



CDT NEWS 2009

Term 1

Out and about with CDT in 2009

Dance classes

Last year Canberra Dance Theatre offered 13 classes in a variety of dance styles each week and we thought that was good. This year we have a massive increase with 18 regular classes on offer each week, as well as two or three one-off workshops each term. The new classes include advanced level ballet and contemporary dance, and intermediate level hip hop and gypsy. And we are offering Hilal classes – a contemporary Middle Eastern dance style (check it out on the internet). Set against these gains, however we have momentarily lost the contact improvisation class because of lack of availability of a teacher.

Performance

CDT isn't just dance classes ... it is also performance. Last year (and starting from the small-scale performances and going up):

- you (the members) performed at the end-of-term performance parties culminating with the Christmas party at the end of the year
- the belly dancers, gypsies and world fusion dancers performed at festivals including Floriade, the National Multicultural Festival and the Belconnen Festival
- the teachers and a few of their colleagues stunned us with a performance evening during dance week where we saw and experienced their works in progress and
- some of you along with four professional dancers were the highlight of CDT's 30th birthday bash in November – a show with dance, music and illusion in the sculpture garden at the National Gallery of Australia.

Administration

Last year the CDT Board grew to 12 people. This year we are thinking of shrinking it back to eight but calling on a few volunteers to help out with non-Board activities.

Dancing to a different beat

Only ever done ballet or belly dancing or hip hop?

Why not move into something different and lighten up the end of the weekend with a CDT dance workshop?

Try out the rhythms and dance of Africa and the Caribbean on Sunday 29 March at 3 pm with Alison McClean

CDT is also looking for a new Artistic Director. Meg Millband who developed and directed the 30th birthday performance last year has resigned and so this position is open. Anyone know of a good artistic director looking for work?

New this year?

So what will be new this year ... apart from all those classes. The CDT Board would like to see more performance opportunities – particularly by the community dancers. So we are looking to increase opportunities and collaborations with other organisations and individuals. This won't all happen immediately but hopefully this year we will make a start – more news on this hopefully in the next newsletter.

Member insurance

All members of CDT are insured for accident and injury associated with their attendance at dance classes. The *CDT and you* brochure available from the office briefly outlines your cover.

If you are injured in class, please let your class teacher know and ask them to record details in the accident record book located in the office.

Canberra's leading non-profit community dance company

Extra-curricula dance

Also new this year are the one-off dance workshops CDT is running on two or three Sundays in each term. These are in addition to normal classes. The first was held on 1 March with Liz Lea teaching dance and martial arts from Southern India. The second with Alison McClean will incorporate a blend of traditional and contemporary moves, based on the dance and rhythms of Africa and the Caribbean. The workshop will include a full body warm-up, centre work and travelling sequences, improvisation, and cool down.

Keep an eye on your email for workshops in Terms 2, 3 and 4. Nothing is fixed yet but possibilities include contact improvisation, world fusion, character and jazz ballet workshops. Some master or other classes with visiting dance troupes may also be offered.

30th birthday DVDs

Last year was a big year for CDT – thirty years of existence, even if not always in the same form. We just had to do something to celebrate.

And so we had the big birthday bash – an extravaganza with professional and community dancers, original music, stunning site (sculpture garden at the National Gallery), singers, photographic images and instrumentals. Oh and the carillon carolling its stuff on the hour and the half hour, and evening pleasure boat cruise music floating in faintly over the water.

Then it rained. Nearly snowed actually. In November. Show cancelled. Miracle work behind the scenes and the entertainment was re-scheduled to the following two nights ... cold and a bit breezy particularly for the dancers who ended up first paddling and then lying in a long pool of water ... but not absolutely freezing ... for the audience anyway. No, the water for the dancers was not heated at all.

Anyway to cut a long story short, a DVD of the performance has been made and anybody wishing to buy a copy can contact Philip on 0435 025 365. Please do so as soon as possible. At this stage we are not sure of the cost: but cheap because you are all members and getting a discount.

Party Party Party ...

How many of the people in your CDT class do you actually know? What about the other classes? Have you ever seen them dance? And not just in a trial class but when they are really trying to do and be something special.

For all this and more, come to CDT's first end-of-term performance party for 2009 starting at 8 pm in the studio on Friday 3 April.

Bring some food to share (finger food only). CDT will provide drinks – tea, coffee, wine, fruit juice and water. It doesn't cost a thing if you are a member ... but your friends and relatives will have to pay \$5 (unless of course they want to join CDT when they get in free to this party and any others during the year, and can take advantage of any discounts offered for other CDT events).

At the party, you get to strut your stuff; your friends and relatives get to watch. Oh and usually we have some non-compulsory audience dance participation.

Annual general meeting 2009

It's that happy time again when members of the CDT Board (the group of volunteers who work behind the scenes – mostly – to keep the CDT classes and studio running) are thinking about going frantic as they write their reports for the annual general meeting. This year's meeting will be held early in Term 2.

All Board positions become vacant at the AGM and anyone interested in joining should contact CDT Chair Brooke Thomas on 0437 290 776 or the Company Manager Philip Piggin on 0435 025 365. Nomination forms will be available closer to the date.

CDT volunteers – either Board members or those who help in other ways – are rewarded with some freebie dance classes. So think about whether you would like to help. Talk to the class administrators – those people who accept your money and mark the roll at classes – they can tell you what you might be up for.

Canberra's leading non-profit community dance company

End-of-term break

Classes in Term 1 finish on Thursday 9 April – the Easter public holiday eats a bit of the term. Term 2 starts on Tuesday 28 April.

Start thinking now about which classes you are planning to attend next term ... try out the performance class with Adelina Larsson on Monday evenings, belly dance and Hilal on Tuesdays or the gypsy classes on Fridays.

Emergency evacuation

1. Leave by the nearest and most appropriate exit – studio door or windows, foyer door, corridor windows
2. Gather at the evacuation point opposite the CDT entrance and across Kingsley St
3. Before leaving, wait until the teacher or class administrator checks that all people who were marked off the class roll have evacuated safely
4. Help if people are injured or need assistance

Showtime – upcoming ACT dance performances

the machine that carries the soul

Phluxus Dance

Delve into the subconscious with these dancers

3 – 4 April at the Street Theatre

STOMP '09

Clutter and junk of everyday life transformed into pulsating, witty, irresistible theatre

7 – 12 April at the Canberra Theatre Centre

Restless

Cadi McCarthy & Company

Can't sleep? Watch some of CDT's best dancers (and some other really good dancers too) toss and turn, count sheep, drink endless cups of chamomile tea ... lose the plot?

29 April – 10 May in the Courtyard Studio at the Canberra Theatre Centre

Construct

Performing Lines, with choreographer Tania Liedtke

Explore the curious connections between building a home, a life, a relationship and a future – not just the emotional side but also the physical

17 – 19 June at the Playhouse Theatre in the Canberra Theatre Centre

Rhythms of Ireland

Live music and dance blending ancient Irish traditions with contemporary Irish excellence

13 July at the Canberra Theatre Centre

Select Option

QL2

29 July – 1 August at the Canberra Theatre Centre

Sid's Waltzing Masquerade

Sydney Dance Company

A show dedicated to contrasts and extremes

2 – 5 September at the Playhouse Theatre in the Canberra Theatre Centre

Fire

Bangarra Dance Theatre

Celebrating dance with a retrospective spanning 20 years of Bangarra and 40 000 years of Indigenous culture

Canberra Theatre Centre, 20 – 21 November

Canberra's leading non-profit community dance company