

2 DE POINTE



Upcoming Events:

AzestA Annual Holiday Party & Gift Exchange: Dec 17 12:00 – 1:30pm

RAD Vocational Examination: Spring 2017 (Feb 12 – Mar 18)

RAD Dance Challenge: Apr 9 – 10, Scotia Dance Centre, Vancouver

Dance Power Dance: Mar 27 – Apr 1, Bell Centre, Surrey

VIEW Dance Challenge: Apr 27 – 30, The ACT Theatre, Maple Ridge

“Our Canada” AzestA Ballet performance:

June 25, Matsqui Centennial Theatre, Abbotsford.

Everyone will participate. We require a \$20 fee from each dancer.

More information to come.

Never Too Late

Do you think you're too old to take graded examinations? Affiliate member Doreen Peachy successfully passed her grade 6 examination in July at the age of 71. She shares her dance story.

Ten years ago, I was visiting my niece who teaches ballet in Ontario, Canada. She offered me the choice of attending her ballet class or helping to look after her lively 4 year old and 2 year old. I chose the ballet class and was hooked.

On returning home it took some time to find Monica Cleaver who now teaches me in Caversham, Berkshire. Monica said that on taking up ballet seriously one loses two dress sizes in six months: overall I've lost four or five.

I started dancing with Monica's adult class, but it wasn't as challenging as I hoped. So Monica gave me permission to join the intermediate foundation class. The others who dance with me in class are generally between 13 and 18 years old.

I had an arthroscopy on my left knee in December 2010, and then an uncompartmental knee replacement in June 2014.

When I went to discuss the replacement, I said my knee bent when I took the other foot off the ground adding "you cannot do a pirouette on a bent knee". My consultant said "You are not normal – I mean that in the nicest way. If all my patients were like you, I would get better results".

When I returned Monica suggested I take grade 6 with RAD registered teacher Roman Chovanec. By this time I was doing three classes each week, plus a private class with Monica.

At the age of 71 I have just passed grade 6. I got 51% and passed all 10 sections. The RAD sent me an email confirming that I am on the oldest person on its current database.

I am now studying both intermediate foundation and grade 7. I would like to be able to encourage other older (although I never consider myself as 'older') people to take up similar challenges.