Dancers’ Own Variation.

The four finalist candidates chosen to perform their dances in the final of the 2018 RAD Awards South Australia now have the choice to select a Dancer’s Own Variation to perform instead of their Syllabus dance.

A dancer’s own variation can be choreographed by the student, their teacher or a peer. This continues the thread begun with the ‘Dancers’ Own’ element, introduced to the Genée in 2012, and echoes its format with a performance of 1.00–1.30 minutes’ duration.

This will provide an important step in the development of young dancers, with the opportunity for candidates to experience the artistic freedom to produce and perform their own creation to their own choice of music. It will also promote and reward choreography as a distinct part of the creative process.

**Guidelines for Choreographer**

* Candidates should present a variation (performed in pointe shoes for females if appropriate to the level) between 1.00 - 1.30 minutes duration choreographed for them by themselves, their teacher or a peer to a piece of music of their choice.
* Dances for female candidates can include pointe work if appropriate to the level.
* The choreography should not make any reference to characters, storylines or films that are still in copyright e.g. Harry Potter, Billy Elliot, Avatar, etc., unless written proof of permission from the copyright owner of the story or underlying work can be provided in advance.
* Variations must not be close or bear too much resemblance to existing repertoire.
* Variations must not start in silence.
* Candidates should wear RAD uniform with Vocational Graded candidates able to add an RAD tutu or skirt.
* Hand-held props if appropriate may be used; however no scenery or masks may be used.

**Music – Guidelines for Variations**

The music:

* Should be between 1.00 - 1.30 minutes duration.
* Taken from a recording which has been purchased legitimately or recorded for and licensed to the candidate.
* If desired, be an original composition by the student or teacher or the result of collaboration.
* Please note that only “topping and tailing” of recordings is permissible. There should be no “internal” cuts to the music as this will likely constitute an infringement of copyright.
* Candidates are required to bring their finalised music (with any cuts or fades already edited) to the Awards and hand it in to reception as soon as they leave the stage if they are chosen as one of the four finalists for their Award. The music must be in CD format ONLY and having a backup CD is advisable. No other file formats will be accepted. CDs should be clearly marked with the candidate’s name, Award level and the name of the piece of music.

**Things to think about**

* How does your music end? Remember it is easy to fade out music, but you cannot fade yourself out from the stage so easily!
* You may choose any kind of music; however, if your music contains lyrics, these must not include any offensive material (i.e. sexist, racist or in other ways defamatory).

**Music Information Form**

The Music Information Form, which contains details of the music used for the variation (for copyright and programming purposes), should be fully completed and sent to nmiles@rad.org.au. Please make sure the title of the piece is listed.