



Dance Educator's Handbook  
Version 1.0  
April 2017

## **Introduction to Educators**

Thank you for your interest in Melbourne City Ballet. We wish to introduce you to our Elite Artist Full Time Program. We have provided this guide to assist you in making an informed decision about the suitability of Melbourne City Ballet Elite Program for your student.

## **What is the Elite Artist Full Time Program?**

Melbourne City Ballet's Elite Artist Program is a full time course that works with dedicated ballet students to develop the skills required to pursue a career in Classical ballet. Students attend over a two year period and during this time have the opportunity to gain the following accreditation

- Year 1: Certificate IV Dance (Elite Performance)
- Year 2: Diploma Dance (Elite Performance)

Upon completion students have the opportunity to apply for a third year in which they can achieve an Advanced Diploma Dance (Elite Performance)

- Year 3: Advanced Diploma (by acceptance only)

All accreditations are Under the auspice agreement with Australian Teachers of Dancing (ATOD #31624)

## **Staff**

### ***Michael Pappalardo - Artistic Director***

Qualifications: Adv. Dip Classical Dance, Cert IV Training & Assessment, Adv. Dip Personal Training, Adv. Diploma in Community Services, Diploma in Business Management. Michael is also a member of the Cecchetti society and has over 15 years professional dancing experience. Michael manages the organisation's professional company and oversees the Finishing Year (Pre-Professional Year) Program for the past 3 years.

### ***Yuiko Masukawa - Senior Learning & Development Manager***

Qualifications: Bachelor of Dance (WAAPA), Certificate IV in Training & Assessment, Adv. Diploma Personal Training. Yuiko was originally trained in the Vaganova method and currently works with the students within the Elite Artist Program

### ***Brendan Bradshaw - Senior Learning & Development Manager***

2004-2014 Royal New Zealand Ballet, Diploma of Dance (Australian Ballet School). Brendan was originally trained in BBO and Vaganova, and works with the Finishing Year, Elite Full Time and Junior Extension students.

**James Ferguson - Learning & Development coordinator**

**Kealy Fouracre - Learning & Development coordinator**

**Emma Cheeseman - Learning & Development coordinator**

**Tynan Wood - Learning & Development coach**

**Carolina Pais - Learning & Development coach**

## **Facilities & Premises**

The Elite program works out of our state of the art premises in the Melbourne City Ballet Centre, 5/19 Pentridge Boulevard, Coburg (Melbourne). We have 5 studios over two levels, each with sprung vinyl dance flooring provided by Harlequin Floors and Moreland City Council. The venue

features two recreational areas, fully equipped gymnasium, communal workspaces and an attached café called “The Boot Factory”.

## Environment

Melbourne City Ballet strongly believe in positive reinforcement and providing participants with a platform where they can grow as dancers in a healthy, happy environment. Staff within the Melbourne City Ballet Centre receive training on interpersonal communication skills each year to ensure the experience of the student is a positive and memorable one. We are a family here at MCB and we pride ourselves on not only developing the artistic and technical but also the personal, so that our dancers are being developed in a wholesome nature.

## Program Focus & Content

Whilst studying with the MCB Elite Artist Program students can expect to train in the following:

Technique, pas de deux, theatrical performance, pointe (for females), male artistry (for males), contemporary, character, fitness, personal development, auditioning, CV building, independent artistry and interviewing techniques.

Under the auspice agreement (ATOD #31624), Melbourne City Ballet’s format will ensure the following competencies are available for students to achieve.  
(Units subject to change)

Certificate IV - CUA40113

Unit Code	Description
CUAPRF404	Refine movement skills for performance
CUADTM401	Plan and organise dance classes
CUAWHS403	Incorporate anatomy and nutrition principles into skill development
CUADAN404	Develop expertise in bodyweather and butoh dance technique
CUAWHS402	Participate in gym and weight training for performances
CUAPRF406	Use technique in performance
CUAPRF304	Develop audition techniques
CUADAN303	Develop dance partnering techniques
CUADAN408	Develop expertise in ballet technique
CUADAN409	Develop expertise in contemporary dance technique
CUAPRF405	Rehearse technique for performance
CUAWHS401	Apply movement and behavioral principles to physical conditioning
CUAPPR404	Develop self as artist

