



# WELLINGTON DANCE: TERM 1 STUDIO NEWS & DATES

*Dear parents and students,*

Thank you for being part of Wellington Dance & Performing Arts Academy! A big welcome to our new students who have started this term. Please remember class spaces are yours for the 2024 school year - you don't need to re-enrol each term and all classes work on a year-long curriculum.

## 2024 Key Dates

<b>Term 1</b>	We started Monday 12th February and will finish on Saturday 13th April. <i>No classes: Easter - Good Friday 29 March through Tuesday 2nd April</i>
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 29th April to Monday 1st July. <i>No classes: King's Birthday Monday 3rd June &amp; Matariki Friday 28th June</i> <b>Junior 1 &amp; 2 Dance Day</b> (5-7yrs) Sunday 26th May (Save the Date - more details to come!) <b>Ballet Dance Day</b> (Pre Grades+) Sunday 19th May (Save the date - more details to come!) <b>Jazz Dance Day</b> (Pre Grades+) Sunday 9th June (Save the date - more details to come!)
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday 22nd July to Sunday 22nd September <i>NZAMD Exam &amp; Medal Award week Monday 23rd September - Saturday 28th September</i>
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 14th October to Sunday 8th December. <i>No classes Mon 28th Oct (Labour Day)</i>
<b>Exam Dates</b>	NZAMD Exams: Pencilled 23rd-27th Sept (dates TBC by examiners) WDA Medal Awards: Saturday 28th September 'Ballet Grade School' practice week (daily practice Mon 7th - Fri 11th Oct) Ballet Grade Exams: 14th October - 17th November (dates TBC by examiners)
<b>End of Year</b>	<b>Preschool &amp; Junior School [2 - 6 years]</b> - Certificate Presentation week. During the last week of Term 4. Dates to be advised. <b>Pre Grades + [7 years+]</b> - Demonstration at the New Zealand School of Dance Sunday 8th December.
<b>Social Events</b>	As our students twirl through the dance year, we love to offer them extra social and enrichment events depending on their age. Events include a Preschool Dance Party, Pyjama Discos, Senior Soiree (Minigolf), group bookings for dance shows and more! More details about each event will be available in Term 2.

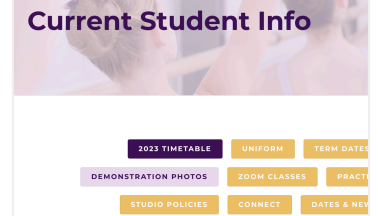
## Dancers' Uniform and Hair

We have a studio uniform which helps all our dancers feel a sense of belonging, as well as being dressed for our teachers to be able to see their movements and provide feedback. Here's our Studio Uniform page with details and where to get your dance uniform <https://wellingtondance.co.nz/dance-uniform> Hair needs to be back off the face (bun for ballet, ponytail for other styles) to avoid distraction and allow safe turning. It doesn't have to be perfect, it just has to be up off your face.



## Current Student Hub

You can find all the dance dates, reminders and information you need in one place - the HUB - Current Student Info section of our website. We keep this updated throughout the year. Check it out here: [wellingtondance.co.nz/hub](https://wellingtondance.co.nz/hub)



## Houses at WDA!

Every WDA student and teacher is assigned to a 'house', either Trimmer (pink), Parris (yellow) or Ieremia (purple) - named after famous NZ dancers. Teachers let our new students know which house they are in (our preschool and junior students have colour coded name tags!). House points are given by teachers as positive reinforcement for class readiness, effort, attention and participation. Every term there is a winning house, whose members receive a chocolate treat and their house banner displayed in the hallway.



## Dropping Dancers off for classes?

We invite and encourage dancers to be early and ready for when their class starts and parents of school age children are welcome to drop their child off at the studio. While we do usually have a team member on the front desk, sometimes studio events or classes require them. **Teachers cannot be responsible for children unsupervised in the waiting room.** If you are dropping your child off early a good guide is 15 minutes before class starts.

## Introducing Miss Manaia



Manaia has been dancing for 14 years, including teaching and eventually running her own studio 'The Compound Dance Studio' in Christchurch. She began her training in all styles of dance but eventually realised her potential in the Hip Hop style. She has performed and choreographed for many different dance studios and crews around New Zealand, and competed in major Hip Hop competitions in Australia, The Netherlands and America. She has also danced with and for world renowned dancers and choreographers such as, Kiel Tutin, Todd Williamson, Lance Savali and more.

Manaia has always loved sharing and exchanging her love and passion of dance to empower people and help them on their journey. Manaia has recently moved to Wellington to complete her Bachelor of Laws at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington and is excited to begin her journey at Wellington Dance.

We are delighted to welcome several other new teachers to our 2024 WDA team. You can meet all of our teaching team at [www.wellingtondance.co.nz/teachers](https://www.wellingtondance.co.nz/teachers)

## Student News

- Congratulations to all the dancers who took part in the *Royal Academy of Dance* Summer School in January. We had a large number of our students participate this year - so well done to all students! Special congratulations to Phoebe Barry, Hazel Sutherland and Lucy Foy who were awarded certificates for their 'Outstanding Contribution to RAD Summer School 2024'.
- Several students have been selected for the *New Zealand School of Dance* Scholars & Associates programmes. Congratulations to Ruby Kung (Classical Associate), Samantha Xu (Classical Associate & Scholar), Charlotte Brown (Contemporary Associate) & Hermione Greenacre (Classical Scholar). Picture are Ruby, Samantha & Charlotte at an Associates weekend in Auckland.



