



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

Teachers ♥

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

Teacher Information Pack

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Welcome

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

This programme has been created as an innovative and collaborative ballet experience that seeks to move beyond the traditional summer intensive model.

Led by internationally respected master teacher Scott Putman, the programme integrates:

- Elite ballet training
- Artistic development
- Choreography and dance-making
- Communication and reflection
- Embodied understanding of movement
- Teacher engagement and professional dialogue
- Parent and student communication sessions

At the centre of the programme is a belief that ballet education is strongest when dancers, teachers and families are able to communicate with greater clarity, understanding and shared purpose.

This information pack has been developed specifically for teachers, outlining:

- The philosophy behind Swan Lake Summer
- Opportunities for teacher involvement
- The dedicated professional development day
- The potential benefits for students and studio communities
- Scott Putman's approach to communication, movement understanding and artistic development

A Different Kind of Summer School

Swan Lake Summer has not been designed as a standard "masterclass intensive".

While technical excellence remains an essential part of the experience, the programme has been intentionally developed to explore broader questions around ballet education, including:

- How dancers learn
- How corrections are understood
- How communication affects confidence and development
- How artistry and technical understanding intersect
- How teachers, students and parents can better support one another

The aim is not simply to produce stronger dancers for one week.

The aim is to contribute to a healthier, more thoughtful and more sustainable ballet culture.

Why Teacher Involvement Matters

Teachers are central to every dancer's development.

However, many ballet educators work within environments that leave little time for:

- Reflection
- Observation
- Professional dialogue
- Exploration of communication styles
- Consideration of embodied learning approaches

Swan Lake Summer seeks to create space for these conversations.

Rather than positioning teachers as passive observers, the programme invites them into a collaborative process exploring:

- Communication
- Artistic development
- Movement understanding
- Student psychology and confidence
- Sustainable approaches to training
- Healthy teacher–student relationships

The programme recognises the immense knowledge and commitment teachers already bring to their work, while also offering opportunities for fresh perspectives, reflection and shared exploration.

Benefits for Teachers' Students

One of the key focuses of Swan Lake Summer is ensuring that the experience benefits not only the individual students attending, but also the wider studio communities from which they come.

Teachers whose students attend the programme may observe benefits including:

- Increased student confidence
- Greater understanding of corrections
- Improved movement awareness

- Stronger artistic engagement
- Enhanced communication skills
- Greater ownership of learning
- Increased resilience and self-awareness
- Improved understanding of alignment and coordination

The programme encourages dancers to become more active and thoughtful participants in their training process.

- Rather than simply memorising movement, students are encouraged to:
- Understand why corrections are given
- Explore movement pathways
- Connect technique to artistry and intention
- Reflect on communication and learning processes

These skills can positively influence students long after the programme concludes.

Observation Opportunities

Throughout the student component of the program, teachers will have opportunities to observe selected classes and sessions.

Observation opportunities may include:

- Technique classes
- EBAS integration sessions
- Choreography and dance-making labs
- Reflection and dialogue sessions
- Artistic coaching
- Communication discussions

Observation is intended not simply as passive viewing, but as an opportunity for professional reflection and discussion.

Teachers will be encouraged to consider:

- How students process corrections
- How movement understanding influences technical execution
- How communication shapes confidence and learning
- How creativity and choreography support artistic growth
- How dancers respond when invited into deeper understanding rather than repetition alone

Dedicated Teacher Professional Development Day

A unique feature of Swan Lake Summer is the inclusion of a dedicated professional development day for teachers following the student program.

This day has been designed specifically to allow teachers to:

- Explore concepts in greater depth
- Ask questions
- Reflect on observations from the week
- Engage directly with Scott Putman
- Participate in practical movement exploration
- Discuss communication and pedagogy
- Investigate embodied learning principles

Topics may include:

- De-coding corrections
- Communication and student psychology
- Understanding movement initiation
- Alignment and coordination
- Artistic communication through movement
- Sustainable training approaches
- Balancing discipline with psychological safety
- Supporting different student pathways

The day is intended to be collaborative and exploratory rather than prescriptive.

Teachers will be invited into open discussion and reflection around the realities and complexities of contemporary ballet education.

De-coding Corrections

One of the central ideas explored throughout Swan Lake Summer is Scott Putman's work around "de-coding corrections".

Many dancers receive technically correct feedback but struggle to:

- Understand what the correction means
- Translate it physically
- Apply it consistently
- Connect it to artistic intention

This can sometimes lead to:

- Frustration
- Confusion
- Anxiety
- Reduced confidence
- Surface-level technical responses

The concept of de-coding corrections explores how communication can become clearer, more embodied and more meaningful.

Rather than simply repeating instructions, dancers are guided toward understanding:

- Where movement begins
- How alignment influences movement
- How energy pathways function
- How coordination affects execution
- Why artistic intention changes movement quality

Teachers participating in the professional development component will have opportunities to explore these concepts both intellectually and physically.

What is EBAS?

A core element of the programme is:

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 integrated throughout the daily structure to support:

- Movement awareness
- Alignment understanding
- Efficient movement pathways
- Coordination and support
- Sustainable technical development
- Artistic freedom and expression

- Teachers participating in the programme will have opportunities to:
- Observe EBAS integration
- Experience practical EBAS concepts
- Discuss embodied learning approaches
- Explore how movement understanding affects technical outcomes

The emphasis is not simply on exercises themselves, but on helping dancers and teachers develop deeper awareness and understanding of movement processes.

Choreography and Artistic Development

Swan Lake Summer also places significant emphasis on choreography, creativity and artistic exploration.

Students will be encouraged to:

- Make artistic choices
- Explore interpretation
- Develop movement ideas
- Engage creatively with Swan Lake themes
- Build confidence in artistic communication

Teachers observing these processes may gain insight into:

- How choreography deepens understanding
- How creativity supports confidence
- How artistic ownership strengthens performance quality
- How dancers develop expressive identity

The programme views artistry not as separate from technique, but as deeply connected to it.

Recreational and Pre-Professional Pathways

A significant philosophical aspect of Swan Lake Summer is the recognition that dancers follow many different pathways.

Some students may:

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

The programme aims to support all of these pathways thoughtfully and respectfully.

At the same time, dancers pursuing pre-professional goals will benefit from:

- High-level expectations
- Technical refinement
- Artistic coaching
- Embodied movement understanding
- Reflection and communication skills increasingly valued within professional environments

The programme seeks to help dancers become not only technically capable performers, but thoughtful, aware and resilient artists.

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.

Creating a Healthier Ballet Culture

At its core, Swan Lake Summer asks an important question:

What happens when ballet education becomes more collaborative, communicative and deeply human?

The programme seeks to contribute to:

- Stronger communication
- Healthier learning environments
- Greater artistic understanding
- More sustainable approaches to training
- Increased confidence and resilience in dancers
- Stronger partnerships between teachers and families

The intention is not to replace traditional ballet values.

Rather, it is to build upon them with greater awareness, understanding and connection.

Final Thoughts

Swan Lake Summer: Beyond the Barre has been created with deep respect for the ballet teaching profession and the dedication teachers bring to their students every day.

The programme hopes to provide:

- Inspiration
- Reflection
- Professional dialogue
- Artistic exploration
- Embodied understanding
- Practical ideas that can continue to benefit dancers and studio communities beyond the programme itself

We warmly invite teachers to join us for this unique and collaborative 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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