



WA CLASSICAL
BALLET TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION INC.

SWAN LAKE SUMMER:

Beyond the Barre

BEYOND STEPS BEYOND CORRECTIONS BEYOND THE BARRE

A collaborative ballet experience—
reimagined for today's dancers,
teachers and families

Integrating technique, artistry and
understanding to develop confident,
expressive and resilient dancers.

INFORMATION PACK FOR

Parents ♥

11–15
JANUARY
2027

PERTH
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA



ELITE TRAINING



CHOREOGRAPHY
& DANCE-MAKING



EBAS INTEGRATION



DIALOGUE &
COMMUNICATION



More than training
IT'S TRANSFORMATION ♥



11–15 JANUARY 2027
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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SWAN LAKE SUMMER: Beyond the Barre

Parent Information Pack

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WELCOME	3
WHAT MAKES SWAN LAKE SUMMER DIFFERENT?	3
WHO IS THIS PROGRAMME SUITABLE FOR?	4
THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE PROGRAMME.....	4
SUPPORTING DIFFERENT BALLET PATHWAYS	5
THE ROLE OF PARENTS.....	6
PARENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS	6
UNDERSTANDING CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNICATION.....	7
WHAT IS EBAS?.....	7
CHOREOGRAPHY AND DANCE-MAKING	8
CREATING A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.....	9
PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS	9

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in SWAN LAKE SUMMER: Beyond the Barre.

This programme has been created as a unique and thoughtful alternative to the traditional ballet summer intensive.

Led by internationally respected master teacher Scott Putman, Swan Lake Summer has been designed not only to support technical growth, but also to nurture communication, artistic understanding, confidence, creativity and healthy relationships between dancers, teachers and families.

At the heart of the programme is a simple belief:

Ballet training should develop the whole dancer — not only technical skill, but awareness, expression, resilience and understanding.

This information pack has been prepared to help parents understand the philosophy behind the programme, the structure of the experience, and the ways in which the programme seeks to support young dancers and the families who care for them.

What Makes Swan Lake Summer Different?

Many summer schools focus primarily on technical training and performance outcomes.

While technical excellence remains an important part of this programme, Swan Lake Summer has been intentionally designed to go further.

The programme integrates:

- Elite ballet training
- Artistic exploration and musicality
- Choreography and dance-making
- Embodied understanding of movement
- Communication and reflection
- Dialogue between students, teachers and parents
- Healthy and sustainable approaches to training

This creates an environment in which dancers are encouraged not simply to reproduce movement, but to understand it.

The programme is designed to help dancers:

- Build confidence and self-awareness

- Understand corrections more clearly
- Develop greater ownership of their learning
- Connect technique with artistry and expression
- Build healthy communication skills
- Feel supported within a collaborative environment

Who Is This Programme Suitable For?

Swan Lake Summer is suitable for:

- Intermediate and advanced ballet students
- Recreational dancers seeking artistic growth
- Students considering pre-professional pathways
- Teachers interested in observation and professional development
- Parents wanting greater understanding of the ballet training environment

Swan Lake Summer also includes a separate series of fun and educational ballet classes run specifically for young students aged between 7 and 10, which will incorporate the core principles and philosophies of the programme. This will include participation in morning EBAS classes.

The Philosophy Behind the Programme

Swan Lake Summer has grown from conversations about what young dancers truly need in today's training environment.

Many dancers work incredibly hard, yet often experience:

- Pressure and anxiety
- Fear of making mistakes
- Difficulty interpreting corrections
- Confusion around expectations
- Challenges balancing training with wellbeing
- Communication gaps between teachers, students and parents

This programme aims to address these issues thoughtfully and constructively.

Rather than viewing ballet education as simply a checklist of technical achievements, Swan Lake Summer encourages dancers to:

- Develop understanding, not just repetition
- Build awareness, not just flexibility

- Explore artistry, not just accuracy
- Learn communication and reflection skills alongside technique

The goal is not to lower standards.

The goal is to create an environment where dancers can pursue high standards while also developing confidence, resilience, creativity and healthy communication.

Supporting Different Ballet Pathways

One of the most important principles of Swan Lake Summer is that every dancer's journey is different.

Some dancers may:

- Dance recreationally
- Pursue examinations and performances
- Aspire to pre-professional or professional training
- Simply love movement and artistic expression

All of these pathways are valid.

This programme does not assume that every student must follow a professional ballet pathway in order for their dance education to be meaningful.

Instead, the programme seeks to support:

- Joy in dance
- Personal growth
- Healthy training habits
- Confidence and self-expression
- Sustainable physical development
- Artistic curiosity

For dancers pursuing pre-professional goals, the programme also offers:

- High-level technical training
- Professional expectations
- Artistic coaching
- Embodied movement understanding
- Communication and reflective skills that are increasingly valued in professional environments

The intention is to help dancers develop not only as performers, but as thoughtful and aware young artists.

