



It's that magical time of year again! Can you believe it!?

For those of you old and new a big welcome to Dancestruck's 2018 Extravaganza! The smell of hairspray is in the air and the studio is buzzing with excitement and anticipation.

But where to start? Well, we've got just the thing! We've compiled a "How To" Guide for our Dancestruck Families to make sure everyone gets the most out of this incredible experience.

Read on to get the inside scoop on what's new, frequently asked questions and updates on the special event....as the Scouts say, "Be Prepared!"

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Where did DanceStruck Concerts start?

When we began doing concert performances 20 years ago our dance school was a lot smaller than it was today.

Our yearly celebration started in a local hall, with costume contributions sewn painstakingly by women who offered up hours their time to ensure our students shone like the stars they knew they were. Most of them by Miss Catherine's fabulous mother Judy who's been a part of the costume making process ever since!

Every sequin hand stitched, every costume made with love and care.

That's one thing that hasn't changed and why we always measure and consider each individual when organising our costumes to this day. To make sure that on their big day, they feel a million bucks.

Moving to the Alexander Theatre in Clayton in 1999 we lit up the stage for quite a few years before we encountered a most wonderful problem, we ran out of room!

Even with three concerts and a large backstage area there was just not enough room for our growing community of dancers. We had to upgrade!

It was from the Alexander we come to where we are today! We've had the privilege of inhabiting the amazing **Besen Theatre in Burwood** for the last 16 years.

800 seats, box office admission, a backstage area that ensures privacy and ease of care for our students and not to mention the staging!!

We look forward to welcoming you there again this year.

Why do we have a concert?

Our reason for showcasing our students every year hasn't changed from the day we started..

It may seem like a very simple question and you're right, really we do it for everyone!

Our students look forward to this day for quite some time, many the entire year! The event not only brings our students together, but our families, our teachers and our community.

It's an expression of who we are, our individual styles and what makes dancing so special. A showcase of hard work, determination, conviction and hours on hours of dedication to discovery of self.

We simply do it for the love of dance.



The Where, When and How.

We've already discussed the incredible Besen Theatre in Burwood:
87/89 Station St, Burwood, Vic 3125

Drop Off:

Our performers need to be dropped off at the backstage door to the left of the venue ready to go (this includes makeup done and hair in a bun)! They will be greeted by our volunteers and teachers and supervised for the entirety of their stay with us backstage and or in the audience in the DanceStruck Student Seating Area. Kinders have other arrangements.

Adults are unable to go backstage or watch during rehearsals due to theatre regulations, safety of our students and in order to ensure your child feels safe & comfortable with their class teacher & group..

Only registered volunteers (see FAQs) will have access to the theatre. DanceStruck staff hold 'Working with Children Check' and First Aid certificates. We are Keep Kids Safe in Dance Organisation.



Pick Up:

For rehearsals, children will be brought through to the foyer area at the front of the theatre for pick up.

For the concert, children can be collected by their parents or guardians at the backstage door, this is again supervised by our registered staff.

What time do I arrive & drop you ask? We'll advise shortly.

Let's get down to the nitty gritty, When is this event!?

'Queue drumroll...

Theatre Rehearsal: Sunday 28th October 2018

Theatre Performance: Sunday 18th November 2018



The Important One:

There is one big question we get every year, and Yes, you do need to attend the rehearsal to attend the Concert. Safety of lighting rigs and stage entrances and exits in wings impacts your child's group - involvement in Rehearsal also gives peace of mind to your child as they know exactly where to go - concert is much more fun when confident!

This one is our golden rule of Concert attendance and we really can't make exceptions (unless medical or extenuating circumstances.)

We know every modern family is different and has a plethora of commitments but attending the rehearsal is not just about staging, orientation, comfort and backstage etiquette but also a commitment to respecting your fellow dancers who also need to address these things, you're a team! It is just ONE day a year that we celebrate your child's love of dance onstage

Now onto Costumes!

Kinder Families please go to the Kinder Corner further down for more on your Programs "Must Haves".

Our costumes are sourced by the studio for our dancers, each item takes time, care, and we measure each student individually so we can help them shine! No Sewing for our parents - YAY!

Costumes vary in style & price and can cost anywhere from \$60-600 each so we wanted to ensure this cost was not passed to our families, so we have introduced a blanket hiring of costumes for our performances.

In each term invoice, you will see a Production Levy has been charged that contributes a portion to concert performance costumes. A skin toned body stocking must be worn at all times in accordance with Australian Health & Safety guidelines, and be sure to have the correct stockings for each costume, e.g Fishnet for Tap and Pink Ballet tights for Ballet!

For Hip hop students, no levy was charged as your teacher will fill you in on what to wear!

