

English Youth Ballet

Janet Lewis MBE

ENGLISH YOUTH BALLET AUDITIONS

EYB auditions take place between 3 and 6 months before the rehearsals commence so that families can forward plan their schedules.

To attend our auditions young dancers must be between the age of 8 and 18 years and be age 8 by the day of the audition. There are two auditions both on the same day. The junior audition is for the 8 – 11 year olds and the senior audition is for 12 years upwards, each lasting one and a half/ three quarter hours.

The audition takes the form of a ballet class so that no special dance needs to be previously prepared. The class is given by international professional teachers and watched by the Director and an Associate Choreographer.

At the Reception Desk numbers are placed on the auditionees and the dancers are placed into lines on stage. A short warm-up is practiced all together before dance sequences are seen in smaller groups. Some steps may be new or joined together differently from the syllabus work they have been studying, but EYB shall be looking for application and approach when tackling something different. 'Having a go' with a smile can make all the difference to the result.

Please Note: We do not do pointe-work at the Audition stage and do not worry if you have not started pointe-work yet, as there are many non pointe-work parts.

GIRLS

Must wear leotard, tights/socks and ballet shoes with hair in a bun or neatly plaited and pinned to the head.

BOYS

Must wear 'T'-shirt, tights or shorts, socks and ballet shoes.

At the end of the audition you will know if you have been accepted or whether you are on our reserve list. Not all who are offered places accept them and reserves are definitely notified if anyone drops out.

We urge young dancers not to be disappointed if they are not accepted at their first audition. Dancers develop and improve at different paces as they grow up and we are happy to see them again.

The audition should be treated as an experience in itself and not just as a means to an end. It is a competitive experience but we want you to enjoy it.

EYB is about performance and therefore we encourage parents to watch the audition where the venue allows, and with their children's permission. Parents can see for themselves how their children perform in an audition situation.

NB. For those who wear glasses please be aware that they will not be able to wear them for performances as they are a health and safety risk. We recommend that soft contact lenses are worn as many EYB dancers in the past have tried and succeeded with them.

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