

Our Teachers

Reija Best

Trained in Germany and Finland, Reija has coached figure skating, rhythmic gymnastics, creative dance, formation jazz dance and choreography at the national level. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Physical Education and is a five-time winner of the ladies Figure Skating Championship in Middle Finland. Her enthusiasm and attention to detail have motivated young dancers at Carlson's since 1995. Reija's dance classes and choreography are in modern dance, jazz and hip hop, from beginner to adult. Reija has been honoured by the Duncan community with the Black Tie service award.

Pam Hicks

A true islander, Pam's inspiration to dance began at four years of age. Her rigorous training in classical ballet was under the tutelage of Wynne Shaw in Victoria, and later with Norbert Vesak in Vancouver. Pam has her Advanced Certificate and is also a Registered member with the RAD. She has attended local and international summer schools including the RAD in London, England. Pam has imparted her knowledge and love of dance at a number of dance centres. Today, students appreciate her exam preparation here at Carlson's where she has taught since 1994. Pam specializes in open ballet and stretch and strength classes and dancers seek out her expertise in choreography for festival competitions. Students enjoy her dedication and receive a class that polishes their technique and strengthens their dancing.

Kim Robb

Kim, a registered teacher with the RAD and an associate teacher for Tap with the AITD, trained at the Carousel School of Dance in Jersey C.I. and at the Doreen Bird College of Theatre Dance in London. She graduated as an Associate in ballet, modern and national dance with the ISTD. Kim came from London, England to Canada in 1976 to teach for the Alberta Ballet Company School and then moved to the Edmonton School of Ballet the following year to introduce the RAD method of ballet. She became Vice Principal in 1981 and was responsible for all RAD exam work from Primary to Advanced. Kim began teaching at Carlson's in 1996.

Joyce Scott

Joyce has been involved in theatre and dance since she was a young child. If she had a chance to sing or dance she was happy! Her early ballet training began here on the island in Sidney, then in Victoria and Vancouver for her RAD majors. As well as being a registered teacher with the RAD and of the ISTD, Joyce has a strong musical background and has worked extensively with the Cowichan Secondary School Music Program as well as with the Cowichan Musical Society as a performer, choreographer and board member. Here at Carlson's Joyce specializes in the teaching of Ballet and Musical Theatre and students benefit from her expertise and dedication. Teaching young people the joy of dance is something in which Joyce takes great pleasure.

Caitlin Archer

Caitlin began dancing with Carlson's at four years old. She has taken classes in almost all styles offered at the school, focusing on RAD Ballet and ISTD Modern Jazz. She has completed her Ballet to the Intermediate Vocational Graded Exam and Modern Jazz to the Advanced 2 level. Caitlin is now training with the ISTD to become a Modern Jazz teacher. Her schedule at the University of Victoria allows her to teach our Saturday morning Ballet classes.

Anna Broadway

Anna has over 18 years of dance training behind her in Ballet and Modern Jazz. She has achieved her RAD Advanced 1 Vocational Certificate in Ballet. She continues her training, as she takes on her duties teaching in the Ballet Section at Carlson's. Anna has rounded out her dance career participating in the Music Festival both as dancer and choreographer and in several Cowichan Musical Society productions, acting as Dance Captain in *Guys and Dolls*.

Ricki-Lee Bronson

When she was 5 years old, Ricki-Lee was enrolled at Carlson's School of Dance by her mom who had also danced at Carlson's growing up. Her first dance class was Pre-Primary Ballet with Mrs. Carlson. Since then, she has taken classes in every style of dance offered at the school. She has completed her RAD Ballet Grade 8 Award and continues her training toward Associate status in ISTD Modern Jazz (recently in Chichester, UK) and AIDT Tap. She has competed annually in the Cowichan Music Festival and also performed with the Cowichan Musical Society and in many musicals during her years at Frances Kelsey Secondary. After many years of assisting teachers in their classes, Ricki-Lee began teaching her own classes in Lake Cowichan in October, 2004.

Chantelle Norris

Trained at Expressions, the Dance Gallery in Calgary, Chantelle spent 13 years as a competitive dancer. She is a graduate of the RAD teaching certificate program, upheld programs in ballet and hip hop for Expressions, and has extensive experience in jazz, tap, musical theatre, and Pilates. Her training in dance also includes studies with the ISTD at Chichester, UK, the Alberta Ballet School, Banff Centre for the Performing Arts, Alberta Dance Horizons, Calgary Dance Express and Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. Her approach to teaching is one filled with respect for the art of dance, disciplined classes for the serious student and motivating classes for the recreational student.

