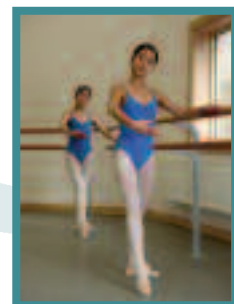


# Dance training

The artistic faculty comprises trained teachers, all former professional dancers and expert teachers from companies and vocational schools worldwide, who can share with students the benefit of sound technique and an extensive repertoire. Our accompanists are inspirational and the custom-built studios are a joy for dancers. These studios are arranged around the central core of the theatre, which affords students the opportunity to develop their artistry, dramatic expression and ability to communicate with an audience in dance performance. Students gain from the experience of working with choreographers of international standing, both in the studio and in rehearsal for the school's large-scale productions.

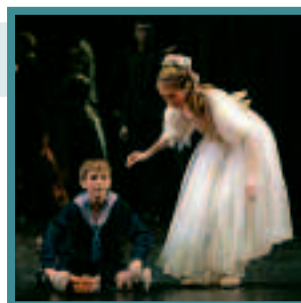
Students are chosen for their love of dance, allied to flexibility, musicality and intelligence. Lower School students wishing to pursue a career in classical ballet are encouraged to remain at Elmhurst for the Sixth Form.



Students are appraised as they progress through the school. Those whose technique does not show the expected level of progress by their Year 9 and Year 11 appraisals are offered every support and assistance in exploring alternative schooling that would better serve their needs.

The Lower School offers a five-year course for students aged 11 to 16; the Sixth Form offers a three-year vocational ballet programme and a one-year pre-professional & post-graduate course; selected students may be offered the opportunity to take part in the school's Apprenticeship Scheme with Birmingham Royal Ballet (final year of three-year course). The Sixth Form is open to students who wish to enter full-time vocational training at 16 years old as well as those already studying dance at Elmhurst or other vocational schools. The one-year pre-

professional course is open to pre-professional students for their final year of study, post-graduate students and professional dancers who have had time-out through injury or illness, and overseas students interested in enhancing their career opportunities.



*Meeting Sir Peter Wright and taking part in his Birmingham Royal Ballet production of The Nutcracker (with BRB's Assistant Director Desmond Kelly, BRB Soloist and former Elmhurst student Victoria Marr, and BRB Principal Rachel Peppin)*

### **Auditions and funding**

All potential students must audition for a place. Auditions are held in Birmingham and at venues throughout the UK (subject to Company touring schedules), with some auditions also undertaken overseas. (Arrangements can be made for overseas students to submit a prescribed audition videotape or DVD.)

Students offered a place at Elmhurst, who have been resident in the UK for the previous three years, may be eligible for financial assistance through the DfES Music and Dance Scheme. This covers all, or a proportion of the fees, on a sliding scale based on parental income. British and other European students may be eligible for a Dance and Drama Award to defray the expenses of the Sixth Form three-year vocational course.

# Dance training 2 contd

## Lower School curriculum

### Years 7 and 8

Classical Ballet  
Choreographic Workshops  
Coaching  
Creative Dance & Music  
Dance Studies  
Dance Styles  
Irish Dance  
Jazz Dance (Tap Year 8)  
Sthenos Programme

### Year 9

Classical Ballet  
Choreographic Workshops  
Coaching  
Creative Dance  
Dance Studies  
Dance Styles  
Jazz Dance  
Pointework (girls)  
Sthenos Programme  
Tap Dance  
Virtuosity (boys)

### Year 10

Classical Ballet  
Classical Repertoire  
Choreographic Workshops  
Coaching  
Contemporary Dance  
Dance Styles  
GCSE Drama  
Jazz Dance

Pointework (girls)  
Sthenos Programme  
Tap Dance  
Virtuosity (boys)

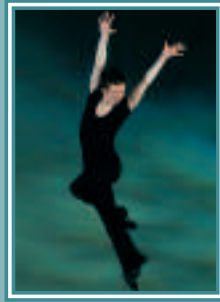
### Year 11

Classical Ballet  
Coaching  
Classical Repertoire  
Contemporary Dance  
Dance Styles  
Jazz Dance  
Partnering Skills  
Pointework  
Sthenos Programme  
Tap Dance  
Upper Body Training (boys)  
Virtuosity (boys)

- Elmhurst also offers Lower School students extra-curricular opportunities from time to time and guest teachers and lecturers are regularly invited to the school.

- All students are advised to take the Saturday RAD syllabus classes as this allows them the possibility of participating in a variety of examinations and competitions recommended by the school.

- Please note: this curriculum is subject to constant review.



## Sixth Form professional dancers' and post-graduates' course

Sixth Form students are accepted for their physical facility and aptitude. These are the essential qualities necessary to complete an intensive training such as that required to meet the ever-increasing demands of dance companies. By the end of this three-year programme, students should have developed the range of techniques, artistry, self-belief and maturity to accept responsibility for their own progress within a major dance company and should know an expanded repertoire of classical and contemporary works.

Sixth Formers study for the National Diploma in Professional Dance, awarded by Trinity College, London. This is a Level 6 qualification, which is recognised on the new Further Education Qualification Framework as the vocational equivalent of an honours degree. It consists of modules that are assessed both internally and externally and moderated externally throughout the three-year course.

### Ofsted Report

The Ofsted (The Office of Standards in Education) inspection report of this course listed the school's key strengths as 'very good and outstanding teaching; highly effective strategic management; high technical standards; high standards of performance in productions; thorough pastoral and academic support; effective staff appraisal'. In addition classes were said to be 'well structured and teaching focuses effectively on each discipline and its particular requirements'.

