

Dear Dancers/Parents/Guardians

Our annual Dance Night is quickly approaching. This year we are presenting a concert dance production celebrating Canadian artists for Canada's 150th Birthday! This year's performance is called – *Expression of the Soul!*

Dates for the performances are May 24th, 25th, and the 26th at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for students and seniors and \$15 for adults. Friday night tickets are all \$15 since it has been selling out the last few years and we are encouraging people to come earlier in the week if at all possible! We suggest that you get your tickets in advance for Friday evening or come earlier in the week to avoid the crowds or being turned away at the door! All tickets are general admission and they will be available for sale in May at the box office during lunch hours and in the main office or at the door the night of the performances. We have already begun preparations for this event and we do hope that you will support the time that goes into these evenings! The students are proud of their efforts and excited to perform for their friends and families. For the most part, the students understand the amount of time needed to create these productions!

The rehearsal schedule is attached. The first week of May is a transition rehearsal week. All students can leave after their piece has been shown and worked on. The second week in May includes only the RHSA Dance Company members or any pieces that need cleaning or extra attention. The third and fourth weeks of May include the whole cast. The week before the show is a run through in the theatre with cue to cue/lighting rehearsals. The final dress rehearsal is on the Tuesday before the performances. With a cast of over 400 students, it is very important that all dancers and the stage crew be at every practice. It is a matter of safety that each dancer is present for each run through. Each dancer should know their class piece and each teacher will go through and highlight their required rehearsals. All rehearsals are mandatory and every student must do all three nights of the performance in order to be involved in the year end performance. All students are given the opportunity to perform but it is a privilege to perform on the big stage, so we ask that students be in all classes. Those that are often absent may not be allowed to perform (at the discretion of the individual teacher). The general rule is that if a student misses three classes or practices from the end of April into the week of the performance, they will not be prepared, or ready to perform. If asked to leave the piece, the student will not be penalized in their grading system. This performance is worth 20% of their Culminating Activity. Adjustments will be made for those not permitted to perform. The final part of the Culminating Activity is a creative study worth 10% and it is to be created in class during the final two to three weeks of classes.

The costumes are mostly supplied by the Dance Department, but there may be a few items that each student will be directed to get on their own. The costume pieces that we ask students to supply are usually a part of their dance uniform that they wear in class (i.e. tights, black pants, black bodysuit, sweatpants, shorts, leggings, shoes, t shirts etc.). Students are asked to get their own make up kit as well since sharing make up is unhygienic and can lead to infections or irritations of the skin and eyes! See the attached list for a makeup kit.

We ask all students to adhere to the costume requirements. Dancing on stage in an ensemble is much like being on a team and the uniform includes the clothing, how one will wear their hair and apply their makeup. It also includes the covering up of all tattoos, as well as the removal of all jewellery. We ask that students not colour their hair brightly, get piercings, and/or tattoos until after the show. It is painful to be rolling around on and usually it inhibits the required movement. The long tradition of dance has everyone sacrificing their individual expression for the collective. Their individuality shall come out in their technical and creative expression on the stage as a performing artist. Also we need to mention that the weather is getting nicer so dancers should avoid sun burns, heat stroke, and risky physical activity that might cause injury and prevent them from rehearsing and performing.

We are not responsible for lost or stolen items during all practices and performances. We encourage students to store their valuables in their lockers, as it is the safest place to keep all personal items. The dressing rooms are in the theatre and in the gyms during rehearsals and performances to accommodate the large numbers in the cast.

We also ask that audience members not film or take any pictures. It is distracting to other audience members and dangerous for the dancers on stage. We are giving the students a professional experience and so we ask the same of our audience. A professional DVD will be taken that you can purchase in June for \$20. Enjoy the theatricality of the evening and see theatre as it was meant to be seen!

I do hope this answers some of the questions you may have and that this information will alleviate any future problems with your teenager's participation in the performance. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the appropriate teacher at the school. 416 393 1580

Thank you

Ms. Marsh

Ms. Spykers

Ms. Brass-Haas