



Carlson's School of Dance

March 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

- **About Winning**
- **A Parents' Guide to Costume Policy**
- **Dance Class Photographs**
- **What's Happening in March**

website

www.carlsons.ca

email

info@carlsons.ca

Address

3272 Sherman Road
Duncan, BC
V9L 4B4

Phone

746 6456

Fax

746 6475

ABOUT WINNING....

At this time of year with the Cowichan Festival upon us and with more festival competitions coming up, it might be helpful to discuss winning and losing. When I watch the competition I often pick out a winner only to find that my choice doesn't win. Judging dance is a subjective process. Since I am not a trained dancer or teacher, I find that I can't reliably recognize the abilities that the adjudicator is looking for. We know it as "technique" and it's what our dancers are working on in their dance classes. It includes their hand and head movements, the depth of their pliés and their turnout, the strength of their arm positions and their pointed feet, the height of their jumps and the number of repetitions in their turns. But it also involves the strength through their body's core and the placement of their body while performing the many dance moves. A dancer may compromise her placement in a jump for instance, while trying for height or go for a triple turn but not land it in the proper position. I also find that I don't recognize the level of difficulty of a dancer's choreography, especially if she makes it look effortless.

Besides a dancer's technical ability, a great deal of behind the scenes work goes into producing a winning dance presentation. She has to know her choreography and perform it with energy and focus. The costume should suit the choreography, be appropriate for the age of the dancer and not distract her from her performance. Also, on the day of the performance, it's great if the dancer is in good spirits or at least, doesn't have the 'flu.

And then you throw in that unknown quantity, the Adjudicator. When you've heard the adjudicator say that this is "only one person's opinion, on one day" it is the absolute truth. We expect that every dance professional has an overall ability to evaluate a dancer's performance but beyond that there are many variables. Each has different priorities and preferences about what to look for in a performance. There are so many ways to look at the dancer's 2-3 minutes on stage, I can't begin to list them. I've seen a dancer awarded first for excellent technique even though she forgot part of her dance; I've also seen a first place presented for a wonderful, energetic stage presence even though the dancer's technique was not strong. Junior dancers, who have not had time to build their technique, will be judged more on their performance quality but when they reach intermediate they should expect to be judged more on technical ability. But I've also seen the opposite happen!

The difficulty with our small festival is that our dancers all know each other and this makes it a little harder to handle the winning and losing part of it. Our senior dancers set a wonderful example of grace during competition but that comes from their years of experience in smilingly accepting criticism while the audience looks on and congratulating their friends with a hug when they win. It's more difficult for younger children who are just learning about this. So, who will win at the Festival? It's impossible to predict the outcomes. All a dancer can do is work hard on her choreography, try hard on stage to show the technique she has learned in class, put as much energy and personality into her performance as she can and hope for the best. Good luck to everyone. Anything can happen.

A PARENTS' GUIDE TO CARLSON'S COSTUME POLICY

When you enrol your child in one of our dance classes, you are committing your child not only to a weekly class, but to participation in our year-end dance recital and, possibly, participation in a performance for the Cowichan Music Festival.

Dance is a performance art and our goal for the annual recital or festival is to present a high quality dance performance. One integral part of all dance performances is "costume".

The cost of costumes is not factored into the monthly fees for dance classes. The cost of costumes will vary from year to year, dance class to dance class.

In an effort to assist the instructors in planning, and paying, for the costumes each year, a costume deposit for each of your child's dance classes is due at registration. The current costume deposit is \$40 or \$60, depending on your child's age and type of class. The costume deposit may be paid by cheque post-dated to October 15 (or Nov. 15 for those with 3 or more classes).

Please note that our collection of a costume deposit does not necessarily mean that the deposit will fully cover the cost of your child's costume. Sometimes the deposit may cover the cost of fabric but you may have to pay a seamstress to sew the costume together if you are not able to sew yourself. You may have to pay more to cover the full cost of the costume or you may have to purchase some items yourself (such as a certain colour of tights or accessories for the costumes) .

In the event your child's costume costs less than the deposit, you will receive a refund.

Your child's teacher should be able to tell you the cost of each costume and whether any refund will be payable to you, or whether you will have to pay more for the costume. The instructors reserve the right to withhold a costume from a student if full payment for the costume is not made in a timely manner.

If your child quits dance and will not be performing, the costume deposits will not be refunded to you if the deposit has already been spent on your child's costume. However, if your deposit has not been spent on your child's costume, then you will receive a full refund.

DANCE CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

Each year Carlson's arranges for pictures to be taken of every dance class wearing their recital costumes. Individual photos are also available. The photos are similar to those taken for sports teams and are taken by LifeTouch Photography from Parksville.

*Pre-Pay Envelopes will be distributed with the May Newsletter. You can decide which pictures you would like for each class, for example, a group, an individual, a page of 5 individuals, etc. Fill out the envelope, put your payment inside and hand it to the photographer on Picture Day just before the pictures are taken. More details about picture choices, the pre-pay envelopes and a schedule for the day will also be available in the **May Newsletter**. Take a look at the May 2010 Newsletter (p.3) on our website if you are curious. The process this year will be the same.*

*Picture day will be on Saturday, May 28 starting at 9:30 a.m. and will continue throughout the day. **Costumes must be ready for Picture Day**. The Pictures will be available during the Rehearsal Week before the Recitals and at Registration in September.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH?

Feb 28– Mar 1. The Dance Section of the Cowichan Music Festival at the Cowichan Music Festival.

*Friday, March 4. **ISTD Modern Jazz Intermediate Exams** .*

*Sunday, March 6 at 7:00 pm. **Vocal and Dance Gala** at the Cowichan Theatre.
Reserved Seating: Adult \$10; Child \$8.*

*Wednesday, March 9 at 7:00 pm. **Highlights Concert** at the Cowichan Theatre.
Reserved Seating : Adult \$14; Child \$10.*

*Friday, March 25. Ballet Victoria presents **CARMEN***