

The Joanne Banks Dancers - Curriculum Vitae

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Dance School Information

The Joanne Banks Dancers were formed in 1990 by professional dancer and choreographer Joanne Banks. In 2001 they moved into their own, purpose built studio, Studio 10, where they rehearsed their most recent dance production, 'One Day Like This' which was performed at Darlington Civic Theatre in July 2013.

The JBD's currently have over 200 pupils of all ages from 2½ to 64 years of age. Classes are offered in Tap, Modern Jazz, Theatre Craft, Ballet, Gymnastic Dance, Musical Theatre, Street Style, Performance and Dance Fitness and pupils are trained to the highest possible standards for their age group with the emphasis being on performance skills and technique.

All dance teachers at the school are Associates of The International Dance Teachers Association and work hard to get the best possible standard from the pupils they teach.

Performance Background

The Joanne Banks Dancers have performed with many different companies and in varying productions. These include:

- The National Youth Music Theatre
- The English Youth Ballet
- Dionysis Theatre Company
- National tour of 'Evita'
- National campaign to promote school dinners!
- 19 pantomime seasons at the Darlington Civic Theatre for Qdos Entertainments
- 5 pantomime seasons at Durham Gala Theatre for Pantoni Pantomimes
- 10 summer dance productions at the Newcastle Playhouse
- 8 summer dance productions at Darlington Civic Theatre

The Joanne Banks Dancers have received much praise from each of the choreographers/directors they have worked with. They have been commended on their performance skills, ability to pick up routines quickly and accurately, their conduct and behaviour. Each year, within the school, a scholarship is given to attend the summer school of a prestigious London dance college. In recent years several pupils have been nominated for International Theatre Dance Awards: 10 in Tap, 3 in Theatre Craft and 2 in Ballet. Many former pupils are now at full time performing arts schools, several are working professionally in the west end, in dance and musical theatre tours and on television (please see the 'Spotlight' section of our website to see more about our ex-pupils)

Additional Information

We employ only the best professional teachers, administration staff and chaperones that are not only experienced in working with children but also have a good theatrical background. Please see our Child Protection, Equal Opportunities and Health and Safety policies on display on our notice board for further information about our dedication to safety and your child's well-being.

The Joanne Banks Dancers have been awarded Recognised School Status by The Council for Dance Education and Training (CDET), one of only 120 dance schools in the UK. This is awarded to pre-vocational dance schools that have shown continued commitment to professional standards of practice. Our certificate can be seen displayed on the studio notice board.

At The Joanne Banks Dancers the emphasis is upon creating performers not only teaching them how to dance but also building their confidence and inter-personal skills. Dedication, team-work, independence, hard-work and enthusiasm are qualities we encourage in all our students. We believe that dancing is fun and exciting and to be enjoyed by everyone.