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Australian Institute of Classical Dance Inc.

A.I.C.D. Borovansky Syllabus

Guidelines for Affiliate Teacher Applicants

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"A Dance Teacher,
takes a hand, opens a mind
and touches a heart"

Privileges of Affiliate Teacher Status

Teachers under the A.I.C.D. Affiliate Teacher Program are entitled to use the phrase A.I.C.D. Affiliate Teacher after their name.

A holder of the Affiliate Teacher Registration may teach any grade from the Borovansky syllabus up to Grade 6, however, you may only submit students for examination or assessment up to Grade 2. *If submitting students for examination or assessment, and you are under 18 years of age, you must have your examination/ assessment candidates co-signed by an A.I.C.D. Registered Teacher; either A.AICD or L.AICD.*

The A.I.C.D. conducts regular seminars and workshops for teachers of the Borovansky syllabus, in most participating states of Australia. These are designed to refresh the syllabus and answer any questions in regard technique and content.

Major seminars are conducted on a yearly basis and address specific areas of the syllabus.

The A.I.C.D. encourages all teachers to treat the Affiliate Registration as a stepping stone to the Associate Diploma and the Licentiate Diploma, rather than as an end goal in itself. As part of your ongoing professional development, you should be seeking to achieve the higher teaching qualification.

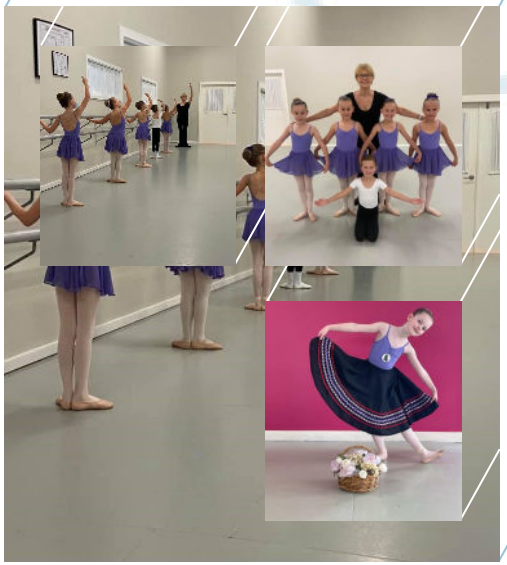
It is worthwhile familiarising yourself with the requirements of achieving the A.I.C.D. Associate Diploma by downloading the brochure from the website.

Affiliate Program Tasks

A.I.C.D. Affiliate Teachers will be required to submit four tasks over their 12 months of training. These tasks are designed to assist you in preparation for the Associate Diploma assessment. They will be sent to you in a workbook format where you complete and forward a copy to the Artistic Director; opening discussion and leading to the evaluation of your processes.

These include:

1. Anatomy for the dance teacher and student
2. The relationship between Music and Dance; which will also address copyright formalities for dance teachers
3. Choreography and creating short dance pieces using the 'Elements of Movement' (*Time, Space, Energy*)
4. Designing a class that engages the participants while applying Safe Dance Teaching Methods



Teaching

Dance teachers instruct and train students in dance, incorporating elements of technique, performance, and choreography in their educational approach.

But, they teach much more; life learning skills, resilience, discipline, team work, building friendships and achievement.

History of A.I.C.D.

The Australian Institute of Classical Dance Inc. (A.I.C.D.) was formed in 1991 by Marilyn Jones O.B.E., following her receipt of a prestigious Creative Arts Fellowship from the Australian Government.

The Institute has a board composed of eminent members of the dance community. It was set up to oversee and encourage the development of Australian classical ballet. It assists teachers and students of classical dance in Australia by providing a national focus for the development of this important art form. By co-operating with existing recognised dance organisations, it encourages research and the development of dance.

Since its inception, the A.I.C.D. has aimed to provide a forum for discussion on all aspects of dance and actively lobbies for classical dance in the political and educational arena.

The A.I.C.D., also acts as an assessment body, initiates workshops, runs summer schools, conventions and seminars and offers both National and International scholarships to Australian dancers and choreographers.

From its beginning, the Institute has played an important and vital role in Australia's cultural life.

