

## DANCE AUDITION GUIDELINES & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For more information on **performances**, **key dates** and **dance auditions** please refer to our website

### AUDITION INFORMATION FOR DANCE APPLICANTS

- Applicants should arrive **at least** 30 minutes before scheduled audition time.
- Students applying for entry are auditioned in a classical ballet class. This may be followed by other dance activities. Applicants may be required to attend a second audition - this will probably be the following day.
- All auditionees are required to have some knowledge of classical ballet, however, students considering entry into years 7 and 8 with limited classical ballet skills are still encouraged to audition – the audition is structured to accommodate differing levels of training. Auditions include contemporary dance.
- All applicants must wear soft ballet shoes and girls in Years 8-12 should also bring pointe shoes if they have previously done pointe work.
- All applicants should wear normal training clothes. Girls should wear pink tights and pale coloured leotards. Boys should wear tights and a white leotard or T/shirt. All applicants should bring a tracksuit for walking around the building, and may need a tracksuit for contemporary or creative work. Girls should wear 'split sole' pink tights in order to work barefoot when required.
- No set dance or syllabus work will be required.
- Applicants may be asked on the day of audition, to undergo a physical examination by a qualified physiotherapist appointed by the school. A charge of **\$80.00 (cash)** will be payable at the time of consultation. Results of the physiotherapist examination will be provided to the audition panel.
- The applicants may also be required to undertake physique testing conducted by dance staff.
- School reports **MUST** be included with the Audition Application. **NB All applications and their contents remain the property of VCASS and will not be returned to applicants.**
- Applicants should note that it is **not** the policy of the school to give feedback on auditions. An email will be sent on August 24 advising you of your audition result. This will be followed up with an enrollment and information pack sent by post.
- Please note that car parking facilities are **NOT** available on the school campus. Parking is available at the National Gallery of Victoria carpark, at the Australian Ballet Centre or on the street.

***Specific year level audition groups and times will be notified via email after applications are closed.***

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How do I apply to study at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School?**

Entry to the school is by audition only. The online Application form will be available during Term 2 from late April and is accessible only from our website at [www.vcass.vic.edu.au/entry](http://www.vcass.vic.edu.au/entry) We strongly recommend that applicants read through the application form and make sure you understand the documents required in pdf format and follow instructions carefully. Also read carefully through the rest of the following Q and A to help facilitate a calm audition day.

### **What documents do I need for the Online Application Form?**

To complete the Online Application Form you need to include family details of names, addresses, phone numbers, school subjects, various dance studies, experiences, and other data. You also need to scan and upload a copy of the following documents: e.g. **A** - School Report from the second half of the previous year, **B** - School Report from the first half of the current year, **C** – Doctors medical certificate for fitness to train and other forms.

### **What are the panel looking for in the dance audition?**

Our panel assess each applicant on their potential to train at our school. This includes skill level in classical ballet as well as physical attributes in flexibility, coordination, control, musicality, ability to comprehend and remember dance movements, also overall physical suitability for a comprehensive high level training program. We also look at maturity, openness, and experience, and where best to place the applicant within our school. No single aspect means an automatic YES or NO in the audition. It is a competitive audition with others applying for positions in the school.

### **What to expect on the audition day and in the dance audition?**

All auditionees are welcomed at the registration desk at their allotted time 30 minutes prior to audition. They are then directed to our cafeteria and from there the auditionee will be taken to a change room and then a warm up room by one of our senior dance students under the supervision of the dance Audition Coordinator. After they are warmed up and their number is pinned on, they are then taken to the audition studio to commence a 'basic' ballet class in front of the panel. Following ballet class auditionees will be asked to participate in a short contemporary dance sequence and sometimes short sequences of other movement styles. No set work is required. In total the audition should be completed in under 1.5 hours though it can take longer when there are very large numbers, therefore many groups, or pauses for other groups.

Auditionees will normally have two current students demonstrating at the front of the class. This helps them to feel relaxed and more confident throughout the audition process.

At the conclusion auditionees will be taken back to the change room and the audition coordinator will announce the 'call back' list of students. Auditionees will then return to parents waiting in the cafeteria. If you have received a 'call back' you will be required to complete further testing by our physiotherapy team and a further class which will include 'pointe' for girls (not Year 7 and only if previously studied for Year 8/9). If you have not been given a 'call back' your audition is over. Unsuccessful auditionees may choose to audition again the following year.

### **What dance or Syllabus exam standard do I have to be?**

Classical ballet training, whether it has been studied and learned through syllabuses such as RAD, Cecchetti, ATOD, BBO or any other syllabus is appropriate as they are all based on the same balletic terminology and physiology. Ballet is used as the training method at VCASS as it enhances the students overall physicality and benefits all the other dance forms. As a guide for auditionees - a good criteria would be a minimum of one year's ballet training before applying to audition at VCASS.

### **At what age can I apply to audition for a place?**

Students in Years 6-11 are welcome to audition for entry into Years 7-12. Students entering Year 7 should turn 12 years of age by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **What fees and costs are involved to audition?**

In 2018 the audition application fee was AUD \$80.00

Call back auditionee - physiotherapy consultant fee is AUD \$80.00

### **What are the normal hours for a dance student?**

Our regular school day Monday - Friday runs from 8:30am – (5.00pm) 5.30pm, (Dancers usually arrive at 7:45am to warm up before class on dance mornings) **Year 7** students generally finish at 3.45pm and **Year 8** students occasionally finish at 3.45pm.

The regular school timetable is structured around a two-part day - one half specialisation and one half academic study with additional specialist time from 4.00pm - 5.30pm daily. Senior students have specialist study on Monday morning with academic study in the afternoon – this alternates daily through the week for all levels.

Elective programs run after normal school hours and on Saturdays; a majority of our students participate in these programs.

Students are required to attend and/or perform at approximately 12 evening dance performances per year. We may require students to attend 2-3 Saturdays in Term 3 for rehearsals or performances.

### **What are the daily dress requirements?**

There is no academic school uniform however dance students have a strictly enforced dress code for dance classes and performances. In terms of hair styles, the school is comfortable with hair choices that are not extreme and appropriate hairstyles for class and performances.

### **Can I still attend and train at my old dance school?**

No. The simple reason, VCASS dance training is very intense and specifically structured to train for a vocational pathway in dance. The VCASS day is very long and physically taxing for young dancers, along with coping with the pressures of a full academic curriculum. Through past experience it has been proven to be too difficult a prospect for a young dancer and it creates unnecessary conflict and exhaustion with the real risk of injury for the student in such a high expectation program.

## **DANCE CURRICULUM INFORMATION**

For further information on the Dance Curriculum, please refer to the Dance Curriculum Handbook on the school website.

**Elective RAD and Cecchetti Syllabus classes are offered on campus, at an extra cost, twice weekly including Saturday**