

Ticketing of Centre Stage Productions

This letter is to clarify why we have to charge for tickets for Centre Stage Productions.

Firstly, the cost of regular class time. This is what you pay for when you pay the term fees and is charged per hour at a very competitive rate especially when you consider the two main factors:

- Our teachers are trained and experienced and have all worked as professional performers.
- We have very small classes, usually a maximum of 12 students in a class - many other similar courses in other schools run with a minimum of 20.

Please note, we don't charge any extra for the training experienced in extended and standby rehearsals or in technical and dress rehearsals – this is given as gratis.

To stage a show at an outside venue, we have to pay for the weekend hire of a theatre - this often amounts to upwards of \$8000.

We fund these events with a combination of charging a fee to be in the show and ticket sales, when children perform on stage, they tend to average two audience members each. With this budget we have to cover the cost of venue hire, performance rights, materials for the set, the costume, marketing, printing and extra man hours involved in a large scale production, you can see how quickly these production costs add up. Our aim for these shows is not to make a profit from sales, but to ensure all costs are covered and to provide your children with the best possible platform and produce the most high quality show we can for the cost - and putting on a show is a very expensive business.

So that you can assess the costs involved for this show we have included some key elements from a recent production ('Diamonds' 2015):

Venue Hire	\$8000
Construction of the set	\$1300
Costume @ \$60 per student	\$4800
Props and set dressing	\$430
Performance rights	\$1890
Lighting and Sound equipment (additional to standard rig)	\$2100
	\$18520

Those are only some of the major costs, by no means all. Then we must factor in the time to construct the set and fit up lights and sound.

Set building	20 hours
Lighting and sound programming	10 hours

Finally we add additional staff for the dress rehearsals, tech and show - an additional 8 staff members working 20 hours each: 160 hours.

We would love to be able to offer the tickets cheaper to fill the audience. If there were a way to offer the shows at a lower cost, we would love to take it. Sponsorship is an option, at the moment we are 100% un-funded, but it is hard to attract sponsors prepared to pay for other children's experiences in a first world country.

What we do manage to achieve, that no other school does, is to provide a constant range of projects for the students with an excellent teacher/student ratio. This simply does not exist in other schools that tend to do big productions with huge casts and equally big-ticket costs.

I hope this explains why we have to charge for tickets of Centre Stage Productions. Thanks so much for your time and understanding.

Very best wishes

The Centre Stage Team