

Dear Parents,

2021 has once again tested our flexibility and “go with the flow” abilities!

Due to Covid restrictions, all of our larger theatres cancelled our bookings and due to the rescheduling of our exams and other events, we were unable to secure an indoor venue for our larger concerts this year. In addition, restrictions have meant that indoor capacity is still limited in the theatre for both audience and performers, with vaccination and mask mandates still applying until mid December.

Never fear however - we always have a backup plan to ensure our dancers can finish the year on a very happy note with our concert tradition.

This year we will be having outdoor picnic concerts for our Junior and Senior School on **Sunday 5th December**. We have managed to secure the entire grounds at **Newington Armory Theatre on Jamieson Street, Sydney Olympic Park**. This former Royal Australian Navy Depot has evolved into a unique arts precinct including a small indoor theatre, outdoor amphitheatre, artists studios and exhibition space. You can read more about it here as well as find a map and details for parking : <https://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/things-to-do/parks/newington-armory>.

Situated opposite Blaxland Riverside Park, with a large playground and cafe on the water, students will perform on a very large 120m undercover stage, using the smaller indoor theatre as a holding space/dressing room. Parents, friends and families will be able to lay out their picnic rugs and enjoy some food and drinks while being entertained by their talented children.

Please see map attached. Number 9 is the outdoor stage.

Our picnic concerts mean that we can have as many audience members as possible, breathing in fresh air, mask-free. We think it will be something different, relaxed and a very enjoyable way to end 2021.

The schedule for the day is as follows: Sunday 5th December

Senior School - Year 6/7 classes and above including intermediate acro classes

* Arrival 8:45am - Please drop students off at the bottom of Jamieson street down by the roundabout. To the right you will see the brick gates to walk through to the armory. JF staff will be on hand to guide students to the stage.

* 9:00am-11:00am - Stage run through. As we are performing on a new stage, that is outside, it is important that students have a chance to get a feel for the stage and this also allows us to put together our finale. Parents who are hanging around can go and enjoy a coffee/breakfast down by the river cafe at Blaxland Riverside Park.

* 11:30am-2:00pm - The JF Senior School Concert. We will open up the grass area at 11am so that audience members can set up their spot and their picnics. We will have 100 chairs available for those that require, which will be positioned along the edges of the grass as not to disrupt anyone's views. We are happy for audience members to bring small picnic/beach chairs and ask everyone to be respectful of each other and their space. (You can see a photo of the stage and grass area attached below).

Junior School - Year K/1 - Year 4/5 classes, including 3-6 Tap, 4/5/6 Hip Hop, Pre Senior Jazz and all Dance Company students.

* Arrival 2:15pm - Please drop students off at the bottom of Jamieson street down by the roundabout. To the right you will see the brick gates to walk through to the armory. JF staff will be on hand to guide students to the stage.

* 2:30pm-4:00pm - Stage run through. As we are performing on a new stage, that is outside, it is important that students have a chance to get a feel for the stage and this also allows us to put together our finale. Parents who are hanging around can go and enjoy a coffee/lunch down by the river cafe at Blaxland Riverside Park.

*4:30pm-7:00pm - The JF Junior School Concert. We will open up the grass area at 4:00pm so that audience members can set up their spot and their picnics. We will have 100 chairs available for those that require, which will be positioned along the edges of the grass as not to disrupt anyone's views. We are happy for audience members to bring small picnic/beach chairs and ask everyone to be respectful of each other and their space. (You can see a photo of the stage and grass area attached below).

Parking

There are two areas to park. The outdoor parking area is down on Jamieson Street by the river cafe. The indoor parking station (Blaxland Riverside Carpark) is next to the playground - take the SECOND left as you drive down Jamieson street (past the silverwater jail). If you continue along this road when you exit the carpark, you can short cut through to the Armory. Parking is free at the above spots.

If both carparks are full - the next available parking is at P5 off Hill Road in Sydney Olympic Park, which is a short walk to the Armory.

Further details on parking can be found on the website

<https://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/things-to-do/parks/newington-armory>.

If you require a closer drop off point for any audience members that are unable to walk from the carpark, please let us know and we can give your name to security who will let you through the top gate (to the right as driving down Jamieson street) so that you can drive down towards the stage area. This would be for drop off only, there is no parking in the Newington Armory grounds.

While there is lots that we can control, what we can't control is the weather. While we will be praying for no rain, we ask audience members to please be mindful of weather conditions, including the sun and heat, packing lots of water, sunscreen and hats (and possibly a raincoat or umbrella).

The stage and dressing area is undercover, but students should still bring water and a hat. Students can also bring a small snack to have between rehearsals and the concerts, or a larger lunch for those who are in both concerts. No nuts please. There are toilets in the dressing room as well as outside by the audience area.

What to wear:

Students will be gifted with a special **2021 concert t-shirt** at the concert rehearsal. As the dressing area is one big room, there are no private changing areas, so we ask all female students to please wear their JF leotard to the concert, to allow for a quick, modest change. This will also allow for modesty in routines that require floor work and acro movements, as we do not have form-fitting costumes this year.

Male students may like to wear a fitted black singlet under their concert t-shirt as per the above.

This year, students can wear **ANYTHING Pink and/or Black** with their concert T-shirt. This can be JF uniform - shorts, leggings, skirts or anything of the student's choosing - tutus, tights, sparkle skirts, pants etc. Feel free to get creative!

Hair can be worn in **ANY creative/funky style, off the face** - Braids, Plaits, Buns, Ponytails, Pigtails - **with Pink and/or Black hair accessories** - ribbons, bows, scrunchies, bandanas, caps etc. We encourage students to take this opportunity to really express themselves!

No makeup is required as we will be outside however students are welcome to wear fun makeup/nail polish in line with our pink and black colours if they wish.

As we were unable to arrange costumes this year, we hope that the extra pink and black creativity will allow students to add their own shimmer and sparkle to their outfit.

Shoes will be as per class - Black Jazz Shoes, Black Tap Shoes, Ballet Shoes and White Sneakers for Hip Hop. Students will be barefoot for lyrical, contemporary, technique and acro. Students can wear black socks or stockings with their shoes.

For students who take multiple classes with many shoe changes - we ask them to please bring a "Shoe tub or box" clearly labelled with their name that can be placed close to the stage for quick and easy shoe changes. Both concerts will run non-stop with no interval. Please note the earlier start times.

Our wonderful photography and videography team - Bjorn and Ulla, will be at both concerts to film and photograph our talented students. You can purchase a recording and photo package when you buy your tickets. Recordings and Photos will be emailed as a link before the end of the year.

To purchase concert tickets AND a recording/photo package:

Junior Concert - <https://www.trybooking.com/BVHLF>

Senior Concert - <https://www.trybooking.com/BVJIL>

Classes will continue after the concert until Saturday 11th December. Details about 2022 enrolment will be available soon.

We are looking forward to ending the year on a wonderfully happy note!

Meeting points at Newington Armory



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| 1 Newington Armory Visitors Centre | 5 Education Centre Building 46 | 9 Armory Theatre Shade Sail adjacent to Building 22 | 12 Armory Gallery Building 18 |
| 2 Jamieson Street Entry Gate | 6 Meeting Room Building 28 | 10 Murama Healing Space | 13 Armory Wharf Cafe |
| 3 Armory Theatre Building 22 | 7 Armory Leisure Fields | 11 Murama Dance Ground | 14 Gunpowder Magazine Building 20 |
| 4 Activity Room Building 129 | 8 Internal Carpark - YMCA | | |

SydneyOlympicPark 

For information visit sydneyolympicpark.com.au

