



SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival "Changes - 25 Years"

E-news 19 February 2009



Dear Teacher,

Welcome to SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival for 2009. And welcome to a new email service for updating you and keeping you in touch with where we are up to with SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival.

The theme is "Changes - 25 years", and yes - Youth Dance Festival is 25 this year, so you have a wide-open theme to play with for 2009. We would especially like you to explore changes for the future, for society.

I am editing the production manual this week and next week, and there are some changes in the manual and in timings this year you need to know about that came out of feedback from the 2008 SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival. We have a new PD Instructor and Artistic Producer, the Production Folder works a bit differently (see below for details), and we've adjusted the key dates.

By request, the PD classes start towards the end of term One and we have again grouped teachers together in their geographic zones, as we had very good response to this grouping in 2008. That will be: Belconnen North and Gungahlin, Belconnen South, Inner North, Inner South, Woden/ Weston Creek, and Tuggeranong (see *Key Dates*)

I will link to useful resources on the right side of this email across the year. If there is a resource you would like me to share with everyone, or you have any queries, please contact me on 02 6247 9103 or email me on act.eo@ausdance.org.au.

Thank you

Neil Roach
Director, Ausdance ACT

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**Ausdance ACT
Events are SmokeFree**

SmokeFree

Ausdance ACT promotes SmokeFree workplaces and runs SmokeFree events. We recognise how damaging smoking can be to a dancer's health and well-being. For more information click [here](#).



Proudly supported by
ACT Health Promotion Grants
Ausdance ACT is supported by the ACT Government and the Health Promotion Fund.

Ausdance National

Now you can go straight to the [news](#) from Ausdance National. We also have a range of professional publications for dance research and teaching. Go to the [Ausdance National](#) web site and see!

Safe Dance

The term 'safe dance' was created by Hilary Trotter, editor of Ausdance's three [Safe Dance Reports](#), published between 1990 and

What is SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival?



It's only the largest youth dance event in the region, organised by Ausdance ACT and driven by the youth dancers as choreographers, dancers, and comperes. It is a non-competitive celebration of dance, with an emphasis on dance as a creative artform. It really starts at the beginning of each year with the announcement of the theme and Ausdance ACT works with the dancers and the teachers to deliver the highest quality we can on the main stage of the Canberra Theatre over three nights in September. Tens of thousands of young dancers have created

and performed with the festival, including some who have gone on to star in the professional dance world, and the Artistic Producer works closely with all the dance works to inspire and encourage. Ausdance ACT also manages the staging, copyright and recording.

Our PD Teacher and Artistic Producer

We have been very fortunate in securing **Alison Halit** to be this year's PD Instructor and Artistic Producer for SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival. Alison is based in Melbourne, and she will continue the important task of bringing new levels of skill and experience from a national perspective.

Alison has almost 20 years of work as a choreographer, arts manager and teaching artist. Over the past 5 years she has included artist in schools work as a part of her professional practice. Her experience in this area includes Arts Victoria Artist in Schools projects at Surfside Primary School, Ocean Grove and Lorne Secondary College, and residency programs at Newcomb Park Primary, Clonard College and Geelong Grammar School. Alison is also a workshop artist for the Victorian Arts Centre and in 2005 was one of five artists chosen to deliver the Festival for Healthy Living for the Royal Children's Hospital. She is very experienced with teaching boys to dance, and has written on [dance artists in schools](#) for Ausdance Victoria. Alison has also worked with amazing performance artists such as Yumi Umiumare, managed a theatre, and will be an extraordinary resource for us this year, as she is a dance education specialist as well as being highly experienced in other dance and theatre practices.

Production Folder and Poster Image



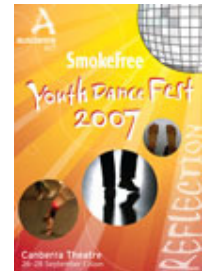
The production folder is being edited and should be ready for you in two weeks time. Following recommendations from last year, the production folder will look slimmer and have the poster image on the front cover, so you'll know what the marketing images will be from the start. The most important change is that this year there will be a **Student Booklet** of eight pages. This booklet will contain the information previously in the production folder that you needed to photocopy and distribute, information under the general title 'How To Do Youth Dance

Festival', and will have the other information that used to be photocopied out of the Production Folder. It will also have the poster on the front cover, so this year you will have an individual hand-out. It will also contain a sign-on section at the back if you wish to use it - some teachers have requested this for registering students in the creation process, but it is not mandatory.

