

BALLET AT SHILLEENA'S DANCE ACADEMY

Dear ballet parents and students,

9th November 2011

After careful consideration and research, I have decided to change the classical ballet syllabus we teach from the current Royal Academy of Dance syllabus (RAD) to the Southern Federation of Dance ballet syllabus (SFD). I have not made this decision lightly, as I have trained in RAD ballet my whole life. However, over the past few years, I have felt that the changes that the RAD has made are not suiting our students and the philosophies of our school.

There are many advantages to changing to doing SFD for ballet, jazz and tap. These include...

- All exams at one time of the year for grades and majors (end of June)
- Exams are less expensive and can all be held at our studio
- Candidates will receive detailed comments on their exam reports including positive feedback as well as constructive criticism (not just a mark out of 10)
- There will be no external vacation schools enabling us to run our own vacation schools/workshop weekends, where we can use our own teachers and bring in guest teachers, at less cost to parents
- In terms of future pathways for students, SFD has great teacher training programs and courses, at a fraction of the cost of those offered by other syllabi

In changing over, the levels are comparative however the class may be called a different name. For example, Intermediate Foundation RAD is equivalent to Pre-Elementary SFD. The timetable will be the same as our "After the Concert" timetable, with no one having to change grades unnecessarily. However there are a few minor changes (those of which are detailed in the timetable attached).

SFD does not assess character in their examinations, but we will still do character elements in class and in the 2012 concert. SFD does examine "demi-character" dances for younger grades (wearing ballet shoes but portraying a characterised story), which we think will be lots of fun and an added new element for our students.

The ballet uniform will remain the same for all students excluding those in Primary RAD. These students will need to purchase a Lilac leotard if they wish to do an exam (same as current RAD grade uniform). Up until their exam they can continue to wear their pink leotards. We will also be picking a set leotard for Major levels closer to exam time. Major students can continue to wear a leotard of any colour and style in class.

I'm confident that this change will have a positive effect on our students, as it is still challenging, very beautiful and sets a good grounding in technique throughout the syllabus. The standard of teaching at SDA is not going to be impacted by this change. All SDA teachers are trained RAD dancers, so we will still use exercises and principles from that syllabus. We will, however, now combine it with the SFD syllabus so that our students stay well rounded in technique, strength and flexibility.

If there are any students particularly interested in completing the required RAD levels to pursue teaching of the RAD syllabus, we can still offer this as I will remain qualified to enter students in RAD exams. Please do not hesitate to ask me if you are interested in this.

This change will become effective from Term 1, 2012. For the rest of the year we will be doing a combination of RAD, SFD and open technique in class.

Please see the attached sheet for a comparison between RAD and SFD levels and prices. If you have any questions or feedback that you would like to share, please call or email me.

Yours through Dance
Shilleena

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RAD & SFD Ballet Comparisons:

Current Level	New Level	Lessons Per Week	RAD Exam Prices 2011	SFD Exam Prices 2011
Pre-Primary RAD	Pre-Primary (<i>Keep Pre-Primary & mix it with Primary RAD – no exam</i>)	One	-	-
Primary RAD	Grade 1 Ballet SFD	One	\$67	\$52
Grade 1 RAD	Grade 2 Ballet SFD	Two	\$73	\$52
Grade 2 RAD	Grade 3 Ballet SFD	Two	\$83	\$57
Grade 3 RAD	Grade 4 Ballet SFD	Two	\$90	\$57
Grade 4 RAD	Grade 5 Ballet SFD	Two	\$97	\$62
Grade 5 RAD	Grade 6 Ballet SFD	Two	\$101	\$62
Grade 6 & 7 RAD	Grade 7 Ballet SFD	One	\$113	\$72
Grade 8 RAD	Grade 8 Ballet RAD (<i>Keep RAD level 8 & mix with an open class of this level after exam</i>)	One	\$117	-
Int. Foundation RAD	Pre-Elementary Ballet SFD (pointe starts)	Two	\$153	\$92
Intermediate RAD	Elementary Ballet SFD	Two	\$163	\$97
Advanced 1 RAD	Intermediate Ballet SFD	Two	\$289	\$107
Advanced 2 RAD	Advanced Ballet SFD	Two	\$304	\$172
-	Pre-El./El. Level Open Pointe Class	One	-	-
Open Pointe	Int./Adv. Level Open Pointe Class	One	-	-
Teachers Exam RAD	Teacher's Exam SFD	-	\$12,000	\$1,195