

DWC Jazz Discipline

DWC Jazz Dance Discipline Guidelines

The Jazz Dance and/or Creative Jazz Dance Discipline is to be based on the artistic and creative exploration and must consider the unique and stylistic energy and dynamics and expression unique to the Jazz Dance styles and improvisation.

What the DWC judges should expect to see on stage in performance

The Choreographic Content - The dance must reflect the obvious jazz dance vocabulary and Jazz techniques (*jazz pirouettes, layouts, fan-kicks, jazz walks, jete's/jumps*) along side a strong narrative that should be connected aesthetically to the music used for the choreography. The style, narrative and direction of Jazz choreography should be reflective of the specific styles and the differing era's of the jazz dance idiom. The Choreographic content needs to show a creative performance that has a beginning, middle and end that is connected and flows throughout the dance.

The use of music - As long as the jazz dance vocabulary is used the music can vary. Music best used is that of **Jazz Music**. There are many styles and sounds of Jazz music from – *Jazz Standards, Big Band/Swing Jazz, Lyrical Jazz and also Latin Jazz* through to more *contemporary* Jazz music compositions. Musical Theatre music can be used if it is from a show that is Jazz based, however, the emphasis for the Jazz Dance discipline is to view original and innovative choreography to Jazz Music, allowing the teacher and dancer to find a new expression through Jazz dance and its related music. This will also reinforce and show an understanding of timings, emotions, dynamics and musicality in performance.

Suitable footwear for Jazz Dance ... Any type of jazz dance shoe (*not socks*) may be worn such as heels, flats, half soles, jazz sneakers and boots. However, common sense should prevail. If a jazz dancer performs jazz piece in ballet or point shoes that would be acceptable as long as the discipline remains jazz dance.

Costumes encourage an individual or group expression with an emphasis on showcasing a dancer or group to show and share their skills, technique and performance aptitude and so it is important that the costume, choreography and music used are age appropriate for the dancer/s bodies and their level of ability.