Cody Ridley

Cody is our Boys' Hip Hop Teacher. As a member of the Senior Boys' Hip Hop Class, he has participated in the Cowichan Musical Festival and Victoria Dance Arts Festival. Cody updates and improves his Hip Hop technique at every Hip Hop Workshop he can find to attend.

Lisa Rittenhouse

Lisa was introduced to Hip Hop when she was on an exchange year in Japan when she was 15. She followed that with classes in Abbotsford, Karen Clark Dance Studio and with Liz Vasen at Excalibur Dance. This exploration into Hip Hop followed Lisa's extensive training in Ballet, Modern and Jazz. Lisa represented the Cowichan Festival at the Provincials twice for Intermediate Ballet and once for Senior Modern. She will be teaching all of the Senior and Intermediate Hip Hop classes at Carlson's this year as well as some Ballet and Jazz.



Carlson's School of Dance

2009-2010

3272 Sherman Road Duncan, BC V9L 4B4

Phone: 746 6456 Fax: 746 6475

E-mail: info@carlsons.ca

Website: www.carlsons.ca

Welcome to Carlson's School of Dance for our 55th exciting season of inspiring dance classes in ballet, jazz, tap and hip-hop as well as courses in musical theatre, stretch and strength and repertory.

Our mission is to provide our students with a solid foundation to foster their passion for dance. Our curriculum provides a wide variety of dance instruction for pre-schoolers, school-age children, teens and adults. Collectively, our teachers offer a

professional and eclectic expertise in all aspects of dance at every level of experience from the beginner to the advanced student in the performing arts.

Dance education is not simply technique. A student's dance experience both creates and enhances self-esteem, confidence, discipline and a sense of purpose—skills that last a lifetime.

Carlson's School of Dance provides performance opportunities through festival competitions, community events and our annual dance recital.

Dance Classes are held at four sites:

Studio A 3272 Sherman Road, Duncan

Studio B 3276 Sherman Road

Studio C at The Island Savings Centre. James Street

Chemainus Elementary School 3172 Garner Street, Chemainus

Parking:

Sherman Road Studios: The west side can be used for drop-off and pick-up, situated opposite WS Supermart entrance. There is additional parking in front of and behind 3272 and 3276 Sherman Road. Please do not use parking spaces in front of other establishments during their business hours. **Students are to use the back entrances for entry and exit.**

Communication

Good communication with parents and students is vital for smooth operation of our school.

Newsletters are posted on the internet the first week of each month to update parents on the school's activities and relay important information.

The Internet

The Newsletter and current messages are available on the website, at www.carlsons.ca. E-mail is available for you to communicate with the school as well. We are at info@carlsons.ca

If you are unable to get time with your child's teacher, leave a message on the studio answering machine and we will get back to you regarding your question or concern.

Costume Policy

For each class there will be a costume deposit of \$40 or \$60 due at registration. This fee can be paid in cash or by a cheque post-dated to October 15 and made payable to "Carlson's Costumes". (Some arrangements may be made for those students with more than 3 classes.) After December 15 this fee will be non-refundable, meaning that if your child quits before this date and you inform the studio, your costume money will be refunded. After this date there will be no refund.

Class Descriptions:

Ballet: Adhering to the Royal Academy of Dancing syllabus, Demi-character and Open Class styles.

Pre-school Dance: Imaginative exploration of music and movement using ballet and tap.

Tap: Music Theory, Rhythm and Technique for beginner tap and formal tap dance.

Modern Jazz: Both Formal and Free style classes with a variety of styles and choreography. Students can focus their work toward the International Society of Teachers of Dance Syllabus.

Hip-Hop: A challenging but fun exploration of hip hop dance to a competitive level.

Stretch and Strength: For ballet students (grade 4 level and higher) who are serious at improving themselves and their performance potential, this class works the body to a core level of strength, control, flexibility and endurance.

Musical Theatre: Dancing, Acting and Voice work for a musical theatre setting.

Our teachers who are registered with the Royal Academy of Dancing (RAD – Ballet), Association of International Dance Teachers (AIDT – Tap) and the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance (ISTD – Modern Jazz) may enter students in examinations. These exams are a benchmark of progress and at higher levels provide for course credits at the Senior Secondary School level and pre-requisite for University entrance.

Exams:

RAD Ballet Syllabus, AIDT Tap and ISTD Modern Jazz exams are conducted. Syllabus classes are geared to cover a curriculum culminating in the exam. Although all students who take syllabus exam classes must be prepared to take exams, not every child will be ready when exam candidates are chosen by the teachers. There are recreational classes available for students who are not interested in exam work.