## Wellington Dance Academy (WDA) Medal Awards



Like last year, we are excited for our Medal Award Day. Students will receive a special WDA Medal and a written note card from our guest adjudicator. A Medal Award provides dancers an opportunity to perform a dance in a relaxed exam setting. Dancers will dance in pairs or a solo depending on age. Entry information will be provided in Term 2.

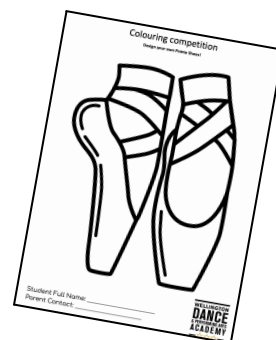
**When:** Saturday 28th September

**Where:** Wellington Dance Academy Thorndon Studio

**Who:** ALL junior students (Ballet / Jazz 1&2), Hip Hop (Junior & Grades), ALL Lyrical, & selected Jazz Grade students.

## 'Pointe Shoe' Colouring Competition

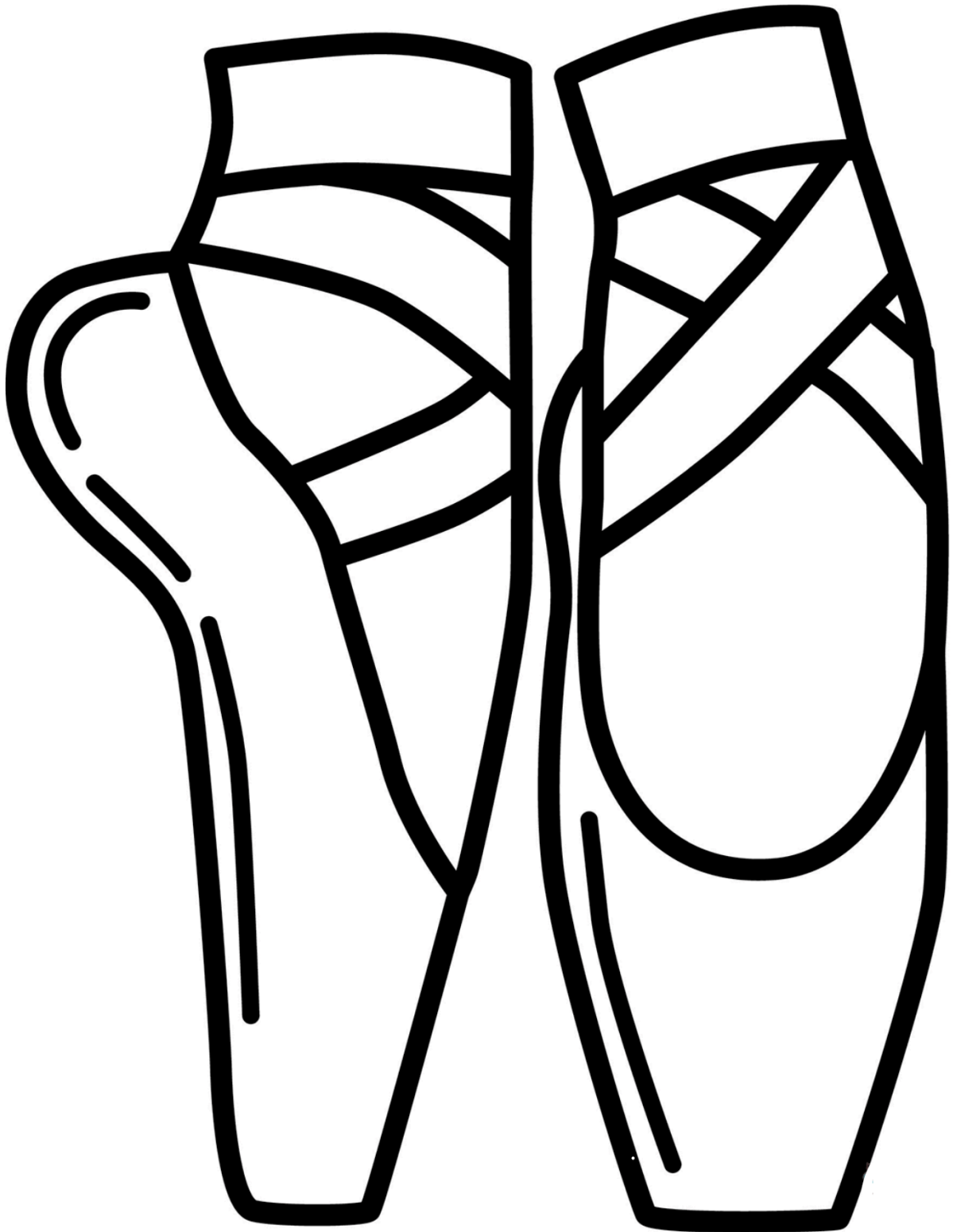
Attached to the back of this newsletter is a colouring competition. We recently had a number of our Senior Foundation students fitted for their very first pair of pointe shoes! Have a go designing and decorating your very own pair of pointe shoes and hand it in to your teacher by the end of term 1. Winners will be announced in the first week back in Term 2.



## Questions?

Wendy is our *Studio Office Manager* and office hours are Monday 10.00am-6.00pm, Tues 9.30am-5.30pm, Wed 10.00am-6.00pm, Thurs 9.30am-3.30pm. Suzanne is our *Studio Artistic Director*, and is at the Thorndon studio Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 3.00-6.30pm. For any questions you may have, either chat to Suzanne or call Wendy on 04 2108642 or email [office@wellingtondance.co.nz](mailto:office@wellingtondance.co.nz). Please join our WDA Families Facebook group too - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WDAfamilies>

# DESIGN YOUR DREAM POINTE SHOES!



Student Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_



