



**December  
2005**

We wish you

**A  
Joyous  
Holiday  
Season**

from  
everyone  
at  
*Carlson's*

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# ***Carlson's School of Dance***

## **TRIPLE THREAT DANCE CONVENTION**

Our largest contingent ever, travelled to Vancouver for the Triple Threat Dance Convention. Forty-two dancers (including 17 Seniors, 16 Intermediates and 9 Juniors), 18 parents and 6 teachers were rewarded with an exciting weekend of dance. A last minute change gave the Seniors a new teacher: Rino Nakasone, who was in town to appear as a Harajuku dancer with Gwen Stefani, presented the highlight class of the trip. But that wasn't all. On Saturday evening we were treated to a surprise performance by the rest of Gwen Stefani's dance troupe as part of the Future Threats performance. **Tanna Rutzebeck** performed her *Greased Lightening* number for a very receptive audience and Adam Mckinnon's break dance crew (**Adam, Kevin Kozijn, Dan and Adam Hols**) took the top prize of the night—the trophy for Best All Around Performance.

## **COMING IN 2006**

The **3 Year Old Parent/Tot Class** will begin a new 10-week session on Wednesday, January 4. Times are 1:15-1:45 and 2:00-2:30 and the classes are held at Studio B. Call the studio to pre-register and then come 15 minutes prior to your class start time to pay your \$50.00.

## **For Your Information:**

Royal City Youth Ballet  
**The Nutcracker**  
December 11, 2 p.m.  
Cowichan Theatre

*Last Day of Classes for 2005:*

*December 17*

*All Classes Start 2006*

*Tuesday, January 3*

*(No Classes Monday, January 2)*

Ballet Victoria's  
**Alice , a Wonderland of Dance**

December 28, 29. 30.  
McPherson Playhouse

## **Festivals:**

\*\*Cowichan Music Festival  
Feb. 26—Mar. 3

\*\*Nanaimo Entry Deadline  
Jan. 15

\*\*Victoria Entry Deadline  
Jan. 15

## **Festival Practices**

Sunday, February 12, Noon-4:00 Cowichan Theatre. Group dances will be practised on the stage in preparation for the festival.

Friday, February 10, Evening. Solo and duets will have an opportunity to perform for an audience. Place TBA.

## WHY TAKE DANCE EXAMS?

At Carlson's School of Dance exams are offered in Ballet (Royal Academy of Dance), in tap (Association of International Dance Teachers), and in Modern Jazz (Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance). Not every dance school offers exams but we choose to because we feel that exams benefit dancers in a number of ways. First, exams give the children a goal to set for themselves and they work hard to achieve it. As they grow in dance they learn to work on their own technique without comparison to other students; exams help them measure their progress. When a student passes an exam she has demonstrated a standard that is recognized all over the world. If he moves to a new dance school, his level of dance is immediately and clearly known. In B.C. Secondary School Fine Arts credits are given for RAD Grades 5 and up (and for similar levels in the ISTD and AIDT). Exams also give parents a standard of measurement as their children move through the dance syllabus.

The School also benefits from using Exams in that there is a technical standard set for the school; it gives us a valid credential that is measurable internationally. Our teachers always have a high standard and work hard for and with the children but the exam program adds another dimension. The impending exam forces the teacher to require a certain standard from every child taking the exam. She can't let the child enter the exam underprepared. Even the dancers who do not take the exam are benefiting from this preparation because the standard of the whole class is rising.

The fees for exams are paid to the international associations. No money is retained by the School except that which pays for the pianist who plays for the Exams.

## More Information about Exams for 2006

**1) Envelopes with the exam fee information will be given out for RAD (ballet) exams during the week before the Xmas break. They will be needed back to the teacher by January 14. (Exam dates are usually in mid-May but the RAD decides on the examiners' tours after receiving all entries so we won't have confirmed dates until April.)**

**2) ISTD (Modern) letters will go out during the last week of January to be returned by February 17th. (We are asking for exam dates in April)**

**3) AIDT (Tap and new this year, Hip Hop!) Info will be sent out in February, returned in March for a June exam date.**

*Have you noticed that sometimes you don't really make a final decision until it's time to hand over your money? It has happened in the past that a parent has indicated to the teacher that she would like her child to participate in the exam but has not paid by the deadline. Then this parent (&/or child) has felt free to change her mind. Meanwhile the Studio has sent in the non-refundable payment to the examining body, not wanting the child to miss out. For this reason we will no longer send in a child's name for entry unless the exam fee is received.*

*The teachers invite students they feel will benefit from either an exam or presentation experience. You and your child will then decide whether he/she would like to proceed. You may want to consult with your teacher if you're not sure what to do. It will also help your teacher if you let her know your decision, even if you decide not to take the exam.*