

Performing Arts for Everyone



2005/2006 Prospectus

The Elise Marie Academy of Performing Arts

About the Academy

The Elise Marie Academy of Performing Arts opened in 2002 in response to a demand from students for high quality inclusive training. We passionately believe that everyone should have the chance to experience theatrical disciplines in a vibrant and friendly environment. We extend a special welcome to students with learning differences. As well as the specific training undertaken all students can gain increased confidence and improve their communication and presentation skills.

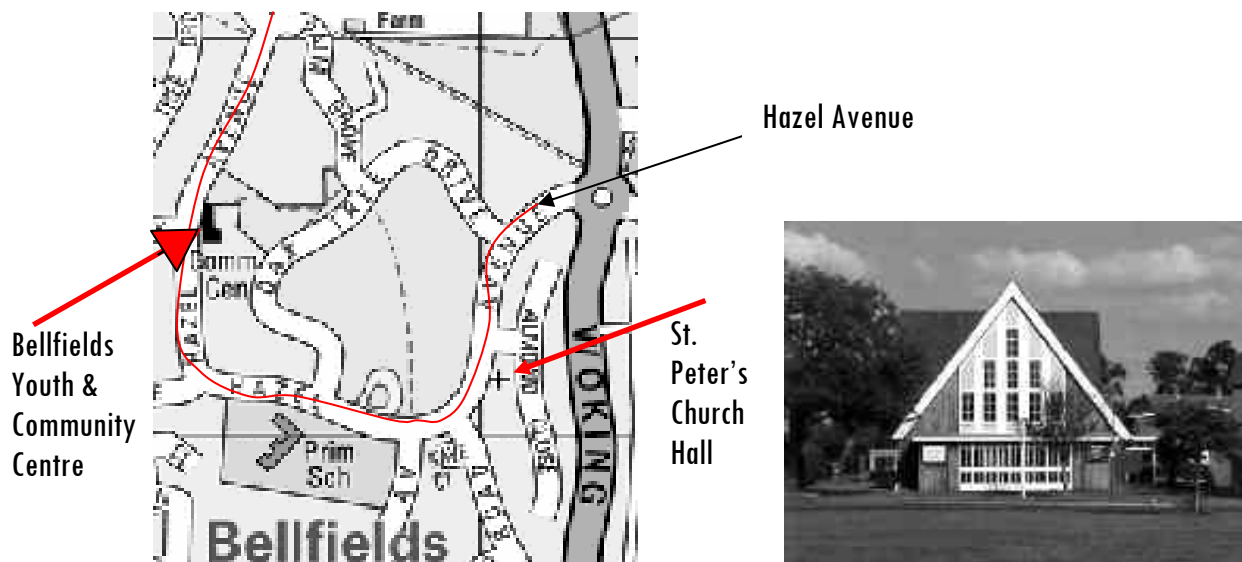
Are you:

- Brand new to Performing Arts training and would like to experience and experiment with a variety of disciplines?
- Looking to advance your skills or develop new ones in a fun but challenging environment?
- Considering a career in dance? You can study for nationally recognised dance qualifications and receive training in a wide variety of Performing Arts. Careers advice may be available.

Come and join us!

Location

Classes are currently held at: St Peter's Church Hall and at Bellfields Youth and Community Hall. The Halls are in Hazel Avenue just off the A320. At the roundabout by the ESSO Garage near Slyfield Industrial Estate take the first exit if travelling from the Guildford direction or the third exit from the Woking direction. A regular bus service from Guildford town centre stops nearby.



Staff

Elise Byng – Principal

Elise has taught a wide diversity of students of all ages and abilities. She has a life-long love of performing arts which she enjoys sharing with her students whose ages range from 2 to 70 yrs. Studying for exams is taken seriously at EMA but enjoyment of learning is the most important objective. Elise strongly believes that performing arts should be available to all and having worked with many students with learning differences she has observed the benefits they receive from their study. Elise has staged many productions including pantomimes, variety shows and drama presentations. EMA offers all students regular opportunities to take part in academy productions.



June Byng - Vice Principal

June has worked extensively with students with varied learning differences. She teaches a wide range of subjects, specialising in IT, Drama and Communications. She enjoys giving students the chance to perform and has helped to stage several productions, including producing original material for them. June provides support and guidance to all students and parents (and staff!) at EMA, as well as course administration and quality control. Maintaining a calm, friendly, efficient and inclusive learning environment is June's main goal. She aims to ensure that all students have every chance to succeed.



