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The St Albert Ballet Academy INC will be offering Royal Academy of Dance ballet classes with a fully registered and qualified RAD Teacher. Here is some information about the RAD, what it means to be taking RAD ballet classes and a little information about our instructor:

History of the Royal Academy of Dance

The Royal Academy of Dance was founded in London, England 1920 by a group of eminent dance professionals who represented all of the principal ballet training methods of the time. These professionals were concerned about the quality of ballet teaching at that time and wished to create a body which could create a standard for ballet training. This body was to be known as the 'Association of Teachers of Operatic Dance'. Over the next decade the association grew and in 1935 the association was granted a Royal Charter and became the Royal Academy.

The Royal Academy of Dance today

Today the Royal Academy of Dance is an organization setting the standard for dance teaching and performing worldwide. It has 15,500 members across 82 countries and 37 offices in many countries around the world.

The RAD sets a worldwide standard for the teaching of classical ballet by offering ballet examinations. These exams are available to ballet students from those young children just starting out to the student aspiring to become a professional dancer. No matter what level the student benefits from the RAD system, RAD qualified teachers are trained not only in ballet technique but also anatomy, injury prevention, child psychology, dance history, choreography, dance notation (a form of shorthand for dance movement) giving the student, whether recreational or vocational, the best and safest possible ballet instruction. The RAD exams provide goals to be worked towards and once attained the students feel a real sense of achievement. The Royal Academy feels strongly that it is important for every student to have an achievable goal. Therefore, there are different levels of examinations on offer to students depending on which exam suits the individual. These options are examination or presentation, involving the study of either the graded or vocational syllabus.

The Royal Academy of Dance Examinations are recognized globally and the Vocational Graded Examinations are accepted by international ballet companies and international dance academies. Ballet is very often perceived to be just a recreational activity, which to many students will be but what a wonderful, healthy, fun pastime it is! However, there are other opportunities to be gained from having formal RAD training. With the RAD syllabus those who have the talent and the inclination to pursue a career in the field of ballet have the option of working around the world or at home. There are many vacancies both in performing and teaching still open around the world thus showing that there is a need for fully qualified dancers globally.

Exams and what they mean for you and your child

The Graded Examination Syllabus

The graded syllabus consists of three different components; classical, free movement and character dance. These syllabi begin at the level of Pre-primary, which is followed by Primary and then range from Grade One – Eight.

The graded examinations are an achievable goal for the majority of students in which the ballet teacher will determine when a student is proficient enough at their level to achieve this goal. Success in the graded exams can provide the building blocks to the vocational graded syllabus depending on the student's capability.

The Vocational Graded Syllabus

Students wishing to study for the vocational graded syllabus should have the type of body that can respond to demanding study. Students must be able to concentrate for long periods of time and be able to accept and welcome constructive comments and corrections.

The Vocational Graded Exams begin at Intermediate Foundation and continue as follows; Intermediate, Advanced Foundation, Advanced One, Advanced Two, Solo Seal Award.

Ballet Instructor at the Saint Albert Ballet Academy

The St Albert Ballet Academy INC is proud to present Sophia Leong (MA, BA Hons, RTS, LRAD) as its ballet instructor. Sophia trained at the College of the Royal Academy of Dance in London, England. After studying such subjects as Classical Ballet Technique, Anatomy, Psychology, Choreography, Dance History, Répertoire, Music for Ballet, Laban Notation as well as continuing her own ballet training at the Royal Academy of Dance for three years. Sophia received the ballet teaching qualifications of BA Honours Degree in the Art of Ballet and is a fully registered RAD teacher, she was also awarded the Licentiatehip of the RAD. Sophia has nine years of teaching experience in both the UK and Canada and has graduated with an MA in Ballet Studies at the University of Surrey, Roehampton, Surrey, England. She is the first of two ballet teachers in Canada currently to hold a Masters Degree specifically in Ballet Studies. Sophia also has extensive experience of the day-to-day running of ballet schools, entering children for the Royal Academy of Dance examinations, where all the students entered have been successful, as well as directing and choreographing ballet productions (She has directed and choreographed children's productions of 'The Nutcracker' and 'Alice in Wonderland' as well as producing and choreographing many elegant ballets).

