



The Amelia Appleby School of Performing Arts – Maidstone
33 Flowerhill Way
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Kent
DA13 9DS
Contact Telephone Number – 07729 213817
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www.ameliaapplebysopamaidstone.com

Thank you for your interest in our school. Below is some information about the school and also some of the school procedures to help you and your child settle in.

Training is offered to students from 2 ½ years to Advanced Seniors in: Classical Ballet, Pointe Work Ballet, Contemporary, Tap, Jazz, AcroDance, Musical Theatre, Drama, LAMDA and Singing. In dance we teach the I.S.T.D. syllabus and in drama we teach free Acting technique, vocal technique, speech, script work and L.A.M.D.A. syllabus.

Our school age students take dance examinations in Ballet, Tap, Contemporary, Jazz, Musical Theatre and Singing examinations under Anglo-Russe International Stage Dancing Association (I.S.D.A.) This is one of the oldest Dance Associations in the country and offers grades and medals up to the teaching diploma which many of our students take before graduating from us at 18 years old. It is based on the old Russian ballet syllabus of the mid-20th century, but now offers Stage examinations in Ballet, Tap, National, Jazz, Street Jazz, Musical Theatre and Singing. We enter pupils for the medal tests in all disciplines every other year.

Our drama students take examinations in Verse and Prose, Acting, Reading for Performance and Public Speaking under LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.) LAMDA examinations in particular can be very valuable to our students as when they reach the senior levels, we offer Grade 6, 7 and 8 LAMDA Examinations, which provides vital UCAS points and these are GCSE, AS and A level equivalent qualifications.

The school year is divided into three terms (usually 10 weeks per term). The cost of each class per complete term is £50.00 for Baby classes (if both baby classes are taken the second class is offered a 50% discount); £65.00 for 45-minute classes and all other classes are £70.00.

Our main show is produced every two years at The Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, Kent. This involves every student in the school, usually performing in two shows. The show is a huge spectacular event, with drama, singing and dancing; lights; scenery; costumes; and the telling of a story with principal characters, which audition for the parts earlier in the year. Sadly, due to Covid-19, our 2020 Production, our own version of Harry Potter called “You Will Be Found”, was cancelled the evening before we were due to be in the theatre so it was incredibly exciting to finally be able to show the parents all the children's hard work on this show - 4 years in the making and it was definitely worth the wait!

Company Director - Debbie Wightwick.

Classical Ballet, Pointe Work Ballet, Contemporary, Tap, Jazz Dance, AcroDance, Musical Theatre, Drama, LAMDA & Singing



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We also have our own Award Ceremony Show in June or July of a non-show year with all pupils in the school who have taken examinations in Ballet, Tap, Contemporary, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Singing and Drama during the previous two years being presented on stage with their medals, certificates, cups, trophies and shields. The show also involves performances from all our students and the winners of our annual Choreographic, Singing and Drama Competitions.

We have an annual fundraising New Year Cabaret show where all our students perform. It is a brilliant evening and loved by all our families.

We are very fortunate that we have been able to offer our students some wonderful opportunities performing at some amazing venues such as The London Palladium, The Royal Albert Hall and Euro Disney. During the summer of 2013 we had 30 senior dancers that performed as part of a 100-strong squad at Wembley Stadium before the Community Shield football match between Manchester United and Wigan Athletic, and were backing dancers to X Factors Misha B. We were also so privileged to perform at the Opening Ceremony of the Rugby League World Cup in October 2013 at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff and at Twickenham Stadium for the St George's Day match on the 19th April 2014. April 2017, we took 35 students to perform on stage at Her Majesties Theatre, London (home of Phantom of the Opera.) In October 2017 our older students were invited by a professional theatrical production company to perform with them for their production, An Evening of Dirty Dancing at the Hazlitt Theatre. 2018 & 2019 we were asked to provide a performance piece to open the Bearsted Summer Fayre and we also performed at Madginford Primary School's Summer Fete. In July 2019, we took a group of 47 students to perform in EuroDisney. November 2019, we were excited to take a group of 40 students to perform at Sadlers Wells in London. Finally in October 2021, we were very lucky to be invited to perform at a charity event to support the Medway and Tonbridge NHS. It was a spectacular event of dance teams, choirs and orchestras and ended in a grand finale of over 300 performers.

If you need to order any uniform, you can place an order via our website (www.ameliaapplebysopamaidstone.com) and any uniform that you have ordered will be handed out to the students at their classes on Wednesdays or Saturdays.

You can also "like" us on our Facebook page, Amelia Appleby School of Performing Arts – Maidstone and follow us on Instagram, Amelia Appleby SOPA Maidstone

I hope that the above information has answered any questions that you may have had, however, should you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to email me at the above address.

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