The Role of Parents

Parents play a deeply important role in the development of young dancers.

However, many parents often feel uncertain about:

- How best to support their child
- How to interpret corrections or feedback
- How to balance encouragement with pressure
- How to navigate expectations within the dance world
- How to support emotional resilience
- Swan Lake Summer includes dedicated opportunities for parents to engage in these conversations.

This is one of the most unique aspects of the programme.

Rather than treating parents as observers outside the training process, the programme recognises that healthy communication between students, teachers and families can significantly strengthen a dancer's experience.

Parent Dialogue Sessions

Throughout the programme, parents will be invited to participate in selected dialogue and discussion sessions with Scott Putman and other participants.

These sessions are designed to create:

- Greater understanding
- Open communication
- Shared language around training and expectations
- Reflection on healthy approaches to dance education

Topics may include:

- Understanding corrections and feedback
- Supporting confidence and resilience
- Communicating effectively with young dancers
- Navigating recreational vs pre-professional pathways
- Supporting motivation without increasing pressure
- Understanding artistic development

- Helping dancers develop ownership of their learning
- Creating healthy and sustainable training environments

These sessions are not lectures.

They are intended to be thoughtful, collaborative conversations.

The aim is to create an atmosphere in which parents feel informed, included and empowered to support their child's journey more effectively.

Understanding Corrections and Communication

One of the recurring themes explored within Swan Lake Summer is the idea that dancers often hear corrections differently from how teachers intend them.

A correction may be technically accurate, yet still create confusion, discouragement or frustration if the dancer does not fully understand:

- What the correction means
- Why it matters
- How to apply it physically
- How to respond emotionally

Scott Putman's work around "de-coding corrections" explores how communication can become clearer, more constructive and more meaningful.

Rather than simply repeating corrections, the programme encourages dancers to develop a greater understanding of:

- Where movement begins
- How alignment influences movement
- How the body coordinates itself efficiently
- Why certain corrections are given
- How artistic intention influences movement quality

This process can help dancers become more engaged, aware and confident learners.

What is EBAS?

A core component of the programme is the integration of:

EBAS — Elemental Body Alignment System

Created by Scott Putman

EBAS is a series of exercises designed for structural integrity and supported range of motion.

Through anchoring and initiating movements via the pelvis, the body discovers its ability to efficiently articulate movement through experiential anatomy.

Within Swan Lake Summer, EBAS is used to help dancers:

- Develop movement awareness
- Understand alignment more deeply
- Build efficient movement pathways
- Improve coordination and support
- Develop sustainable technique
- Enhance artistic freedom and expression

The emphasis is not simply on “doing exercises”, but on developing a clearer understanding of how movement works.

Choreography and Dance-Making

Another unique element of Swan Lake Summer is the inclusion of choreography and creative exploration.

Students will have opportunities to:

- Explore movement creatively
- Contribute ideas
- Develop artistic choices
- Investigate storytelling through movement
- Engage with Swan Lake in new ways

This process encourages dancers to move beyond imitation and into interpretation and expression.

By participating in dance-making processes, dancers often develop:

- Greater confidence
- Stronger artistic identity
- Increased musical awareness
- More thoughtful movement choices
- A deeper connection to performance

Creating a Supportive Environment

A key aim of the programme is to create an atmosphere in which dancers feel:

- Challenged
- Inspired
- Safe to explore
- Supported in learning
- Encouraged to communicate
- Connected to their artistry

This does not mean lowering expectations.

Rather, it means recognising that dancers often grow most effectively in environments where they feel:

- Seen
- Understood
- Encouraged
- Able to ask questions
- Supported through challenges

The programme seeks to balance discipline and excellence with curiosity, communication and reflection.

Programme Highlights

Participants may experience:

- Ballet technique classes
- EBAS integration sessions
- Choreography and dance-making labs
- Swan Lake inspired creative exploration
- Artistic coaching and musicality work
- Reflection and dialogue sessions
- Parent engagement opportunities
- Teacher professional development sessions

Swan Lake Summer: Beyond the Barre has been created with the hope of contributing to a healthier, more thoughtful and more connected ballet culture.

At its heart, the programme asks:

What happens when ballet training becomes not only technically rigorous, but also collaborative, communicative and deeply human?

We look forward to welcoming dancers, teachers and families into this unique experience.

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11–15 January 2027

Silhouette Dance Studio

159 Onslow Road, Shenton Park

Perth, Western Australia

More than training. It's transformation.

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