



6 Sheffield Crescent, Burnside, Christchurch

027-355-2153 [admin@silhouettestudios.co.nz](mailto:admin@silhouettestudios.co.nz)

## Silhouette Studios NZ Speciality Numbers Information

We are excited to be able to offer the opportunity of speciality numbers to all students at Silhouette. With the introduction of In-House competitions, we now have the perfect pathway for students who want to be challenged and try learning and performing a speciality number. We have set out some guidelines and a timeline to make the process simple and easy.

The first part of the process is to discuss with your dancer what they are interested in doing. It is important that the idea to have a speciality number is initiated by the dancer. This ensures they have the passion and motivation to learn and practise their number. It is also helpful for the dancer to have an idea of the style of dance they would like to do.

We have a great selection of tutors who can choreograph a dance specifically for the child/ren. Once you have decided on a style of dance, we can assign the choreographer that we feel is best suited to your request. If you are requesting a duo/trio, please meet with the other dancers to ensure everyone is on the same page.

The process of choosing a song is organised by the choreographer. Sometimes dancers have a song they would like but this is very limiting and often does not allow for the best connection between the dancer/choreographer and dance style. We offer the In-House self-choreography section for dancers to choose their own song.

### Current list of available choreographers

Kate Limuloa  
Natasha Boon  
Courtney Pearce  
Jack Shatford  
Estelle Thomson – Ballet  
Olivia Fuller

### IMPORTANT

The choreography for speciality numbers is under copyright to Silhouette Studios NZ. Students are not permitted to use any choreography without first seeking permission. If a student moves to another studio, they are not permitted to use anything choreographed at Silhouette Studios NZ.

### Options for speciality numbers

Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Ballet & Tap.

### **Set choreography item**

Set solos will be available for the Term Two In-House comp. These will be created by our tutors and designed to be an easier and more affordable way to learn a solo. You will be able to purchase the video online for a one-off fee of \$25+gst. This will include a step-by-step instruction video and full run-through of the solo which can then be practised at home ready for the competition. Private lessons for polishing will also be available on request. Limited space available. Set choreographies will be provided at different levels/abilities and need to be entered under the staff choreographed solo category.

### **Staff choreographed item**

We give the opportunity for any dancer to have a solo choreographed by one of our tutors. When this option is chosen, we request that parents do not suggest a style/song etc. as the choreographer will make all the decisions suitable for each child. It's very tempting to want to suggest something but please respect the process. A private lesson costs \$40 per 45 minutes and places are limited.

### **General staff choreographed solo timeframe**

- 1st lesson – a song and style are chosen for the dancer and the beginning of the dance will be created. A parent will video the learnt section in the last 5 minutes of the lesson for the dancer to practise at home.
- 2nd – 5th lessons – the remainder of the choreography will be learnt until solo is complete. Parents can video any new sections learnt in the final 5 minutes of each lesson. Lessons may be held weekly or more than once a week depending on timeframes and availability.
- Polishing lesson and costume confirmation. Additional polishing lessons may be required.

Most solos are expected to cost approx. \$200 but the cost can exceed this if the dancer requires more time or is unable to practise between lessons.

To book a private lesson to learn a new solo for these competitions please contact us on [silhouettecomp@gmail.com](mailto:silhouettecomp@gmail.com)

### **COSTUMES**

Generally, the choreographer will direct dancers on the most suitable costume to match the solo. Please speak with the choreographer prior to purchasing or making a costume as often they can be quite specific. We have a range of costumes available for dancers to hire or you can use your own. The cost to hire is \$20 for one performance.

We will have an opportunity to try on costumes during the week prior to the competition and you can book them at this point or just choose one on the day. On the day of the competition, costumes will be collected and used for performing. Following prize-giving costumes are returned.

### **HAIR & MAKE-UP**

Dancers can choose the style for their hair and if they want to wear make-up. We have parents and students who are happy to support new solo dancers. If you require support please contact us on [silhouettecomp@gmail.com](mailto:silhouettecomp@gmail.com)

## Competition jargon

It can take some time to get used to the words used in competitions. We have deliberately kept the language for our In-House Competitions the same as the competition world so that parents become familiar with it.

**Syllabus** – this is the description, rules and categories for any competition.

**Class** – the name for each dance section (e.g. Under 8 Jazz).

**Adjudicator** – the person judging the competition.

**Scratchings** – dancer who is unable to perform. This may be in advance or announced before each class on the day. Scratchings may be from injury, illness or uncompleted dance. It's important any scratching be advised to the competition committee asap.

**Impromptu** – a dance that is made on the spot.

**Jazz/Ballet/Tap focus** – some competitions have a jazz focus (incl. lyrical/contemporary/musical theatre) whereas others have a ballet or tap focus.

**Novice** – this category is for a dancer who has not won the style they are competing in. A jazz solo for example may be danced many times in a Novice category. If a dancer wins the Novice jazz category, they move into Open jazz for the next competition. When the dancer gets a new jazz dance they remain in Open. If a dancer is entered into a competition as Novice but they win the Novice category in another prior competition, they need to contact the upcoming competition admin and move their dance into the Open category.

**Restricted** – a limited number of competitions have a Restricted category. This is for dancers who have won a Novice class but not Open.

**Open** – this is for dancers who have won a Novice category. There is the option in some competitions for a Novice dancer to enter Open (if no Novice category exists) but they do so with the understanding that the other competitors have won a Novice class.

### **Scholarship**

Some competitions have this class in which dancers place from overall scores. The dancer with the highest average score receives the prize. If your dancer is approved for this category it's important to check the syllabus as it's often cheaper to enter all solos under the scholarship than individually.

### **Championship**

Some competitions have a Championship category. This is for dancers who are consistently placing at a high level within regional competitions. For most Championships, dances cannot be repeated so dancers will need a specific dance designed for this category. Silhouette dancers need prior approval to enter any Championship class

**Restricted Championship** – for dancers who have not won a Championship

**Open Championship** – only for dancers who have won a Championship

## Recreation and Development level dancers

We encourage dancers in these levels to enter our In-House competitions. We have created these to replicate the process of a regional competition in both the entry and programme for the day. We want dancers to feel successful in their performance and we add to this by providing great feedback from our adjudicator.

This can provide a pathway if dancers are working towards auditioning for Academy. Dancers at these levels are not permitted to enter local competitions as this is just for Academy dancers.