



SCHOOLS INFORMATION BOOKLET

COUNTRY WEEK 2024

DANCE

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WELCOME ... to Country Week Dance 2024!

Country Week Dance is made possible by the generous support of the State Government of Western Australia, through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and School Sport WA (SSWA).

This information booklet has been compiled to provide you, as the dance coordinator or supervising teacher, with information to help you best prepare for Country Week Dance 2024 and to ensure that both you and your students have a positive experience at the event.

This booklet contains information on the Dance program that will be delivered this year, that follows on from the successful model implemented in 2023 and the teacher and student feedback that was received in relation to it.

I encourage and highly recommend that you read this booklet thoroughly to familiarise yourself with the event. This will help to ensure that your students have a fulfilling and fabulous dance experience as participants in Country Week Dance 2024.

If you have questions please phone or email me at:

Mob - 0417 176 581

Email - rolanda.geneff@education.wa.edu.au

We look forward to welcoming and meeting everyone at the King Street Arts Centre on Monday 24th June for the start of Country Week Dance 2024.

Please make your way directly to KSAC at the conclusion of the SSWA Country Week Opening Ceremony.

(Please consult the Dance program for timings – which can be found under the Country Week 'Fixtures' section of the SSWA website.)

Warm regards

Rolanda Geneff

SSWA Country Week Dance Coordinator

COUNTRY WEEK DANCE

School Sport WA (SSWA) together with The Dance Collective and associated choreographers, will present Country Week Dance 2024 from Monday 24th June to Friday 28th June, at King Street Arts Centre (KSAC).

AIMS

Country Week Dance aims to provide our regional students with:

- the opportunity to engage in dance development and with highly experienced dance professionals;
- a safe learning environment that promotes their personal growth, team work and collaborative dance skill development;
- a healthy competitive environment where each student / school team is challenged to achieve their personal and collective best;
- the opportunity to enrich their dance experiences through participation opportunities in a professional dance venue;

Country Week Dance also offers regional dance teachers / coordinators the opportunity to participate in the provided workshops for their own professional development, as well as providing invaluable networking opportunities.

All students taking part in Country Week Dance 2024 will receive a participation certificate.

Each school is required to provide SSWA with a complete list of all participating students and teachers /coordinators for Country Week Dance 2024 - along with teachers /coordinators 'contact numbers.

THE COUNTRY WEEK DANCE TEAM

Charisse Parnell, Director of TDC (The Dance Collective) has been engaged by SSWA as the Artistic Director for Country Week Dance 2024.

CHARISSE PARNELL



Charisse has danced and choreographed professionally for TV commercials, films, fashion parades, opening ceremonies and corporate shows.

Some of her many collaborations include Guy Sebastian, The Veronica's, Jessica Mauboy, Tim Campbell, the WA Youth Awards, StyleAid, Oasis Ball, Gold Plate Awards, Telethon, summer camps in New York as well as adjudicating festivals, talent shows and breaking competitions.

Her training in Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Tap and Ballet includes the Contemporary Dance Centre (Perth), Broadway Dance Centre (New York) and Pineapple Studios (London).

Charisse holds a Bachelor of Arts (Marketing and the Media), a Diploma of Education (Primary Teaching) and has won state-wide awards in recognition of the highly successful dance program she coordinated at Rossmoyne Senior High School from 2002-2006.

As a passionate educator she has won state-wide awards, been nominated for Australia of the Year, lectured at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) and the University of Western Australia (UWA), written for the Curriculum Council, delivered professional development workshops for teachers across WA and worked as a TEE marker and consultant for the Department of Education and Training.

Currently Creative Director and owner of TDC (The Dance Collective), one of Perth's premier dance training centres and performance companies, Charisse loves to inspire, uplift and grow people of all ages and abilities. Through Charisse's professionalism and kindness, many people have transpired to a world of new possibilities.

Charisse will bring together a team of some of the state's most experienced teachers of dance, who are passionate about working with young people, to deliver what will be valuable and memorable Country Week Dance program.

SASKIA HARMAN

Originating from Perth, Saskia has a solid foundation in ballet and contemporary dance.

In 2014, she was accepted into Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) and attained a diploma and advanced diploma in dance. She later joined Queensland Ballet's pre-professional program, performing in productions with the company.

Saskia continued her studies at WAAPA, completing a Bachelor in Arts (Dance) and shortly thereafter secured her first full-time dance contract in Germany.



Saskia decided to redirect her focus to academics and earned a Bachelor of Health Science degree, specialising in Nutrition Bioscience. Today, Saskia combines her dance background and nutrition expertise by working as a dance nutritionist and dance teacher.