Unit Code	Description
CUACHR403	Develop choreography skills

### CUA 50113 - Diploma of Dance (Elite Performance)

Unit Code	Description
CUAMUP501	Apply theatrical make-up and hairstyles
CUAWHS403	Incorporate anatomy and nutrition principles into skill development
CUADAN509	Refine pointe work techniques
CUADAN503	Perform repertoire for corps de ballet
CUAPRF503	Prepare for performances in a competitive environment
CUAPRF501	Refine performance techniques
CUAWHS402	Participate in gym and weight training for performances
CUAACT401	Use a range of acting techniques in performance
CUADAN504	Perform ballet solo variations
CUADAN501	Refine ballet technique
CUADAN502	Refine ballet performance skills
CUAPPR502	Develop own sustainable professional practice
CUADAN507	Refine dance partnering techniques
CUAWHS401	Apply movement and behavioral principles to physical conditioning
CUACHR403	Develop choreography skills
CUAWHS501	Write about dance

### Performance Skills

Elite Students perform 'Studio Sessions' which is performed by all of MCB's training programs at the end of each term. Additional to Studio Sessions there is an annual ballet performed at one of our great local theatre venues. MCB Elite artists 2017 production is Cinderella to be performed at The Clocktower Centre.

### Participant Eligibility

Participants within the Elite Artist Program must adhere to the following eligibility criteria:

Participation in Audition Process, which evaluates technical and artistic ability

-Participants must be able to obtain a visa for study in Australia independently if coming from overseas

## **Syllabus**

The Melbourne City Ballet Elite course does not favor any one syllabus and accepts students from all associations. Our artists participate in open classes which allows for artistic interpretation and requires both concentration and the ability to pick up choreography quickly - this is an important skill for a company dancer and open class is the perfect opportunity for young dancers to hone these skills.

Students have the opportunity to participate in elective classes in either Cecchetti or RAD. Some students may choose to continue syllabus classes through their original primary dance institutions.

## **Commitment Requirements**

Melbourne City Ballet expects that the students attend all of their training periods; Monday - Friday 9 am - 5:30pm , and compulsory Saturday classes between 10:30am - 12 noon.

If not able to attend all classes because of health reasons, a medical certificate is needed to be shown to the Artistic Director .

Holidays throughout the year will be given.

## **Audition & Selection Process**

Auditions for the Elite Artist Full Time Program are held once a year in Brisbane, Melbourne, and Sydney. Overseas entrants can send an audition DVD comprising a Classical Ballet Class a solo in both Classical and Contemporary Technique. All entrants must submit a Curriculum Vitae (CV) with a headshot and full body dance shot. Private auditions can be made via arrangement.

## **Letter of Offer & Educator Correspondence**

After the audition whether or not the student is successful in obtaining placement within Melbourne City Ballet Elite Artist Program, the following will occur:

1. Educator will receive notification of successful/unsuccessful student/s with relevant information regarding the upcoming year (such as dates and information package)
2. A Letter of Offer will be sent to successful student within the next few days

Note: There may be occasions where a position is allocated but due to unforeseen circumstances, students are unable to participate. Where this occurs, a second round offer will be sent to an awaiting applicant, resulting in additional correspondence being issued to the student and educator.

All participants within the auditions should receive correspondence to advise of the outcome within 14 days. Where no response has been received, it is highly recommended to contact our office for information.

## **Course Fees**

2018 Currently under review

## Uniform

Elite students wear a compulsory uniform which is made available via Melbourne City Ballet Shop.

First Year: White Leotard

Second Year: Lilac Leotard

## Standard Day Outline

Time	
9AM - 9.30AM	Arrive, Stretch and Warm Up
9:30AM - 11AM	Open Class
11AM - 11:15	Break
11:15AM - 1PM	Class
1PM-2PM	Lunch
2PM - 5:30PM	Classes

\* Classes ranging from Classical technique, Industry Development, repertoire, drama, pointe, Pas de deux, Contemporary and Conditioning.

## Communication

At Melbourne City Ballet we have open door policy. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us on 9943 6496 or via email: [admin@melbournecityballet.com.au](mailto:admin@melbournecityballet.com.au) Your input is highly valued.

## Pastoral Care

Students are encouraged to speak with their Artistic Staff if they have any questions or concerns. We aim for a positive open environment where our students can blossom and grow.

Members of the Artistic Staff have qualifications in both Psychology and Social Services.