The A.I.C.D. is a not for profit organisation with branches in most states of Australia. Members of the state committees serve for the betterment of classical dance in Australia, and to give support and assistance to teachers, students and choreographers in order that they can "follow their dreams" and assist with both current trends and respected traditions to stay relevant and compete successfully on both a national and international arena.

The A.I.C.D. offers various awards and scholarships throughout the year to deserving recipients, and many of the events run by the state committees are to raise funds in order for these scholarships and awards to come into fruition.

The A.I.C.D. is always looking at new, innovative ways in which they can encourage and support teachers, dancers and choreographers in the development and expansion of their technical skills and artistry through further education in the art form.

The Borovansky Syllabus

Czech-born Edouard Borovansky first came to Australia in 1929 with the company of the famous ballerina Anna Pavlova. He returned in 1938 with a Ballets Russes Company called (at that time) The Covent Garden Russian Ballet.

Borovansky had persuaded his Russian-born wife Xenia – a fine ballet teacher who had her own school in Berlin – to accompany him to Australia, because he had decided to remain here at the end of the tour. World War II erupted in Europe in September 1939.

His idea was to start a ballet school where Xenia's marvellous teaching skills could be utilised, hoping eventually to form an Australian ballet company.

The Ballets Russes Company displayed techniques and styles of dance that were not being taught in Australia. When the Borovansky's Academy of Russian Ballet opened its studios in Melbourne in 1939, eager young ballet students and ballet lovers flocked to them to learn.

Xenia was the central pillar of classical ballet teaching, passing on the technique and style in which she had been trained in Russia.

The Borovansky Ballet Company was created, and first performed in 1940. This company was comprised of mainly Australian dancers from the Borovansky's school, featuring some artists who had remained in Australia after their tour.

Between 1940 and 1959, the company toured regularly throughout Australia, becoming a much-loved part of the Australian performing arts scene.

After Edouard Borovansky's death in 1959, Peggy van Praagh came from England to direct the company until the end of its current contract. Plans were begun for a new company, The Australian Ballet, which made its debut in November 1962.

Xenia maintained the school in Melbourne, eventually deciding to develop an Australian system for teaching ballet, based on her own Russian schooling.

Other methods, developed and administered from London, were being taken up in Australia at the time. Xenia wanted her syllabus to be administered and examined within Australia, and that is how it remains today.

In 1991, the society administering the Borovansky method (which had undergone a number of name changes over the years) came under the umbrella of the Australian Institute of Classical Dance. Regularly updated, this Borovansky examination syllabus was revised by a panel of examiners and teachers in January 2012.

Requirements for Affiliate Teacher Status

In order to apply for the Affiliate Teacher status you must:

1. Be a minimum of 16 years, upon application
2. Hold the A.I.C.D. Intermediate Certificate or equivalent from a recognised ballet examination society
3. Be associated with a school that has an A.I.C.D. registered teacher on staff who is prepared to be a mentor to the applicant.
4. Hold a current Working with Children card or equivalent
5. Submit a letter of recommendation from a recognised teacher or mentor attesting to your ethical behaviour and professional integrity as a teacher, to the Artistic Director at: director.aicd@ballet.com.au
6. Write a formal email of introduction to A.I.C.D. Artistic Director explaining your ambitions and aspirations for becoming a ballet teacher.

Once approved by the Artistic Director, you must complete the Affiliate Teacher application form and make payment for the Affiliate Program via. the A.I.C.D. website www.ballet.org.au

All prospective candidates should make themselves aware of the '*Australian Guidelines for Teaching Dance*' available from the Ausdance website at: www.ausdance.org.au

A Ballet Teacher

Touches hearts, one step at a time.

The Affiliate Program

The Affiliate Teacher program is the training level for candidates who do not reach the criteria of Associate Diploma. It was designed to allow teachers who had not received their Advanced 1, or equivalent, the opportunity to teach the Borovansky Syllabus. It also allows for young teachers who have not yet reached the age minimum to apply for Associate Diploma.

It is the entry level of teacher accreditation with the A.I.C.D.