David Byng - Technical Director

David is our in-house multi-media expert. His many skills include music production, graphic design and website design/development. He provides technical support for productions and develops original material.

Exams and Awards

As students attain the required standard they will be offered an opportunity to take exams as appropriate in the following disciplines:

- ISTD Tap, Ballet and Modern
- IDTA Tap, Ballet, Modern and Freestyle

Students wishing to take exams must demonstrate commitment. Exams are not compulsory.

Exam costs vary depending on the exam being taken, but are always billed separately and not included in the price of classes. Correct uniform is required for exams and extra practice sessions may sometimes be needed.



Scholarships

EMA awards two scholarships annually to talented and deserving students. These scholarships are awarded in memory of two wonderful and supportive people who would have loved to see children being given a chance to develop their talents and confidence. The Michael Byng scholarship is awarded to a boy and the Wendy Burns scholarship to a girl. Other prizes may also be awarded recognizing outstanding dedication, progress and achievement.

Uniform

Ballet (Girls)

- Pink/blue cotton 'aimee' leotard
- Georgette pink/circular blue skirt
- Pink socks and ballet shoes
- Crossover cardigan (optional)
- Plus uniform as 'Other Classes'



Ballet (Boys)

- White cotton leotard
- Black lycra cycle shorts
- White ballet socks
- Black ballet shoes
- Plus uniform as 'Other Classes'



Ballet (Women)

- Black 'angela' leotard
- Black lycra wrap-over skirt
- Pink tights and ballet shoes
- Crossover ballet wrap (optional)
- Plus uniform as 'Other Classes'



Tap (Girls)

- Purple 'mindy' leotard ('chelsea' for seniors only)
- Purple tap skirt for younger students
- Black jazz pants for older students
- Black socks and tap shoes
- Plus uniform as 'Other Classes'



Tap, Modern and Jazz (Boys)

- Black lycra jazz pants and optional cycle shorts
- White short sleeved shirt (tap)
- Black socks and tap/jazz shoes
- Plus uniform as 'Other Classes'

Jazz (Girls)

- Black 'angela' leotard ('chelsea' for seniors only)
- Black jazz pants
- Black socks and jazz shoes
- Plus uniform as 'Other Classes'



Modern (Girls)

- Black 'angela' leotard
- Purple stirrup tights
- Seniors only — purple 'chelsea' leotard (and black soft tights)
- Plus uniform as 'Other Classes'

Other Classes (Adult tap, musical theatre, music and movement, drama, in the groove)

- Academy t-shirt and a plain black t-shirt (or leotard instead)
- Plain black trousers or jazz pants
- Black trainers/dance shoes as appropriate



Please note: plastic sweatpants are NOT permitted.

Please see the current uniform price list for sizing and prices.

Choosing a class

Classes are offered both by exam grade and by age grouping. If you are not sure which class will be best for you or your child, here are a few pointers about each discipline.

Tap

Tap is a very popular choice with all age groups and is a specialist area of EMA. Tap promotes co-ordination and aids development of rhythmical ability. Younger students enjoy their ability to dance and make a noise at the same time and as they progress they learn self-discipline to channel their abilities. More advanced students find great satisfaction in exploring technically complex rhythms and steps. Mature students find tap is a great way to stay fit in a fun and friendly environment.



Ballet

Ballet training is the basis of good all-round dance technique. Ballet gives confidence and poise for life, not just for dancing. It teaches self-discipline and pride in appearance and aids concentration and posture. Ballet is an excellent introduction to dance for young children. Basic dance movements and skills are introduced through creative activities and imaginative scenarios. The natural enthusiasm of very young children for movement and music is nurtured and gradually a more formally structured class environment evolves.



Modern

The Modern Jazz dance syllabus provides classical training for exam-based work. This dynamic discipline is a fun and rewarding way to develop dance technique. Style and accuracy are required when presenting modern work and classes improve strength, flexibility, posture, balance and control.



Jazz

Jazz dance is a less formal discipline, which provides an opportunity to develop teamwork alongside personal achievement. It is a great way to keep fit if you have stamina and a sense of fun. Young and old alike enjoy *'strutting their stuff'* to the latest chart hits. Styles range from Jazz and Freestyle exam work to Pop routines and funky Street Jazz dances.



