



N Z
A M D

New Zealand
Association of
Modern Dance

WHY DO EXAMS?

INFORMATION for PARENTS of YOUNG DANCERS

A child who wants to dance will probably have danced around their home from the time they could walk.

Once they start dance classes there will eventually be an opportunity to sit an examination which allows students to strive towards a higher quality of movement, to excel in dance if that is what they want.

The NZAMD examination organisation provides a structure of presentation classes, examinations, assessments and awards which give a natural progression to higher levels and the dancers are awarded for their efforts with either rosettes, certificates or banners and receive a written report card from the examiner with comments, and gradings where applicable.

Examinations bring many benefits -

- ◆ They allow an exploration of movement and expression
- ◆ They give students a goal to work for, maintaining motivation throughout the year
- ◆ They can build self esteem and confidence, and life skills that flow over into everyday life
- ◆ They provide a record of achievements - the student's stepping stones to proficiency and, as the students get older are a positive inclusion in any biographical document
- ◆ They can instill a passion for excellence and a discipline that could carry over into all aspects of life



Presentation classes for the very young dancers are led by the teacher while the examiner watches, with parents invited in at the end to see the rosettes being presented to their children. Groups can be up to 8 students. This is a familiar and comfortable structure for the children and prepares them for future examinations.

For examinations at the junior and middle levels students continue to present their work mainly in small groups of up to 4 or 6. The solo performance of dances is not expected until the major levels at around age 13.

NZAMD examinations are designed to be encouraging and achievable for everyone.

NZAMD PERFORMANCE MEDAL AWARDS are quite separate from the examinations giving students the opportunity to highlight their performance skills in solo, duo, trio or group presentations with one or two dances. They are a fun way to showcase their individual style and personality allowing the dancer to gain more confidence and to strengthen their sense of performance.