Make-Up Stage lighting and special effects tend to 'wash out' young faces. Light Foundation, natural eyeshadows, mascara & Ruby Red lipstick works best for a natural look, again your teacher will advise depending on performance number.

[Each class is different click here for makeup information for your class.](#)

Struggle with hair? Please, no doughnut buns!

[Click here for tips on how to do a perfect Ballet Bun.](#)

Going to a new venue can sometimes be a little scary for little ones...

Click here for 10 Tips to help you beat Separation Anxiety

What is Photo Day?

Exactly that! We wanted to make sure that parents and performers alike have the opportunity to capture their spotlight moment forever, in full costume of course!

The shoot itself is free of charge, and these photos can then be purchased by family to take home.

Our Photographer is Dance Photography Award Winner Belinda Strodder. [Click here for more of her work.](#)

Photo Day is on the 8-9th November 2018 at the Clayton Studios. We'll keep you posted on times and must dos, so stayed tuned!



Kinder Corner

Your child's first experience is important and over the years we have developed ways to ensure a lovely positive memory is created

As usual we'll take the utmost care with our Kinder Program students, and make sure they see the magic backstage with our volunteers and teachers there every step of the way.

Now this is a big one, when you organise your tickets for the Concert please ensure you organise your FREE kinder ticket for your little one too. Due to fire regulations they cannot sit on your lap so we've organised this for you free of charge for the second half of the Concert.

Details will be emailed to you before Ticket Sale Day on Oct 28

As we measure our costumes to order, and due to sizing, we do require families to purchase their little one's costumes for the Kinder Program. This is reflected in your term invoices. You keep your costume and no body stocking is required for kinder students.

Make up is definitely not compulsory. We also don't recommend stage makeup for young dancers, at most a little lip gloss will be more than enough if they would like to feel a bit glam for the day.

Our kinders are supervised side of stage when they arrive (they will not be placed with the Primary school dancers - our little ones need a quiet space to be with their class friends and get ready. Our Kinder students will dance in the first half & can be collected at Interval by one (1) parent.

Kinders receive an onstage 'curtain call' before the end of the first half

Our Event Co-Ordinator will advise if anything else is needed but please make sure to read our FAQs below first.

Now we're sure you have a few questions after all of this so let's see if we can give you some more information below.

1. Do we have to participate in the Concert?

Not at all, this is definitely your family's choice, it's a great experience but we do realise it is a large commitment so please let us know ahead of time if this is the case.

2. What time do performers have to be at the rehearsal and concert?

It changes depending on class, click here for details.

3. What do they do when they're not performing?

Performers during the other items will be escorted to the top balcony where they can watch the rest of the show with their peers, supervised by volunteers of course.

If you want them to sit with you instead, you will need to arrange your own ticket for them, this is only possible if they're only in the first half of the concert.

4. How do I volunteer to help backstage?

Let the office know ASAP. All volunteers do require a "Working with Children Check" which is free of charge and please keep in mind, you may not be necessarily be helping with your child's class. Contact us at office@dancestruck.com for more.

5. Does my child have to stay for the whole thing? Or can they leave when they're done?

Kinders please refer to your corner, other students will need to stay backstage until the end, as we cannot have a rotating door of children going in and out due to safety regulations.

6. Can my child bring a dance bag with them?

To avoid lost bags, shoes etc we do not allow a dance bag backstage unless children are in more than one item. We highly recommend labelling each item in the bag too.

7. Can they bring food/snacks with them?

Due to known food allergies, no food or drinks are allowed. We supply water but please ensure dancers have had a filling meal before attending the venue.

8. Can I watch rehearsals? Or film the Concert?

Due to theatre regulations no public admittance is allowed due to privacy and technical safety concerns.

Child protection Laws Prohibit the filming of public events in theatre (other than licensed Companies with License to do so.

We have secured HDDL Productions to film our event.

This professionally edited footage will be available via downloadable link.

Please note Patrons caught filming the concert risk being escorted from audience by theatre staff and forfeiting their ticket.

9. Is there Parking nearby?

Sure is, The Besen Theatre has an onsite car park (fee charged by venue at exit is \$4.00 **cash** per car), just keep in mind due to the volume of people leaving at once at the end of the performance to be courteous on exit and allow extra time.

10. How do I buy tickets? Tickets go on sale Sunday 28th October

[Click here to buy your tickets!](#)

- Due to Theatre Policy Australia wide, children are not permitted to sit on an adult's lap.
- We welcome all ages to the performance, however it is recommended for children over 3 years of age, due to the length of the concert (2hrs) & various production effects, such as bright lights and loud music.
- Ticket costs are determined by costs associated including theatre hire purchases, backstage supplies, special venue insurance fees for each student, copyright fees for public performance, rehearsal day hire of theatre, lighting and sound crew fees, staff fee, Production Crew etc.