be styled and details of this will be given out nearer the time, depending on the dance. Students may also need to change their hair between dances, in which case help will be provided backstage. Hair and make-up demonstrations will be arranged for the summer term where everyone is welcome to come along to see what is expected and ask any questions. Short hair should be off faces.

PERFORMANCES

All students are required at the theatre at least 30mins prior to the start of the show. As soon as students have performed, they are free to go home. If, however, you're watching the performance, then they will be supervised in the Dressing Rooms. Students only performing in Act 1, may watch Act 2, providing they have a ticket. Admission to the Auditorium can be made at the interval only in the main shows. All performers need to sign in and out of their Dressing Rooms and are not permitted to leave unless accompanied by an adult or given permission on their form.

Let's Dance Junior Show - an unofficial guide for new parents or carers (written by a Let's Dance Mum)

If this is your first Let's Dance Academy show, then be prepared to be amazed - the LDA staff are too modest to say it, but this isn't just any old production. The result is a highly polished show that will wow you and the rest of the audience - with young dancers delivering performances that you never dreamed were possible from your child and giving them a fantastic experience along the way. Delivering such a performance is a big undertaking for the dance school and staff and takes commitment (& a bit of hard work) from parents/ carers and dancers.

With that in mind, here are a few things to be aware of for first timers:

- The level of professionalism will take you by surprise - from the venue in a "proper" theatre through to the lighting, music, costumes, make up and choreography - this is much more than just a school play.
- There are a few time commitments above and beyond the normal weekly dance classes - the show runs four times over the performance weekend, although your child may only be in 2 if younger. On top of this there are extra rehearsals leading up to the show and there are also dress rehearsals. There is also an earlier weekend costume fitting where they try their costumes on and have the opportunity to be photographed in them. This is also the time where any adjustments can be made so vital that they attend. There are usually around 300 students in the show, so they ask you to attend during your allocated time slot. Because so many dancers are involved, you will be allocated certain time slots and you really must stick to them. Parents should be prepared for some waiting around / taxiing to and from The Radlett Centre too, on the week of the dress rehearsal and performances.

There are some costs involved too which will be listed on your entry form.

- There will be an expectation that your child behaves as independently as he or she possibly can be. Obviously, this varies by age but there will be times when they are expected to wait patiently (& quietly) backstage. They will need to take care of their costumes & get changed in and out of them quickly, have make-up and hair done, & they will be performing on stage on their own (as a class group, the little ones will be with one of the senior dancers, but not with their teacher). The youngest classes can have a parent or carer backstage with them as although there will be lots of backstage helpers (parents and teachers), it does help having a familiar face! The older students will need to be able to follow instructions from adults (whom they may not know) and act responsibly.
- For safeguarding purposes, there are restrictions on who can be backstage in the changing area.

Timeline of Show Preparations and some initial Dates for your Diaries

Please note that this list is not final, and you will be notified of any additions/changes as soon as possible.

1st February 2022 – deadline for the entry form and signing of the entry slip/medical declaration form. The performance fee helps to cover the huge cost of hiring a professional theatre as well as your child's costume/s hire and insurance.

Spring and Summer Terms – ensure that your child attends all their classes, as choreography will start after February half term.

ADDITIONAL REHEARSAL DATES:

- **Costume weekend:** 9th and 10th July – Students will be required to attend a costume fitting on either or possibly both (if in more than one dance) of these dates. Each class will be allocated a 30-minute slot to have their costume fitted and the opportunity for the students to have a photo taken in their costume by a professional dance photographer, as well as a class photo. If you can't make this date, then you'll need to book an alternative day to visit whoever is making that specific costume and unable to have a photo.
- **Team 1 and all seniors compulsory rehearsal at Marshalswick Baptist Church:** Monday 11th July at Marshalswick Baptist Church. Approx 4:30 – 8:30pm. Younger students will be able to leave sooner, specific times will be given.
- **Team 2 and all seniors compulsory rehearsal at Marshalswick Baptist Church:** Wednesday 13th July at Marshalswick Baptist Church. Approx 4:30 – 8:30pm. Younger students will be able to leave sooner, specific times will be given.

The rehearsal at the church, is the first time the students will run the show in order. They will start to understand the show process and how they will be taken to the stage and need to prepare backstage for their dance ie: Line up with the correct items, shoes, props etc. We will also go through the "flow of the show" for example: which wings to enter and exit from so they can get onto the stage safely and who will be escorting them to and from the "stage". It also allows us to communicate any quick changes or highlight any special instructions to individual students.

- **Team 1 and all seniors compulsory dress & technical rehearsal:** Thursday 14th July at The Radlett Centre. Approx 5pm – 9pm. Younger students will be able to leave sooner, specific times will be given.
- **Team 2 and all seniors compulsory dress & technical rehearsal:** Friday 15th July at The Radlett Centre. Approx 5pm – 9pm. Younger students will be able to leave sooner, specific times will be given.

The dress rehearsal is the final and most important rehearsal as it is the only opportunity that the children have to practice on stage in the theatre. It is essential that all performers attend this rehearsal as there are important Health & Safety regulations and procedures that they will need to be made aware of before they are permitted to perform in the Theatre. The rehearsal is done in performance conditions with the students in costume with hair and make-up done. Please be patient regarding the running times at this rehearsal as it is the only opportunity that the Technical Team will have to plot and rig the lighting and sound. We cannot foresee any

technical difficulties that might occur but for everyone's sake we aim to ensure that the rehearsal will run as smoothly and as quickly as possible.

SHOW DAYS:

- **Team 1 and all seniors – SHOW DAY: 1 morning and 1 afternoon show – Saturday 16th July. Students must be available to do both shows.**
- **Team 2 and all seniors – SHOW DAY: 1 morning and 1 afternoon show - Sunday 17th July. Students must be available to do both shows.**

Only parents who have volunteered to be a chaperone in the dressing rooms will be permitted access backstage for the performances. You will need to come and collect your child in between the 1st and 2nd show, so that they have left the theatre for health and safety reasons (mainly to get fresh air and have a scheduled break). As most parents watch one of the shows, this usually just means them arriving early and having lunch or a walk along the high street. Students who stay for the duration of the show will be in the finale.

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO CHILD LICENSING, WE ARE RESTRICTED AS TO HOW LONG EACH AGE GROUP OF STUDENTS CAN STAY IN THE THEATRE. I CAN ASSURE YOU WE DO OUR BEST TO MAKE THE RUNNING TIMES AND TIMES THE STUDENTS ARE NEEDED AS SHORT AND EXACT AS POSSIBLE.

18th July – End of term!

AND finally..... We can't wait to start the show process, the end result always being very excited and inspired students and very proud parents and teachers!

Kind regards, Becky and the LDA team!