

Dear Parents,

**2025 DANCE SHOWCASE ‘THE GREATEST SHOW’**

This letter contains important information about our forthcoming show ‘The Greatest Show’.

The following dates and venues have been confirmed for the show.

**SUTTON COLDFIELD STUDENTS** - Technical and Dress Rehearsal SATURDAY 5TH JULY 2025 (MORNING) – Sutton Town Hall, B73 6AB (times tbc)

**SUTTON COLDFIELD STUDENTS** - 2 x Performances SATURDAY 5th JULY 2025 (times tbc) – Sutton Town Hall

**SOLIHULL STUDENTS** - Technical and Dress Rehearsal SUNDAY 13th JULY 2025 (MORNING) – Albany Theatre, Coventry CV5 6JQ (time tbc)

**SOLIHULL STUDENTS** 2 x Performances SUNDAY 13TH JULY 2025 (times tbc) – Albany Theatre, Coventry

All pupils (including preschool and dinky disco) are invited to take part in the show and our summer term will be dedicated to learning routines for this. All pupils from Grade 4 and above and our adults are expected to perform at **BOTH** venues/weekends. Students must commit to **BOTH** rehearsal and performances to take part.

Both venues have ample parking close by.

**PERFORMERS REGISTRATION FORM:** There is now a Performers Registration Form to be completed online on our website, any student (child or adult) is required to complete this before 16th February 2025 to be included.

Due to increased theatre hire costs, and new legislation regarding licensed chaperones backstage we are unfortunately having to charge a performers fee. We now have to have 1 licensed chaperone for every 12 children back stage. The license costs money to obtain from some councils (despite being voluntary) and we feel it is unfair to ask parents and carers to pay this so will use the performers fee to cover this cost. The fee will be £20 per performer, however, will be reduced to £5 per additional performer if from the same household.

The completion of the Performers Registration Form and payment of the Performers Fee will secure their place in the show. The Performers Fee should be paid in cash in a separate named envelope to your receptionist or teacher.

Please make sure that you let us know as soon as possible if your child is not taking part as a lot of effort goes into setting positions and it can be unfair to the child if they are set in a position and then at a later date, we have to withdraw them.

*If your child cannot take part, please don’t worry about what will happen to them in class, they will still learn the routines along with the rest of the class alongside their normal lessons. It is still great fun to be involved learning them and teaches valuable performance skills.*

**COSTUMES:**

To reduce costs this year we will be hiring one costume for the students dance and buying another. Hiring costumes worked well previously. however we know there were quite a few disappointed children who missed having a costume to take home afterwards, so feel that this is a good compromise.

To spread out the cost of the costumes we are operating a costume deposit system; **We will require a non- refundable £25 deposit per child, per dance style (i.e if your child attends ballet and tap they will be in 2 routines which will require a costume each. This will therefore require 2 deposits £25+£25= £50). As stated, this is non-refundable once the costume has been ordered.**

The deposits will then be deducted from the final costume balance. If your child’s costume is cheaper than £25 then we will refund you the difference. We estimate that each bought costume will cost approximately between £30-£60, and hire should be between £15-£25.

Costumes are a huge part of the showcase, and we do our upmost best to make these affordable as well as work well on stage. The students also get to keep one of their costumes after the showcase. We understand that showcases can be an expensive time and it is for this reason that we only do our dance shows biennially unlike other dance schools who do several a year. We therefore hope that you will commit to purchasing the costumes in good faith and we won’t have to chase parents for outstanding balances.

**Please complete an online Costume Form on our website www.balletdance.co.uk and please return your costume deposits in a clearly named envelope by Friday 21st March 2025 so that we can order the costumes over the Easter break.**

**EXACT CASH ONLY - NO CHEQUES OR BACS PAYMENTS PERMITTED FOR THE COSTUME DEPOSITS!!!!!**

The majority of the students will be requiring 2 costumes plus a finale costume which will consist of our Arabesque t-shirt and black bootlegs, black socks and black jazz shoes or black school pumps. Please indicate on your costume envelope if you already have this outfit otherwise you will be charged for it.

All students will be required to wear the finale outfit to and from the theatre. Own clothes are not permitted.

**Remember there will be a £25 cash deposit required per dance, per costume.**

**LICENSED CHAPERONES & PARENT VOLUNTEERS:** A separate letter will be distributed for anyone who can commit to be a licensed chaperone or parent volunteer. If we do not get enough licensed chaperones, then the show cannot go on. It is as simple as that. Please support your child and the school by volunteering. It is a hard but very rewarding job and those that have done it before will agree that it is a great feeling to be a part of the backstage team that creates what you see on stage. A Chaperone Registration Form will need to be filled in online for anyone interested in being a licensed Chaperone, Enhanced DBS Dresser or Parent Volunteer.
\* Please note that it can take upto 4 months to be approved as a licensed chaperone from your council.

\*\* Please also note that we require male volunteers as well for our male students.

**TICKETS:** Information about tickets and how to get them will be given out after the Easter holidays. The venues can seat approx. 427 (Sutton Town Hall) and 600 (Albany, Coventry) people per performance and once we have a total number of children involved, we can work out the ratio of tickets available per child. By splitting the venues, it has enabled us to reduce the number of performances but still guarantee tickets for every student.

If you have any queries at all about anything in this letter or to do with the show, please email Miss Louise on louise@balletdance.co.uk.

The Biennial dance showcase is a very exciting time for all students, and we thank you in advance for your continued support. We couldn’t do it without you.

Many Thanks

Miss Michelle and Miss Louise and the team at Arabesque School of Dance.