

CDTA Exams -- Information Sheet

Background of "CDTA"

CDTA stands for Canadian Dance Teachers Association. It has been around since 1949 and is a network of dance instructors. They have branches in the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. CDTA aims to raise the standard of dance and dance teaching in Canada as well as promote friendship and exchange of ideas among dance teachers.

CDTA exam syllabus

The exam syllabus is comprised of different levels in tap, jazz and ballet. At Diva Dance we offer classes in 8 different tap and jazz levels, and 3 different ballet levels. Students are taught and tested on the set choreography for each grade. This choreography includes work at the barre, travelling work, floor work, rhythm work, stretch sequences and dancing combinations. Students take their exam by performing for the examiner. Dancers enrolled in the CDTA program show significantly improved technique in their dancing. Dancers are not only taught how to execute the dance steps properly but also how to simplify them in order for them to eventually become teachers. We strongly encourage capable dancers to enroll in this program.

Practice

Preparation for the exam requires a lot of practice outside of class time. Exam classes should not be taken lightly. Students are expected to review their exam work at home between classes. It is a good idea for dancers to get a duo-tang or a binder for their exam sheets. Making notes and highlighting the sheets will help with their studying at home. Dancers will benefit if they bring their dance duo-tang or binder to class each week. This will allow them to make notes on details the teacher is focusing on.

Preparation

Dancers will only be permitted to take the exam if the teacher feels they are ready. We strongly believe it is in the dancers best interest to be held back by the teacher rather than receive a "retry" from the examiner. Each dancer is marked individually so the other students' progress has no impact on your child's results. Teachers will keep parents updated if the students need to practice more at home. The decision of whether or not your child is ready to write the exam will be made in November. Parents will be invited to watch their child's progress before this decision is made.

Rehearsal

There will be a "practice exam" to give the dancers an idea of what the actual exam will be like. Miss Shayna will conduct the tap and jazz practice exams at the Grenfell Hall and the ballet practice exams in Regina at the Dance Plus studio. Dancers will receive a progress/report card at their practice exam so they know what areas need improvement before the real exam. Dancers are expected to wear their proper exam attire to the practice exams.

Exam Dates

Diva Dancers will all take their exams in the winter session. Exams will be at the end of January/start of February. Typically ballet exams are the last weekend of January and the tap and jazz exams are the following week – first week of February. Ballet exams take place on a weekend in Regina at the Dance Plus studio. Tap and jazz exams take place during the week at the hall in Grenfell. We cannot provide confirmed dates until the exam co-ordinator notifies us of the examiner availability. Tentative/possible dates are put on the dance calendar until we have confirmation.

Attire for the Exam

Dancers are required to wear a red Diva Dance bodysuit and black tights into the exam with their black tap or jazz shoes. For ballet exams dancers will wear pink tights and pink ballet slippers. Hair must be pulled back into a bun and the dancer must not wear make-up. The bodysuit and tights can be purchased with the costume order.

Additional Costs

The cost for the exam bodysuit is approximately \$35.00. This bodysuit can be worn for several years as long as students don't outgrow it. This will be billed sometime before Christmas, either with costume payments or separately depending on stock. There is also a small fee to write the exam. The fee increases with each grade. The first grade, Primary, costs \$40.00 and the final grade, Advanced, costs \$100.00. This will be billed in November once each student has been evaluated and it's determined that he/she is ready for the exam.