

Ballet Victoria

KNOW

About the Artist



Ballet Victoria is the only professional ballet company on Vancouver Island. It has been performing to audiences across British Columbia since 2002. Its season is made of four main stage productions, free community performances and school performances that are offered in both **English** and **French**. The company has performed in Canada, the United States and Japan. Artistic Director Paul Destrooper is the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellowship for his and Ballet Victoria's contribution to the arts in British Columbia. Now in its 13th season, Ballet Victoria continues to grow as an influential presence in the field of dance in British Columbia and Canada.

About the Performance

- Discipline: Ballet
- Duration/sequence: 60 min.
- What to expect: Brief history of ballet, demonstration of ballet movements (flexibility and strength), comparing dance to other physical activities/sports and a sample from a current production.
- What is expected of the audience: Active listening and viewing from students and teachers.
- Brief description of who and what the students will see during the performance: Students will meet Artistic Director Paul Destrooper and the company dancers, and will see a 40 min. sample from a current production.
- Technical requirements: A stage or portion of a gymnasium clean and free of visual obstructions
- Links to artist websites: <http://www.balletvictoria.ca> / <https://www.facebook.com/balletvictoria>
<https://twitter.com/balletvictoria>

About the Art Form

- Ballet originated in Italy more than 500 years ago during the 15th century and was developed into what it is today in Italy, France and Russia, but predominantly France. Ballet consists of movements or choreography set to music, most commonly classical music. Ballet choreography is unique in that it has its own specific movements and a French vocabulary. Ballet comes in different styles such as classical, neoclassical and contemporary.
- Through school performances, Ballet Victoria wants to shed stereotypes that have followed ballet. It wants children to realize the benefits of ballet as a means of self-expression and an alternative to sports for fitness and team work.
- Links to additional resources for teachers: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_ballet
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballet>

Links to Curriculum

- Dance: movement sequences based on patterns, characters, themes and topics; moving expressively in response to a variety of sounds and music
- Drama: movement to interpret and communicate meaning
- Social Studies: arts as a means of expressing and preserving cultural identity

Pre-Performance Discussion Questions

- How would you describe ballet?
- How does ballet compare to other styles of dance?

Post-Performance Activities

- Draw the ballet movements seen in the performance (pointe, lifts, grand jeté, etc.)
- Together choose a piece of music or song and choreograph movements to it, have some students play the roles of choreographers and others dancers.

Post-Performance Discussion Questions

- Can you identify some of the movements you saw in the performance?
- What do you think was the theme or story the dancers were trying to tell?
- What would happen if you took the music away?

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