An Affiliate teacher may teach any grade level (*Pre-Primary – Grade 6*) from the Borovansky syllabus however, you may only submit students for examination up to and including Grade 2. *When submitting students for examination or assessment, you must have your examination/assessment candidates co-signed by an A.I.C.D. Registered Teacher; either A.AICD or L.AICD.*

Affiliate teachers should have a mentoring teacher who will assist with any queries you may have in regard to the syllabus, teaching methodology, safe dance practices and generally aid in preparing you for the Associate Diploma assessment. Mentors may not necessarily be in the same locale however, in this era of increased technology it will be easy to set up meetings via. an online platform; as in Zoom.

The Affiliate teacher may take up to two years to complete this program, however, it is estimated that most Affiliate teachers should be eligible to achieve Associate Diploma (A.AICD) after twelve months of training and/or once they have reached 18 years of age.

You can achieve the qualification of Associate Diploma by:

Completing an Associate Diploma examination

If this is the most appropriate level for you, please contact the Artistic Director at: director.aicd@ballet.org.au to set up a meeting.

Rationale of the Syllabus

The general philosophy of Xenia Borovansky and the original syllabus has been retained over the years, through several reviews and updates.

This philosophy includes the following premises:

The syllabus has always been **an examination syllabus** rather than a training 'method' and should be regarded separately from the work covered in general non -syllabus ballet classes. *This encourages all-round expertise of both the teacher and the student.*

The creation of enchaînements early in the syllabus, rather than separately presented steps, is to show each step in context. *This engenders appropriate dynamics and a fluid style.*

The exclusion from the syllabus of specific ports de bras and embellishments is to allow each teacher to express a personal style. *This encourages artistry.*

It is strongly recommended that all Affiliate teachers purchase a copy of the theory book from the AICD website, for full details of Borovansky port de bras positions and vocabulary.

Borovansky Arms

1st, 2nd & 3rd

Borovansky arms follow the Russian method, for third position one arm is in 2nd position and the other is in 5th

Aims of the Syllabus

This syllabus aims to foster and develop;

* A love of dance
* An awareness of ballet as a performing art in both recreational and vocational students.
* Students of vocational and non-vocational aspirations are equally well-served.
* The need for flexibility in teaching and in examining a wide variety of body shapes, sizes and capabilities is recognised.
* Students are offered grades which are appropriate to their individual level of physical development and ability.
* Technical difficulty increases gradationally.
* Dance quality, style, expressiveness and musicality are encouraged from the beginning, and are progressively developed.
* Students are exposed to a wider range of movements than appeared in earlier versions of the syllabus.
* Steps are taught in a safe and continuous progression through all the grades. Repetitious movements have been replaced with safer, more suitable and efficient alternatives, in line with "Safe dance" principles.
* Students are taught basic human anatomy and simple principles of physiology as it relates to ballet technique. Knowledge and understanding is developed alongside skills.
* An awareness of dance history and context is cultivated by some sequences, and in particular by set dances.
* Character dance steps are integrated in the syllabus, reflecting the syllabus' heritage in the Borovansky Ballet Company, famed for its wholehearted vigorous approach to national dance.

Teaching the Syllabus

The A.I.C.D. currently has four streams of Teacher accreditation:
Affiliate
Associate Diploma
Licentiate Diploma
Fellowship

In order to teach the syllabus and send students for assessments / examinations you must be a registered teacher of the A.I.C.D. or a member of the A.I.C.D. Affiliate Teacher Program.

The process to registration for prospective Affiliate Teachers is as follows:

1. Applying for Teacher Registration; If over 18 years of age, you should become a member of the Australian Institute of Classical Dance. (*If you are already a member, proceed to step 2*)

   You can register as a 'friend member' by going to the A.I.C.D. shop on the website at ballet.org.au and clicking on membership. Scroll down to 'Friend' membership and follow the prompts.

   If under 18, you are not eligible to become a member, but must be under the guidance of a school that has an A.I.C.D. Registered teacher on their staff.
2. Email the Artistic Director at: director.aicd@ballet.org.au to set up an interview about the Affiliate Teacher Program.
3. Once you have been approved by the Artistic Director, you can apply for Affiliate Teacher Registration by completing the Affiliate Teacher Application Form (*which will be emailed to* you) and

   Via the shop on the website at: ballet.org.au, click on 'Teacher Qualifications' and then 'Affiliate Teacher' to pay. This is a Member ONLY product, therefore the teacher/mentor at your school will need to make the payment on our website for your Affiliate Teacher fee.