

"Cover Story"

SHOW 2015

New Ash Green & Swanscombe

DRESS REHEARSAL; FRIDAY 10th JULY- ORCHARD THEATRE

Children in baby classes (9.45am Saturday), Mini Jazz at Swanscombe and children in Prep Ballet and Prep Tap (10.15 – 11.30am Saturday) will be required from 4.30pm and can be collected at 5.30pm. Everyone else will be needed at the theatre at 6pm. The students in the first half (mainly the younger classes) should be collected at 7.30pm. Everyone else will be finished at 9.30pm.

SHOWS; 2.30pm SATURDAY 11TH JULY-ORCHARD THEATRE

5.00pm SUNDAY 12TH JULY- ORCHARD THEATRE (Not "Baby" classes)

(All students to arrive 30 minutes before start of show)

Final full details of arrival/collection times and drop off and collection procedures as well as dressing room numbers will be given to *each* student in a few weeks time.

In this year's shows, as last, most of the children and students will appear in only ONE HALF of the performance. Arrangements have been made with the Theatre for the children and their chaperones to sit in the upper circle during the half of the show when they are not dancing. Tickets for this purpose will be provided by us. You don't need to buy a ticket for any child who is appearing in the show.

Our shows involve over 300 children and students. Our main concern is that your children are safe and secure throughout their time at the theatre. For your children's security and to help us with organisation, it is essential that all children taking part in the show remain either back stage or in the auditorium with their chaperone throughout the **entire** show. Each half of the show only lasts for approximately 1 hour.

PLEASE NOTE: We request that NO child, in any age group, who performs in the first half be taken home or taken into the auditorium (by anyone other than their chaperone) at the interval. Children who are only in the second half must be registered and handed over to their chaperone in the foyer before the start of the FIRST half. They will sit in the audience with their chaperones for the duration of the first half. They will then be escorted to their dressing rooms by their chaperone during the interval.

It is important that you comply with our request and that all children remain with their chaperones when they are not actually backstage. Once you have handed your child over to us at the stage door before the start of the show, the chaperone and the dancing school will be responsible for them.

However, if you do have very young children in the show, we would appreciate the presence of someone connected to your child, in the building, during their performance. Occasionally, we have children who have needed their parents and we have been unable to contact anyone to

arrange for their collection. The *least* you should do is to leave an emergency mobile phone number if no one is able to be present. If parents etc *are* sitting in the audience, an announcement will be made if necessary.

IF YOU FEEL UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS, WE WOULD PREFER YOU NOT TO ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO TAKE PART IN THIS YEARS SHOW.

COSTUMES

Costumes are now being organised. Each child will require one costume per class attended. We try to keep costs to a minimum- with an average cost of £8- £10 per costume. All costumes will be available for purchase soon. We will be hiring costumes to some students. Students will be charged a hire fee for each item hired and these items must be left in the dressing room at the end of the final performance. Please ensure that all of your child's COSTUMES and SHOES are named as we always end up with bagfuls of lost property! Each student will require ALL costumes and shoes for the Dress Rehearsal as well as the show. ALL students should leave their costumes at the theatre from the dress rehearsal until the end of their final performance.

The students will be moving from dressing room to audience and vice versa during the interval. When 1st half performers leave their dressing room at the interval of their last show, they will take their costumes to the upstairs bar from where they should be collected at the end of the performance. Students in the second half will bring their costumes out with them at the end of the show.

All children should bring their costumes and shoes to the theatre in a small plastic storage box (preferably with a lid). This should be labelled on the outside with their NAME, their DRESSING ROOM NUMBER (to be given later) and, in the case of the little children, a mobile phone number for emergency contact. Everything they need MUST fit into their box. We do not want them to bring coats, ballet bags etc. Please do not dress them in too many clothes, as the more they bring, the more they'll lose. Please bring children to the theatre in their dance practice clothes (labelled, of course). They can wear these in the auditorium when watching the other half of the show and they will need these for their finale. The Theatre in mid-July is usually very warm (both backstage and in the auditorium) so their dance wear with perhaps a lightweight top will be sufficient.

HAIR

We like the children's hair to look neat and tidy for both the rehearsal and the shows. We prefer the girls to have a FRENCH PLAIT. These always look lovely and usually stand up to the rigours of a show. Please put a hairbrush and a few hair grips in your child's box. Children can wear make up if they wish! This should be applied at home before they arrive at the theatre.

WHAT ELSE TO BRING?

Each half of the show only lasts approx. one hour. Nobody will need to bring any food with them. Water will be provided in each dressing room but your children are welcome to bring a drink of their own. Please ensure that it is something sensible in a carton or small plastic bottle (not cans). Sweets are OK (but NOT Chocolate), and not too many! We will provide the little ones with things to keep them amused whilst they are waiting between stage appearances.

Please don't allow them to bring their special and much loved toys as things do get lost and we don't want any dramas!

MONEY AND VALUABLES

There is nothing to buy at the theatre so students will not require any money. Your children should not bring anything valuable to the theatre. Students will not be allowed on stage wearing watches or jewellery...please leave it all safely at home. Mobile Phones are not permitted backstage. If it is essential that your child brings a phone they **MUST** leave it with one of the chaperones for the duration of the show. The dance school will not be held responsible for the loss of any such items.

CHAPERONES

All of our chaperones and teachers hold CRB Enhanced Disclosure Certificates which confirm their suitability to work with children. If any parent would like to help as a chaperone and you hold one of these certificates, we would be delighted to accept your help. Our students are chaperoned on a ratio of at least 1 chaperone to every 10 children. The little ones have at least 2 per dressing room. The children are very well looked after so you can sit back in your seat and enjoy the show.

As well as looking after your children, the chaperones are also responsible for ensuring that all the children in their care are evacuated safely from the building in case of fire or other emergency. Should evacuation be necessary, please **DO NOT** go backstage to find your child. They will be taken out of the building via the appropriate fire exit by their chaperone and reunited with you once the emergency is over.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

To comply with copyright laws, **NO** camera equipment, including video cameras, are permitted in the theatre during performances. A professional film will be taken of the matinee show. DVDs of the show will be available via an order form which will be given to children at the end of the show. The form will also be available to download from our website. This year, a professional photographer will be taking "action" photos of the dances during the rehearsal. The photos will be available to purchase from the foyer before and during the interval of both performances but, please note that they will only be available at the end of the Saturday show, not at the end of the Sunday show. We will be donating our 10% commission from the sale of the photos to charity.

*If you have not seen one of our shows before, we can promise you GREAT entertainment. It is a fantastic opportunity for your children to perform on a professional stage and something they will never forget. We do apologise for all the Do's and Don'ts but it is precisely because of our attention to detail (and because our students have such obedient parents!!) that our shows are so successful. **Tickets are available from the Orchard Box Office (IN PERSON) By PHONE 01322 220000 or online FROM TUESDAY 7th APRIL***

N.B Tickets for our 2 Crayford shows go on sale on the 14th April. If you are purchasing tickets for NAG & Swanscombe after the 14th, please make sure that you are specific about which shows you are buying for.