

To the IAF Awards Committee

Thank you so much for awarding me with the \$1000 IAF Small Grant. This is such an amazing opportunity to help young dancers like me to achieve their goals and dreams. I am incredibly grateful to have received your grant as it has assisted me to further pursue my dance in the classical ballet genre and take part in the Royal Academy of Dance exam programme.

With the grant funds I was able to enrol into the classical ballet exam classes at the Clare Valley School of Dance, located in Clare. I participated in the Grade 4 and 5 exam classes on a weekly basis. The funds received covered the cost of these classes along with essential RAD exam uniform and exam fees.

This year I also took part in the Royal Academy of Dance exam awards held in Adelaide. It was so nice to meet so many inspiring dancers and learn from them and the adjudicator in many ways. She talked to us about how dancers can build strong technique and what some of the most important things are while performing.

This year I also competed in dance competitions for classical and character ballet. I have received so many helpful tips and technique feedback, which is one of the best parts of performing and for that I am very grateful.

During August, I undertook the RAD Grade 4 exam with some of my closest friends, which made it extra fun. The adjudicator was really nice and we benefited from her feedback and judgements. This year I achieved one of my many goals, receiving a Distinction grade on my exam. This year has been a lot of hard work with a lot of challenges, but it has also been exciting and rewarding. I am already preparing for my grade 5 exam and so eager to start working towards going en pointe! This will involve an assessment from a physiotherapist and special exercises to prepare.

It is amazing to have the opportunity to be able show my skills and receive an outstanding result in a small country town. I am so lucky that I have a dance school in Clare that provides exams and qualified and professional teachers to help me achieve my goals. All these things I have mentioned have helped to build my confidence, strength, determination, and self-esteem which helps me in not only in dance but many other aspects of my life.

Thank you again for your support.

Kind regards,
Edwina Callary

Photos supplied by Edwina Gallery



Competition ready classical ballet



Pre exam character skirt



2023 concert solo



Classical ballet team costume



Open Classical Ballet Troupe



Edwina with ballet teacher Ms Valda Ingls-Ryan



Edwina Callary - Rad Grade 4 Certificate