JULIA FLORENCA



Julia has trained extensively in a variety of dance styles. Specialising in Ballroom & Latin dancing, which she began at the age of four, Julia competed interstate and internationally for six years, achieving both state and national titles.

In her teenage years she joined The Dance Collective, training in jazz, lyrical and hip hop. Julia then auditioned and moved to Sydney to attend Brent Street, gaining her Diploma of Dance in Performing Arts. Her full-time training expanded her skills in jazz, commercial, hip hop, musical theatre, heels, contemporary, lyrical, ballet and tap.

Julia returned to Perth in 2022, adding in street Latin; salsa, bachata and merengue to her range of styles. In 2023 and 2024 she performed and choreographed for Perth Fringe Festival and more recently has become a standout professional dancer for numerous corporate events and awards nights.

Julia's passion for dance is infectious and she loves to share her knowledge and experience with people of all ages and abilities.

G.MADISON IV

G.Madison IV (@gmadison4) was born in San Diego, established in LA and is now fostering talent in Australia and Japan. G Madison's impact spans borders with his performance students in multiple countries.

With 18 + professional years in the entertainment industry, G tackled live theatre (including Perth productions of FAME, CHICAGO, A CHORUS LINE), in nationally syndicated commercials & TV shows (THE GRAMMYS, ELLEN, BILLBOARD AWARDS, LIP SYNC BATTLE, PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS & McDONALDS).

Success hit hard as a commercial actor and international pro dancer (RIHANNA, LADY GAGA, ALICIA KEYS, KENDRICK LAMAR, CAMILLA CABELLO, CHAKA KHAN & GREENDAY); celebrity choreographer (MARIAH CAREY, MEGAN THE STALLION, ALUNA GEORGE, CHE'NELLE & SMOKEY ROBINSON).



Currently living in Australia with his family building his M.A.D.E. Performance Coaching Academy, G passionately brings his positive attitude and professional experience to every opportunity and production he can get his hands on.

DANCE PROGRAM CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

A workshop-focused program has been a successfully implemented model for Country Week Dance since 2013.

This year's format allows students to learn a range of new skills across 3 different dance genres, while gaining confidence as they progress throughout the week.

The Country Week Dance program in 2024 will include the genres of Commercial Contemporary and Latin Fusion.

SCHOOL TEAMS / GROUPS

- Based upon the number of registered students, we have created 3 groups comprising of 4 school teams each, with up to 32 students in each group.
- Each individual school team can have a minimum of 6 members and a maximum of 10.
- Each team will be required to participate in a daily warm up / stretch, choreographic workshops and a rehearsal session, for the first three days.

- Students will use choreographic devices to manipulate the choreography learnt during the week, to present as their Competition Showcase. No additional choreography will be required.

NB. Students are **not required** to create any new dance work in their own time for presentation to an adjudication panel at the end of the week.

During rehearsal sessions the Artistic Director and Choreographic Workshop Leaders will be available to offer support.

Teachers /supervising staff are encouraged to allow their students to work independently without their assistance.

OUR HEALTHY COMPETITION ENVIRONMENT

Country Week Dance is a competitive event and as such the program has been structured to promote a *healthy* competitive environment. All school teams are expected and encouraged to take on practices that characterise healthy competition. These practices include (but are not limited to):

- always doing one's best (consistent effort)
- enjoying the creative experience
- striving to learn / acquire new skills
- working hard as an individual in a team
- participating positively
- striving to improve oneself (personal growth)
- supporting other teams
- ensuring that learning and improving skills are the central goals - rather than winning.

It has been demonstrated that students who embrace these practices throughout the week will have a positive and rewarding experience.

SCHOOL TEACHERS / COORDINATORS

SSWA and TDC recognise that Country Week Dance is a great opportunity for professional development and networking for dance teachers/supervisors.

As such, teachers/supervisors are invited and encouraged to participate in the classes and workshops with their students - should they wish to do so.

Regional teachers / coordinators of each school are required to be present in the venues at all times - as attended by their students

MUSIC

TDC will select and provide the music for the rehearsals and Competition Showcase.

SSWA / TDC will provide a copy of the Competition Showcase music to each team during Country Week Dance, for rehearsal purposes.

PLEASE TEXT YOUR EMAIL CONTACT TO 0417176581)

VIDEO and PHOTOGRAPHY

School teams are only permitted to video the Competition Showcase performance of each short work - as performed by their own students.

Videoring of any aspect of the workshops themselves is not permitted.

* The SSWA Country Week Coordinator and Charisse Parnell from TDC may take photos during the workshops and performances.

