



*Joanne O'Kelly
School of Dance*

JCKSD 

Transition Program

2027

Stay at school | Train with purpose | Prepare for the future

The JOKSOD Transition Program (JTP) is designed for dancers who are ready to take their training to the next level. JTP provides focused, additional dance training for students who want to develop their technique, artistry, physical strength and understanding of the dance world, while continuing their academic education.

With programs designed for different stages of a dancer's development, JTP allows students to progressively build the skills, confidence and resilience needed for advanced dance training and, for those who choose it, a future career in dance.

JTP is open to dancers from any dance school.

JTP INTERMEDIATE (Ages 9–11)

Building strong foundations

JTP Intermediate is our introduction to enhanced dance training for younger dancers. Designed for dancers aged 9–11, this half-day program will run several times each term throughout 2027, providing an opportunity for students to experience a more focused training environment without the commitment of a full-day program.

The focus is on developing strong foundations, good training habits and a positive mindset towards progression.

JTP Intermediate is not about rushing young dancers into full-time training. It is about building strong foundations, developing good habits and helping dancers discover what they are capable of.



JTP ADVANCED (Ages 12+)

Preparing for the next stage

JTP Advanced is our more intensive transition pathway for dancers aged 12 and above who are looking to significantly develop their training and may be considering full-time dance or a future within the performing arts. The program is designed to bridge the gap between regular part-time training and the demands of advanced or full-time dance training.

JTP Advanced currently operates as a full-day dance intensive on Mondays, approximately 5–6 times per term, with the potential for additional training opportunities as the program develops.



Transition Faculty

Joanne O'Kelly
School of Dance



AMY HARRIS

Born in Ararat, Victoria, Amy commenced Cecchetti training at Carole Oliver School of Ballet in Ballarat at age ten. As a Cecchetti scholar, she was awarded bronze and silver medals.

At 15, Amy successfully auditioned for The Australian Ballet School and joined The Australian Ballet in 2002. During her 22-year career, she was promoted to Coryphée (2007), Soloist (2011), Senior Artist (2012) and Principal Artist (2018), following her performance as Tertulla in the world premiere of Lucas Jervies' Spartacus. Amy retired from the stage in November 2023, performing the role of Marguerite in Marguerite and Armand.



ADAM THURLOW

Born in Melbourne, Adam began his dance training with Lorraine Blackburn OAM, studying the Cecchetti ballet syllabus and achieving Honours in all major examinations.

He joined The Australian Ballet, quickly progressing to Soloist before moving to London in 2002 to join the world-renowned English National Ballet as a Soloist. Adam went on to become the first Australian to join the Paris Opera Ballet (Opéra national de Paris) before embarking on a successful freelance career.

Adam has also been a frequent Guest Principal Artist with the Melbourne Ballet Company. His extensive experience as a teacher, coach, ballet master, associate director and choreographer has enabled him to develop unique techniques that help dancers unlock their potential.



ANNE MARIE LUDWIG-COX

Anne Marie is a graduate of The Australian Ballet School, holding an ABS Diploma and a Cecchetti Ballet Licentiate (L.C.B.A.-C.I.C.B.).

Following graduation, she was offered a contract with Singapore Dance Theatre and danced with London Ballet Theatre and Tiroler Landestheater Innsbruck, Austria, enjoying a successful 10-year career in ballet.

Since returning to Australia, she has continued to expand her expertise, gaining qualifications in Cecchetti Ballet Teaching, Pilates and Allied Health Assistance, as well as becoming an Xtend Barre instructor. She is now a sought-after guest teacher bringing her extensive performance, teaching and movement knowledge to every class.

Our Program

TRAINING INCLUDES

- **STRENGTH & CONDITIONING:** Developing the strength, stability, mobility and physical resilience required for advanced dance training.
- **CLASSICAL BALLET:** Refining technique, alignment, coordination, musicality and a deeper understanding of classical ballet.
- **PILATES & BODY CONDITIONING:** Developing core strength, body awareness and intelligent movement patterns to support performance and long-term dance health.
- **GROUP VARIATION STUDIES:** Exploring repertoire, artistry, musical interpretation, performance quality and individual expression.

As the program develops, additional workshops and training opportunities may be introduced to further expose dancers to different aspects of the dance industry.

WHO IS JTP FOR?

JTP is for dancers who are motivated, committed and ready to learn. Entry into JTP is by audition and/or assessment. Dancers should demonstrate sound technical foundations and a willingness to work consistently towards improvement.