The Poster will follow the ideas we used in 2008, using images sampled from photos from the previous year's Youth Dance Festival. Andrew from Art Atelier has taken some fantastic shots (samples are in this email) and Elissa from Quantum Ideas Bureau, who created last year's poster, will create a new poster image shortly for all the SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival publications.

1999. The term described ground-breaking research into the incidence of dancers' injuries, and the recommendations resulting from that research which outline injury prevention and management strategies.

HALF PRICE SALE!



Did you miss out on the DVDs of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 Youth Dance Festivals? We still have some in stock, now \$16 each.



[The Canberra Theatre](#) has matinee performances of many shows, which are designed for school attendances. Call the box office at the Canberra Theatre on 02 6275 2700 and select option three for group bookings.



All photos by Art Atelier

Previous Themes



Professional Development for Teachers: 16 March Belconnen North and Gungahlin, 17 March Belconnen South, 18 March Inner North, 23 March Inner South, 24 March Woden/Weston Creek, 25 March Tuggeranong.

Professional development with Alison Halit for High School and College Dance/PE teachers at QL2's The Studio at Gorman House Arts Centre, Braddon. This is open to all schools, whether they are participating in Youth Dance Festival or not. There is a small fee (\$100) for teachers from private schools to participate. The

Department of Education and Training has agreed as part of the PD funding that costs for the relief teachers will be borne by the department. This is an all-day workshop specifically for teachers (no students admitted) and Alison may be available to visit individual teachers on the Thursday and Friday of each week.

Friday 10 April Entry forms are due with payment.

Wednesday 20 May, Thursday 28 May, and Friday 5 June Free Choreographic workshops for teachers and students conducted by QL2 Centre for Youth Dance at QL2's The Studio at Gorman House Arts Centre, Braddon. This is a three-hour workshop.

Friday 31 July Due date for all permission and recording forms and the forms with Dance Title, Dance Description, and Student Names. This is vital for setting the run order early for excursion times to be organised, and to avoid using up Alison's time collecting forms that should already have been lodged.

Monday 10 August Alison returns to Canberra and commences school visits, to continue the PD and assist with choreography.

Wednesday 19 August Alison sets the Performance run order.

Thursday 20 August Technical/Dress and Performance schedule with the run order is emailed by the Ausdance ACT office.

Wednesday 2 September Press Launch.

Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 September principal technical rehearsals. Thursday and Friday mornings are held open for any schools that can't squeeze in to Monday and Tuesday.

Wednesday 9, Thursday 10 and Friday 11 September Dress rehearsals, and performances at 7.30pm.

- 2002 Once Upon a Time
- 2001 Poetry In Motion
- 2000 Substance
- 1999 Lights, Camera, Action!
- 1998 Freedom...to Moove
- 1997 Live It, Love It, Moove It
- 1996 In Motion
- 1995 Beyond Imagination
- 1994 Unity
- 1993 Futures
- 1992 Rituals
- 1991 Fantasy
- 1990 Communication
- 1989 Changes
- 1988 Celebration
- 1987 Discovery
- 1986 Peace
- (International Year of)
- 1985 Youth
- (International Year of)

Staff Changes



Jaimi Kark has departed Ausdance ACT as she wishes to pursue her career as a fashion designer in Melbourne. We are all sorry to see Jaimi go, but we can announce her successor as Administrator in the office is Jenny Norris. Jenny comes from a background in arts and administration, including working at Manning Clark House, and she will be a great complement to the office, especially as she has had a daughter with Quantum Leap for a number of years and is well known to many.

[Ausdance ACT](#) is the peak body for dance in the ACT, with many services including SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival, a Dance Directory of local dance schools and classes, and other major events and projects. Members are part of the national network and the World Dance Alliance. You can reply to this e-news using act@ausdance.org.au for Jenny Norris or act.eo@ausdance.org.au for Neil Roach.

Please feel free to forward this email to any other teacher involved with SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival.

For those schools not participating in SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival - feel free to unsubscribe from this e-news.

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