

# 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 and with their wealth of experience and proven track record consider themselves to be the North East's Premier Theatre Dance School.

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.

In May 2015, the company celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a spectacular Silver Ball held in Durham and a breath-taking commemorative show staged here at the Civic Theatre. The show, entitled, 'A Night To Remember' played to packed houses and received three standing ovations from the captivated audiences!!

The Joanne Banks Dancers are affiliated to the Council for Dance Education and Training through their Pre-Vocational Recognised Schools Status. This status is only awarded to dance schools that have shown exceptional commitment to standards in dance, teaching, health, safety and training. The teachers at The Joanne Banks Dancers are members of the International Dance Teachers Association (IDTA) and offer both syllabus and non-syllabus classes.

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.

## Classes and Styles

'**Tiny Dancers**' classes have been specially designed for babies, toddlers and pre-school aged children. From 6 months to 3 years our 'Baby Jingles' and 'Little Wigglers' classes are a great way for mums and babies to enjoy music and movement together in a caring and relaxed environment. Our 'Boogie Babies' and 'Twirly Tots' classes are specially designed to appeal to pre-school children and look at the basics of movement, dance, rhythm and performance.

'**Just Dance**' classes are available from 4 years and pupils can enjoy a range of subjects including tap, modern jazz, theatre craft, ballet, gymnastic dance, musical theatre, street style and performance. Our Pop Dance Academy is available for those children over 9 years who just want to learn the latest moves and dance! In addition to this, The Joanne Banks Dancers is the foremost provider of after-school clubs and curriculum support for both Primary and Secondary schools in the North East area.

'**Dance On**' classes are for dance and fitness loving adults of all ages. With the emphasis on fitness and fun we offer the following classes; Zumba, Funky Fitness, Stomp and Beat and Boot Camps. The 'Phoenix Dance Group' is for ex-professional level dancers who want to get back into dance. We also offer Wedding First Dance coaching and corporate/workplace classes.

## Performance Background

The Joanne Banks Dancers have performed with many different theatre companies including Qdos Entertainments, The National Youth Music Theatre, Pantoni Productions, Dionysis Theatre Company and The English Youth Ballet, and have been involved in over 25 seasons of professional pantomime (we estimate over 225 of our students have had the opportunity to perform in a professional pantomime in this time!).

Many pupils of the school have gone on to full time dance or performing arts courses and then into professional careers in the entertainment industry. Our ex-students can be seen on TV, in west-end and touring musicals, performing on cruise ships, in cabaret and presenting on Gems TV!

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.

Pupils at the school have received numerous nominations for International Theatre Dance Awards. 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.

***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.***