

studies at either the Victorian College of Arts or the Australian Ballet School. She usually loses the most talented ones when they leave each Year 7," she says, though it is clear she delights in their achievements. Jones-Griffin has received many accolades over her 62-year teaching career. The most recent is an Order of Australia awarded this year for services to performing arts, particularly ballet. In addition to her school, Jones-Griffin served on the Australian Ballet Administrative Council in various capacities including chairperson, joint-secretary and senior adviser from 1960 to 1991. She is a Fellow of the International Classical Ballet and a member and Fellow of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing. She also received the Esslemont Award in 2001 and a biennial BHP Award in 1997. "The most joy she gets as a teacher is in watching the transformation of an uncoordinated child into graceful and coordinated dancer. "I say to parents, give me 10 years, I can't promise to make them a star, but they will be coordinated and graceful when I finish with them."

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Her advice to teachers is to be passionate about what you do: "Children can tell if you're not just the most talented. "I know the love of ballet is all about the movement and passion of dance, but "it is also about discipline and manners". She explains that when students enter a ballet class, they enter a different world where politeness and respect are important and are central to the learning. "What reward is befitting a teacher whose passion and dedication has delivered the dance to countless aspiring dancers? It would seem the love, respect and admiration of these dancers and families, past and present, is the most enduring and truest form of reward for a teacher who has given so much. It's your name in call Miss Jones! Not the final curtain of course! "I'm not ready to give it away yet! I've got so much more to contribute," she says. "Subtly she does and her students are grateful for it!"

Move to standardise audition requirements

OVER 20 international ballet companies and a growing number of professional ballet schools have endorsed the recently established guidelines for pre-selection auditions.

The Committee to Standardise Audition Procedures (C-SAP) has released the new international pre-selection audition guidelines to assist young dancers with the audition requirements and to make the process more accessible for all.

Among the endorsing companies are American Ballet Theatre; The Royal Ballet; The Australian Ballet; Houston Ballet; Queensland Ballet and Royal New Zealand Ballet.

Garry Trinder, director of the New Zealand School of Dance, is a C-SAP committee member. He says that the guidelines will mean that students can be better prepared and really focused on meeting one set of requirements, rather than having to meet different requirements for different schools and companies, a process that he says can be "quite confronting, time-consuming and costly".

The new guidelines state that an applicant is required to submit the following material only:

- a video with no introduction or fancy editing, consisting of the following performed in leotard and tights for women and tight fitting dance attire for men:
 - a) a short classical variation drawn from the standard repertoire, danced in soft shoes by male applicants and pointe shoes by female applicants
 - b) a short contemporary variation (that could consist of something drawn from repertoire, phrases from classwork or an applicant-created work) that illustrates the applicant's command of a range of movement different from that demonstrated in the classical variation

- c) 3-5 minutes of barre work, incorporating both sides, danced in soft shoes by male applicants and pointe shoes by female applicants
 - d) 3-5 minutes of centre work that includes adagio, pirouettes, petit and grande allegro, danced in pointe shoes by female applicants
- a CV
 - a head shot
 - 2-3 dance photos that reveal the dancer's body proportions and line

The new guidelines allow dancers to make one video that will serve all applications to endorsing companies and professional schools post-graduation programs. ~

– MICHELLE DURSUN

To learn more about the guidelines and to see the list of endorsing organisations visit: www.iapguidelines.squarespace.com



ABOVE: New Zealand School of Dance classical ballet graduate Song Teng, now dancing with Houston Ballet II.

PHOTO: STEPHEN ACCOIRT