Drama

Confident presentation skills are as valuable in day-to-day life as they are on the stage. EMA Drama classes can improve your communication, presentation, memory and co-operation skills. Games and improvisational scenarios build self-confidence and group trust. Students read aloud from plays, poetry and prose texts and develop their ability both to learn by heart and to read by sight. Dramatic scenes are analysed to increase understanding of meaning, development of both plot and characters and the use of theatrical devices. Improvisation and character building exercises help to add depth to scene studies. Whether you want to make an impression on stage or at your next job interview EMA Drama classes can help you succeed.



Musical Theatre

Musical Theatre students work on dramatic excerpts, songs and dance routines from musical theatre shows. They prepare work as a production team and learn multiple skills and rehearsal techniques. Enthusiasm and adaptability are essential.



Music and Movement

This class is a gentle introduction to performing arts for little ones and prepares children for the more structured dance or drama disciplines. Boys find this class especially fun. Children are encouraged to explore movement, to use musical instruments and to stretch their imagination through stories and adventures. The various activities stimulate learning and yet your child will think that they are only playing and having fun!



Festival Classes

Routines for competitions and other performances are choreographed for individuals or groups in Festival classes. Commitment and hard work are essential to achieve the required standard for open competition. Routines must be practised at home each week to ensure progress can be made in class. Dances will only be choreographed for you in a genre for which you also attend the technique class (i.e. if you only come to a ballet class you can only have a ballet dance) as the focus of the class is on the presentation of routines rather than learning technique. Festival classes are not subject to any discount or included in scholarships or other prizes and must be paid for in full by all. Competitors should also budget for small entry fees and often very expensive costumes.



In the Groove

Students with learning differences find a very warm welcome at EMA. We have extensive experience of working with students with special needs and have staged numerous shows and presentations.

In The Groove students experience performing arts by means of practical exploration which encourages learning and provides stimulation and enjoyment in a supported environment. Among the many benefits are:

- Exploring what you CAN do, not what you can't
- Discovering and improving skills and abilities
- Improving communication skills
- Increasing confidence and presentation skills
- Learning to work as part of a team
- Exams/medal tests may be undertaken



In The Groove students join the rest of the school in shows and presentations demonstrating their skills. Entry to In The Groove is by interview with the principal to determine an appropriate programme of study.

Fees

Fees are payable termly in advance or by arrangement. Current prices per class are as follows:

25 mins £3.00

40 mins £4.00

55 mins £5.00

Private tuition can be arranged at £28.00 per hour. Prices correct September 2005.

Discounts and Special Offers

Family discount:

When two or more family members at the same address take classes, the bill payer may claim a 10% reduction on fees.

50+ discount:

Mature students may claim 10% off any class taken in which student numbers exceed ten.

Policies

Students/parents sign up to our terms and conditions as part of the registration process. EMA staff, students and parents are also governed by various policies including our child protection policy. Please ask if you would like to view a copy of the policy.

Terms and Conditions

Parents are not permitted to watch classes weekly. Late arrivals will enter quietly so as not to disturb the class. Parents are responsible for their children at all times outside of class time and must be punctual collecting them. Belongings are left outside of the classroom at owner's risk. Students are welcome to try new classes for a week, but if joining a course, must become enrolled students. Students of all abilities are very welcome. The Principal must be informed of any learning differences or health concerns so that classes can meet the needs of students. Entry to some classes, such as *'In The Groove'*, is by interview with the Principal only. Please try out classes, ask questions and make sure you are happy to enrol, as fees cannot usually be refunded. Students are insured to take part in classes. Advertised courses will run subject to reaching required student numbers. Age classifications may be varied at the teacher's discretion. In all cases the Principal's decision is final. Students will conduct themselves in a disciplined manner in order to maintain a stable learning environment. The staff:students ratio currently operating is a minimum of 1:5 and a maximum of 1:15 as deemed appropriate. This is subject to amendment. Any accidents must be reported immediately so a record can be made. In the unlikely event of accident or complaint, claims will be dealt with as quickly and openly as possible. If a parent or teacher has concerns about a student's progress, he or she may, at any time ask for a meeting to discuss the relevant issues. All parents or friends will be regularly invited to watch classes or presentations. From time to time EMA uses videos and photographs for publicity purposes. Video recording is also used as a teaching aid. Only EMA staff have access to recordings made for teaching purposes. Video recording and/or photography by students/parents is not permitted at any time. Half a term's notice must be given in writing in order to withdraw a student from classes. All terms and conditions are subject to amendment. Students/parents will be notified of any changes.

Contact us

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Visit us @: www.ema.co.uk