Melbourne City Ballet Elite course students participate in NIFTY once per week as part of their schedule. NIFTY is a pastoral care session across all levels within Melbourne City Ballet. Activities are designed to allow students to socialise across all levels and form strong relationships. This program is particularly important for our interstate and international students to help with the issues associated with moving away from the family home. We are proud of the family environment we have created here at Melbourne City Ballet.

## Photography

We are very lucky here at Melbourne City Ballet to enjoy a partnership with National Photography who provide program head shots and performance images of the annual Elite performance.

Images from the performance by National Photography will be available for purchase via their website.

[www.nationalphotography.com.au](http://www.nationalphotography.com.au)

## **Injury Prevention & Management**

Melbourne City Ballet aim for a 100% injury free environment. We take this very seriously and require our dancers to warm up appropriately, stay warm throughout the day, and practice 'Safe Dance' practices. Our staff are trained to ensure students work at an appropriate level and progress at a rate suitable for the growth of their bodies and strength.

## **Dates for Annual Productions**

Dates for all performances can be found via [www.melbournecityballet.com.au](http://www.melbournecityballet.com.au)

## **Dance Institution Acknowledgement**

In 2018 Educators will receive a letter of congratulations on successful placement within this program.

## **Contact Details**

Enquiries relating to the Elite Artist course can be directed through Melbourne City Ballet's reception at [admin@melbournecityballet.com.au](mailto:admin@melbournecityballet.com.au) or alternatively by calling 03 9943 6496.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Q: Can educators come watch an Elite class during the year?*

A: Yes, this must be organised with the Artistic Director at the company's convenience. Please contact MCB's email for a prompt reply. Annually there is a teacher's morning tea where the company invites teachers from all around Australia to show how the company works every day. At the end of the day there is also a forum with the Artistic Director for further questions from the teachers. We also Live Stream at some events which allows anyone to watch us in action online.

*Q: How many participants does the Melbourne City Ballet Elite course accept?*

A: We take a maximum of ? participants.

*Q: How long is the course?*

A: The Elite course is run over a two year period - First year students complete their Certificate IV & Second Year a Diploma in Dance (elite performance)

*Q: Is this course accredited and Nationally recognized ?*

A: Yes, all accreditations are under the auspice agreement with Australian Teachers of Dancing (ATOD #31624)

*Q: What happens after the course is completed?*

A: Students have the opportunity to apply for a third year / Advanced Diploma or our Finishing year program.

*Q: When do classes take place and where?*

A: All classes take place at the Melbourne City Ballet Centre: 5/19 Pentridge Blvd, Coburg VIC 3058

*Q: Do teachers and staff have working with children's cards?*

A: Yes. This is a requirement at Melbourne City Ballet and Melbourne City Youth Ballet for all staff members.

*Q: What is the commitment time required and are any exceptions made?*

A: Full time students are required from 9am - 5.30pm daily, Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings 10.30am - 12. Students require a 90% attendance and must supply medical certificates for absences. Any other exceptions must be made by negotiation with the Artistic Director at his discretion.

*Q: What syllabus is taught?*

A: Melbourne City Ballet is not affiliated with any one syllabus.

*Q: Can students continue with Syllabus classes*

A: Melbourne City Ballet offer elective classes in RAD and Cecchetti. Students taking these classes can sit exams. Some students also choose to continue syllabus classes with their original schools, schedules permitting.

*Q: What age can students commence the full time Elite program?*

A: Students must complete year 10 and be 14 years +  
If your student is younger or wishes to continue their academic studies please consider our MICA program. This incorporates academic studies in the morning & dance tuition in the afternoons.

*Q: Does the Melbourne City Ballet provide any means where educators can keep up to date with the progress of their students following acceptance into the program?*

A: We do our best to keep everyone up to date with everything we do via Social Media outlets.

*Q: Who can I contact to ensure Melbourne City Ballet are aware of particular issues (such as injuries) to ensure the well being and treatment plan of my student/s are not impacted?*

A: Educators can contact our Administration Team to provide details regarding ongoing issues for Melbourne City Youth Ballet by calling 03 9943 6496 or via email [admin@melbournecityballet.com.au](mailto:admin@melbournecityballet.com.au)

*Q: Where can educators seek further information and provide constructive feedback?*

A: For any further information or feedback please contact [admin@melbournecityballet.com.au](mailto:admin@melbournecityballet.com.au)



