



## About the Artist



Founded in 2002, and under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO (AD/CEO) Simone Orlando since 2014, Ballet Kelowna brings excellent, inspiring and memorable dance to British Columbia and beyond. The Company presents numerous styles of dance from Canada’s finest emerging and established choreographers, and embraces the precision and elegance of ballet technique to create original new works that captivate and engage today’s diverse audiences.

Serving as the only professional dance company in BC’s Interior, Ballet Kelowna is committed to its role as a leader in the region through encouraging, promoting, and developing Canadian dancers and choreographers. The Company performs annually for over 10,000 audience members in Kelowna and on tour, while also providing unique dance training opportunities and outreach programs.

AD/CEO Simone Orlando is an award-winning choreographer and former dancer with Ballet BC and The National Ballet of Canada. Ms. Orlando is actively leading Ballet Kelowna in collaborations with other community organizations, to educate and cultivate new dance audiences, and to enhance the impact of performances and programs.

## About the Performance

Brief description of the performance should include:

- Discipline: Ballet
- Duration/sequence: 55 minutes
- What to expect during the performance: Six professional dancers will dance an original work created by youth, and for youth. The piece will blend classical ballet with numerous contemporary dance styles to reveal a highly expressive, energetic, and entertaining piece that speaks to today’s youth. Text and recorded conversations with youth are woven throughout the original sound score to provide context and insight into the dancers’ movements and gestures.
- What is expected of the audience during the performance: The audience is expected to sit and watch quietly and attentively. Feel free to laugh when something funny happens on stage. Applause is welcome and appreciated at the end of the performance.
- Brief description of who and what the students will see during the performance: Artistic Director/CEO Simone Orlando will introduce the dance piece. Following the 45-minute performance, students will have an opportunity to meet the dancers and AD/CEO in a Q and A session.
- Technical requirements: A stage or portion of a gymnasium (minimum 30 feet wide and 20 feet deep) must be clean and free of visual obstructions. The artists cannot perform on concrete or carpet.
  - Links to artist websites or additional resources for teachers to access: <http://www.balletkelowna.ca/>

## About the Art Form

Background information of the art form should include:

The origins of ballet can be traced back to the Renaissance period and early court dances in France and Italy. King Louis the XIV of France had a profound influence on the art form, establishing the world’s first ballet school in 1661, and developing the French terminology used to describe ballet movements. Ballet technique is distinct from other dance genres because of the use of “turn out” (external rotation of the leg). Over the centuries, different styles of ballet have emerged - from romantic, to classical, to neoclassical, to today’s contemporary ballet.

Ballet Kelowna strives to demystify ballet and reveal that it is a fun and inspiring form of dance to both watch and participate in. Ballet Kelowna hopes that students will be engaged by the athleticism and expressiveness of the dancers and that they will be encouraged to attend dance classes and/or other dance performances as a result of experiencing this unique performance.



## Links to Curriculum

- Two or three learning objectives of the performance that are linked to the prescribed learning outcome in the provincial curriculum
  - Arts Education Dance: demonstrate willingness to perform dance, use elements of movement in



combination, and assess personal opportunities in dance.

- Drama: use a variety of vocal elements and movement elements to communicate meaning.
- Social Studies: relate a society's artistic expression to its culture.
- Music: assess how music evokes thoughts, images and feelings.

#### **Pre-Performance Discussion Questions**

Two or three questions for students prior to the performance:

- How long does it take to create a ballet?
- Which comes first; the music or the choreography?
- What kind of music do you expect to hear?

#### **Post-Performance Activities**

Two or three activities for students after watching the performance that have relations to the art form:

- Have students create their own dance. Working in pairs, choose a piece of music and create movement to it.
- Have students depict the moment or scene that they enjoyed the most in a drawing.  
Here is a link to a Virtual Dance Studio where students can compose dance sequences and select music to accompany the composition: <http://www.artsalive.ca/en/dan/yourturn/virtualdance/default.asp>

#### **Post-Performance Discussion Questions**

Two or three inquiry-based questions:

- What were some of the emotions expressed by the dancers and how did they get them across to the audience?
- How is ballet like sports?
- Was the dance just for entertainment or did it have a message? What was the message?

Learn more about this artist online at [artstarts.com/aotd](http://artstarts.com/aotd)