



How to choose the right Performing Arts Studio

What to look for in a Performing Arts Studio.

Initially, I always look at the team who coordinate the classes.

- Are they dedicated to creating an innovative space where children are valued?
- Through their communication, are they competent and committed to investing in you and your child, always going above and beyond to help where they can?
- Are they mature, honest and approachable?
- Does the studio offer many different classes?
- Do they offer incentives?
- Are their facilities kept neat and tidy at all times, displaying the pride they have in their studio?
- Do they promote wellbeing through positive reinforcement?
- Do they provide many opportunities for their students and their families?
- Do they support children and encourage them to take risks?
- Do they facilitate courage by letting students experience musical adventures!?
- Do they understand that the growth and development of the child is just as important as the genre being taught?
- Do they imbibe life-skills, growth mindset, resilience and wellbeing into their curriculum?
- Do they celebrate every child's success, regardless of how big or small with their studio community?

When breaking it down further:

All genres taught must have strength across the board, promoting technique, versatility and creative excellence enabling students to thrive in all aspects of performance so that in their futures, they have more opportunities to obtain work due to their versatility, self-confidence and maturity.

Regarding teaching staff they all must have:

- The ability to connect with children of all ages
- The ability to impart their skills and knowledge to their students, respectfully
- Strong leadership skills and be a good role model
- Be able to inspire children to aspire to always do their best
- Have a good understanding of instilling growth mindset
- Being mindful of how they support each individual student, as they all develop at different times and in different ways
- Be a committed team member
- Be mature and honest and be able to handle the pressures of a diverse range of expectations.
- Have many years of their own professional stage and performance experience, incorporating this knowledge into their classes.

Regarding the dance genres the teachers must have:

- Exceptional dance technique (ie: strong feet, flexibility, turn out, strength, precise execution to demonstrate movement, rhythm & timing, advanced expressive qualities)
- Strong fundamentals in understanding dance safety and how to instill it in their students
- Versatility in dance styles is always a plus!
- Ability to choreograph age appropriate movements and choose age appropriate music
- Ability to coordinate groups of all sizes without prejudice
- Ability to harness a child's potential

Singing teachers must have:

- Exceptional singing technique (ie breathing, vocal control, belting technique, flexibility, strength, articulation, voice production, voice projection, harmonies, expressive qualities, microphone techniques & sound engineering)
- Perfect Pitch
- Strong music foundations & Strong understanding of rhythm and timing
- Strong fundamentals and understanding in promoting a healthy voice
- Versatility in singing styles (ie rock, pop, ballads, contemporary)
- Ability to change keys to suit children's abilities
- Ability to choreograph age appropriate songs for performances
- Be able to record students for performance events
- Be able to set up sound and lighting for their students staged events

Drama/Acting teachers must have:

- Exceptional drama techniques and skills (ie: stage blocking, characterisation, script development, emotional memory & connections, voice projection, truth acting, freeze frames and action, movement, body language, posture, gesture, gait, co-ordination, stillness, timing, control; facial expression; eye contact, listening, expression of mood; spatial awareness; interaction with other performers on stage)
- Strong fundamentals in safe drama practices
- Ability to guide children to develop their characters through scripted work
- Ability to help children make connections with the world around them
- Ability to co-ordinate a large group of children, encouraging team work and group participation
- Ability to incorporate hand held props and set stage props in safe practice for students
- Ability to modify actions and dialogue to highlight students strengths

As you can see, there's a lot that goes into creating a dynamic and reputable Performing Arts studio.

We hope this helps you navigate your options.