Students may enter, at the discretion of the Artistic Director, the following competitions: Young British Dancer of the Year, Phyllis Bedells Bursary, Solo Seal Award, the Molly Lake Award and the Adeline Genée.

### Summary of Course

Duration of course: three years, full time

Entry: application, audition and interview

Minimum acceptance age: 16 years (in certain circumstances, students aged 15 may be accepted but these students are ineligible for Dance and Drama Awards)

Funding status: students may be either self-funded or be in receipt of a Dance and Drama Award

External qualifications (optional): RAD Major Executant Examinations; Exercise for Children with Child Development and Child Psychology.

# Dance training 3 contd

## Sixth Form Curriculum

First and Second Years

Classical Ballet

Choreographic Studies

Classical Repertoire and solos

Coaching

Contemporary Dance

Dance Styles

Fencing

Flamenco

Foundation level Pilates

Jazz Dance

Pas de Deux

Pointework and Virtuosity (women)

Virtuosity (men)

Sthenos Programme

Tap Dance

Upper Body Programme (men)

*Also to be studied*

Anatomy, Physiology & Health

Benesh Notation

Cardiovascular Exercise

Contextual Studies, to include:

i) Performance

ii) Technical Preparation

iii) Professional Practice

iv) Development Skills

Drama Workshops

Healthier Dancer Talks

History of Dance

Make-up

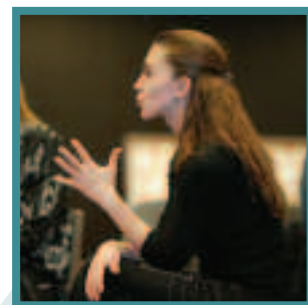
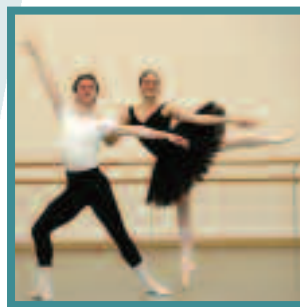
Mime

Musical Appreciation

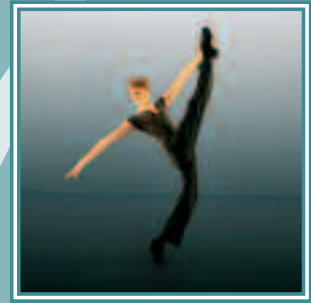
Nutrition

Remedial advanced Pilates techniques

Sports Psychology



Elmhurst students enjoy many talks and lectures from visiting artists, such as BRB Principal Ambra Vallo (right)



### Third Year

Classical Ballet  
Choreographic Studies  
Classical Repertoire and solos  
Coaching  
Contemporary Dance  
Dance Styles  
Jazz Dance  
Musical Theatre  
Pas de Deux  
Pointework and Virtuosity (women)  
Virtuosity (men)  
Sthenos Programme  
Tap Dance  
Upper Body Programme (men)  
BRB Apprenticeship Scheme

#### *Also to be studied*

Contextual Studies, to include:

- i) Performance
  - ii) Technical Preparation
  - iii) Professional Practice
  - iv) Development Skills
- Drama Workshops  
Healthier Dancer Talks  
History of Dance  
Musical Appreciation  
Career Preparation and Management

- Guest teachers and lecturers are regularly invited to assist the young dancers in their studies and to broaden students' professional awareness and extend their knowledge.
- Work placement opportunities often arise but are not guaranteed.
- All students are advised to take the Saturday RAD syllabus classes as this allows them the possibility of participating in a variety of examinations and competitions recommended by the school.
- The option of studying Exercise for Children with Child Development and Child Psychology is offered. Success in these subjects allows students to apply for entry onto the Register of Exercise Professionals and gives them an internationally accepted qualification allowing them to deliver exercise classes to children.
- Please note: this curriculum shows the planned study for 2006/07 and is subject to constant review

# Dance training 4 contd

## **Pre-Professional / Post-Graduate Course**

The course in Classical Ballet and associated subjects offers intensive vocational training and education to prepare dancers for auditions and a professional career in dance. It is suitable for pre-professional students in their final year, professional dancers who have had time-out through injury or for other reasons, and graduate or overseas students who seek to enhance their audition opportunities.

Performance opportunities are numerous, both in our own theatre and at professional venues. All the students benefit from our association with Birmingham Royal Ballet. There are opportunities to join Company class and discover what a professional dancer's life is like. Many students will have the opportunity to perform with the Company, and we have pioneered an Apprenticeship Scheme with Birmingham Royal Ballet which is an important element of the final year of training.

Graduates are given guidance on preparing their Curricula Vitae and the collation of an appropriate portfolio prior to auditioning for professional engagements during their final term at Elmhurst.

Elmhurst's Dance Faculty comprises teachers who have danced with international companies and who are well placed to guide, inspire and polish graduates' performances with their own passion for dance. There are also opportunities for participants to be seen by Elmhurst's numerous visitors and guests, including many professional dancers and choreographers.

### **Summary of Course**

Duration of course: one year, full time

Entry: application, audition and interview

A tailor-made programme is prescribed to meet each individual's perceived strengths and weaknesses, and to meet any specific needs if recovering from an injury.



## Pre-Professional / Post-Graduate Course Curriculum

*Will be individually tailored, but will include:*

Class work and performance  
Masterclasses  
Turning techniques  
Musicality  
Corps de ballet and soloist repertoire  
Pointe work and virtuosity (women)  
Upper body work and virtuosity (men)  
Pas de deux  
Remedial / preventative exercise and healthcare programmes

Sthenos  
Performance anxiety / relaxation technique  
Advice on preparation of CVs / portfolios and auditions  
Audition technique  
The option of RAD classes, Pilates courses and Exercise for Children qualifications are also offered.