Assessment may consider:

- Alignment and turnout
- Coordination and core stability
- Classical ballet vocabulary
- Body awareness and safe movement
- Ability to apply corrections
- Musical responsiveness
- Technical discipline and consistency
- Commitment and work ethic
- Readiness for a more focused training environment

We are looking for dancers who demonstrate potential, commitment, curiosity and a desire to grow.



Our Program

TRAINING FOR THE DANCER AND THE PERSON

Preparing for a future in dance involves much more than learning steps.

JTP encourages dancers to develop the physical and mental skills required to navigate a demanding training environment.

Through the program, dancers will develop:

- **Discipline:** Learning to work consistently towards long-term goals.
- **Resilience:** Building the physical and mental capacity to meet challenges and keep progressing.
- **Independence:** Taking greater responsibility for their own training and development.
- **Body awareness:** Understanding how their body moves and how to train safely and intelligently.
- **Artistry:** Developing musicality, expression, confidence and individuality.
- **Industry awareness:** Beginning to understand the opportunities, expectations and pathways within the professional dance world.

These skills are valuable whether a dancer ultimately pursues full-time dance training, tertiary study, performance, teaching, choreography or another pathway within the performing arts.

WHY STAY AT SCHOOL?

We believe dancers shouldn't have to choose between their education and their dance ambitions too early. JTP has been developed to work alongside your academic studies, allowing dancers to increase their training while remaining at school. This gives young people time to develop their dance skills, experience a more intensive training environment and learn about the industry before making decisions about their future.

***For some dancers, JTP may be the stepping stone towards full-time dance training.
For others, it may help them discover that a different pathway is right for them.***

The goal is not to make the decision for them. It's to give them the skills, experience and knowledge to make an informed decision when the time is right.

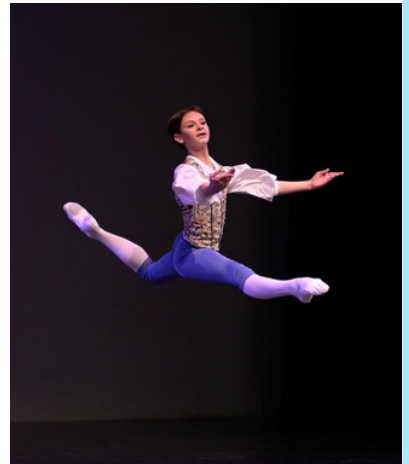


JTP Outcomes

WHERE CAN JTP TAKE YOU?

Our dancers have gone on to achieve exciting opportunities across Australia and internationally. Students involved in JOKSOD Transition Program (JTP) and JOKSOD Extension Program (JEP) have successfully auditioned for and been accepted into leading dance schools, academies, companies and pre-professional programs, including:

- *The Australian Ballet School*
- *Royal Ballet School, London*
- *New Zealand School of Dance*
- *Queensland Ballet Academy*
- *Queensland National Ballet*
- *West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA)*
- *Victorian College of the Arts (VCA)*
- *Sydney Dance Company Pre-Professional Year*
- *Ev & Bow*
- *Transit Dance*
- *Patrick School of the Arts*
- *Ministry of Dance*
- *Joffrey Ballet School, New York*
- *Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre*
- *Alberta Ballet School, Canada*



Our dancers have also achieved placings, awards and prizes at prestigious Australian and international competitions, including:

- *Cecchetti Ballet International Competition*
- *Alana Haines Australasian Awards*
- *Aus Prix*
- *World Ballet Crown*
- *Ballet Teachers Workshop (BTW)*
- *Australian Institute of Classical Dance (AICD)*
- *Asian Grand Prix*

and other national and international competitions.

DEVELOPING DANCERS. CREATING OPPORTUNITIES.

These achievements reflect more than technical ability. They demonstrate the dedication, resilience, artistry, discipline and confidence that dancers develop through consistent, purposeful training.

JTP and JEP are designed to help dancers discover their potential, build the skills required for the next stage and confidently pursue opportunities when they arise.



Our Program

YOUR PATHWAY. YOUR TIMING.

There is no single pathway into the dance industry.

Every dancer develops differently, and every dancer's journey will look different.

JTP provides a supportive pathway for dancers to progressively increase their training and challenge themselves, without taking away the opportunity to continue their education.

JTP INTERMEDIATE

Ages 9–11

- Build strong foundations.
- Develop good training habits.
- Discover what's possible.

JTP ADVANCED

Ages 12+

- Challenge your technique.
- Develop your artistry.
- Build physical and mental resilience.
- Explore your future pathway.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Full-time dance training • Further education • Performance • Teaching • Choreography • Performing arts careers

Whether your goal is a career in dance or simply to become the strongest dancer you can be, JTP provides an environment where you can train with purpose, challenge yourself and prepare for what's next.

Stay at school. Train with purpose. Prepare for the future