(Please advise Rolanda of any privacy issues regarding any of your students)

DUTY OF CARE / VALUABLES

The duty of care of the students remains with the school's respective accompanying teacher / supervisor at all times

SSWA and KSAC cannot take responsibility for students 'or teachers'/supervisors' valuables during their attendance at and participation in Country Week Dance.

Please take the necessary precautions in our shared use spaces.

ASSESSMENT AND ADJUDICATION

Each team will be assessed / adjudicated on:

1. Workshop participation and skill acquisition
2. Overall participation and conduct
3. Competition Showcase Performances

WORKSHOPS

The choreographers will award points to each of the school teams during the workshops throughout the week.

Points will be awarded for each school team's:

- Punctuality, focus and commitment (attitude and effort), responsiveness to feedback
- Ability to collaborate, take risks and extend their movement comfort zones.
- General "dance etiquette" (no chewing gum, no food consumed in studios, hair off the face, no chunky jewellery and wearing appropriate dance clothing.)

REHEARSALS

The Artistic Director and / or Choreographers will award points to each of the school teams throughout the week, during the rehearsals for:

- Team work / collaboration
- Responsiveness to feedback
- General dance etiquette

The points awarded during the workshops and rehearsals will be tallied and put towards the final scores on the day of the Competition Showcase.

COMPETITION SHOWCASE

The Performance Showcase will be held on the morning of **Thursday 27th June at King Street Arts Centre - Studio 3.**

Students MUST wear their respective school PE or school dance tops on this day.

An adjudication panel will deliberate on the performances of the three dance genres covered during the workshop week (Commercial, Contemporary and Latin Fusion). Points will be awarded for each school team's:

- Stage Etiquette
- Creativity
- Technique
- Performance Quality

PRESENTATION OF WINNING TEAMS

Only the first and second place winners, as well as the recipients of encouragement awards, will be announced at the SSWA Closing Ceremony presentation at HBF Stadium.

SSWA will post the final rankings to schools following Country Week.

GUIDELINES

SSWA and TDC have developed guidelines for the Dance Teachers/Coordinators involved in Country Week Dance.

This is to allow for the varying levels of dance experience of staff and to ensure that each team is working under the same conditions for the week.

Teams that do not adhere to these guidelines will be penalised

Teachers/Coordinators:

- Be positive role models for all students
- Encourage positive interaction amongst all students
- Create a positive environment for students
- Allow organisers / choreographers / adjudicators to conduct the event smoothly
- Follow Country Week guidelines and requirements set by SSWA

Role of Dance Teachers/Coordinator

The role of the Dance Teacher/Coordinator during Country Week Dance is to supervise their students at all times and to assist in workshop / rehearsal management.

They may assist their teams with the following tasks in all workshops / rehearsals:

- Operating music
- Polishing choreography:
 - identify discrepancies in movement detail;
 - provide technical feedback on movement (point your feet, soften landings);
 - identify count discrepancies.
- Act as mediator in any potential disagreements amongst their dance students

*(Teachers /supervising staff are **not to provide any feedback to their students during the Competition Showcase**)*

Dance Students

- Students are encouraged to wear clothing that allows them to dance freely and comfortably.
- A school PE shirt / dance uniform or common colour worn by ALL students of a team is required for school teams to be easily identified from other schools during the week.
- Students are to wear sneakers for Commercial and have bare feet for both Latin Fusion and Contemporary workshops.
- Costumes are not a requirement for the Competition Showcase
- Students / teachers are welcome to bring a yoga mat for the warm up/ stretch and conditioning classes.
- Students are encouraged to work well both as an individual and as part of a team, at all times
- Treat all other students politely and respectfully
- Follow guidelines and requirements set by SSWA
- Enjoy the experience and have fun!

Audience & Spectators

- Allow event coordinators and associated staff to conduct the event smoothly.
- Demonstrate positive support of all student performances.

- Respect the other competing teams and their supporters.

EVALUATION & FEEDBACK

SSWA will distribute evaluation forms to obtain feedback from the participating schools, during the event. These will be completed by both staff and students.

This feedback is of great value and importance to SSWA, to ascertain how successfully we delivered the program this year ... and to make improvements for future Country Week Dance Programs.

TRANSPORT AND PARKING

Transportation and parking is the responsibility of the school.

King Street Arts Centre (Studios)

357 - 365 Murray Street, Perth

Enter via main entrance on Murray St. or pedestrian access via Munster Lane, off King St.

Parking Facilities in Perth CBD

There are no reserved on-site car parking bays.

The City of Perth's parking local laws are applicable to the streets and laneways around the KSAC.

A map of near-by public car parks is located below.

CAR PARK MAP