End of the Year Recital:

We hope all of our students will wish to participate in our end of the year recital and prior rehearsals. If you do not wish to participate, please notify the studio by December 15, 2009. Otherwise, costumes will be prepared and students will be responsible for their share of the costs. Our recitals will be held at the Cowichan Theatre Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12, 2010. Rehearsals are scheduled for June 7, 8, 9, and 10. Photographs of recital groups in costume will be taken on Saturday, May 29. Pictures will be available for pick-up during the last week of class and at the 2010/11 registration in August.

Registration Fees/Class Tuition:

Fees are determined based on a ten-month program and are divided into ten equal "monthly" payments. The number of classes each month may vary. Payment Options: One payment for the full ten months; or September fees and nine post-dated cheques. **A Registration Fee of \$25.00 is applied at the start of the season.** A drop-in fee of \$15.00 is charged to participate in a class the student is NOT registered in. **NSF service charge: \$20.00**

Cancellation Policy: The first cheque MUST INCLUDE registration fee and fee for the first month of the session. These fees are NOT REFUNDABLE. Withdrawal from classes requires one month's written notice. (E-mail is acceptable) Failure to notify the office will result in a charge equal to one month's payment. **For any fees (including costume deposit) that are not received by September 30 a late registration surcharge of 5% will be added.**

Fees for classes missed during the school year are NOT REFUNDABLE but can be made up at a later date if an appropriate class is available. Make-up classes may be taken due to illness or statutory holidays only and must be made up within a two-week period. It is required that the student notifies the office if he/she will be missing a class.

Dress Code:

Dance attire is designed not only to provide as much freedom of motion as possible but also to allow the teacher a clear view of the body for corrections. Safety is a consideration in our dress code—loose jewelry, loose clothing and flying hair could be a safety hazard for your child and others, therefore it is mandatory that students follow the dress code appropriate to the class in which they are participating.

For all ballet classes, long hair should be pulled off the face in a bun. Short hair should be pulled back with a hair band. For classes other than ballet hair must be tied back in a pony tail or a bun.

Appropriate class attire is specified below:

RAD Ballet

Pre-primary, primary, grades 1 and 2: Pink tank style bodysuit, ballet pink tights, pink leather ballet slippers. Primary also requires a pink circle skirt for exam purposes. (Check with teacher before purchasing skirt.)

Grades 3 through 8: navy blue tank style bodysuit, ballet pink tights, pink ballet slippers plus pink elastics and ribbons.

Grades 1 through 8: black character skirts and shoes (low heel for grades 1 and 2; cuban heel for grades 3 to 8 if possible) are also required for character work.

Major exams: black body suit, ballet pink tights. Students need softened Pointe shoes for class work.

Pointe shoes: purchased only as advised by the teachers.

Tap – AIDT Syllabus

Bodysuit and black knee length shorts are required for class. Details for purchase will be available at Registration.

For boys: white T-shirt and jazz pants.

Black, oxford style, low-heeled tap shoes (tel-tone taps). Check with teacher before buying tap shoes if in doubt.

Modern Jazz – ISTD Syllabus

Bodysuit and black knee length shorts are required for class and for exams. Details for purchase will be available at Registration. Students take class in bare feet but may require black jazz shoes for performance at the discretion of the teacher.

Free or Recreational Jazz

Sleeveless tank top, jazz pants. Jazz sandals, jazz shoes or bare feet. Senior students must have black jazz shoes.

Hip Hop

NO OUTDOOR SHOES MAY BE WORN ON DANCE FLOOR

Baggie T-shirt and athletic pants (no jeans or shorts). Good quality CLEAN athletic shoes or jazz runners for support.

Boys: T-shirt and track pants.

Musical Theatre

Bodysuit, ballet pink tights, or jazz pants and ballet slippers or black jazz shoes.

Leg warmers and proper ballet-type sweaters may be worn for warm-up only. Dance shoes are not to be worn outside and no street shoes are to be worn on the dance floor.

WATER ONLY WILL BE ALLOWED FOR REFRESHMENT DURING CLASSES.

Attendance and Punctuality:

Classes start on time and are progressive and geared to year-end performances, exams and/or competitions. Tardy or absent students will hold the entire class back as lost lessons must be repeated for their benefit. The focus of our classes is learning, not repeating. Therefore repeat absences will result in the student being asked to leave the class. **No refunds will be given under these circumstances.**

As important as attendance, is arriving on time and being prepared for class. Parents should allow enough time for their child to enter into a state of mind that is conducive to learning.

Manners:

Common courtesy and politeness to everyone is expected. No chewing of gum is allowed. If using the kitchen supplies, please keep the area clean and tidy or use of these facilities may be discontinued. The phone is for business use and permission to use it should be obtained from the teacher. We ask that students not answer the phone.

Carlson's reserves the right to refuse service to any student or parent not showing respectful behaviour towards the studio or the staff.