



Dear Parents,

I would like to announce with mixed emotion that I will be moving my family to live in Colombia, South America from July due to a work contract for my husband. I will be incredibly sad to leave your children and the fulfilling role I have as a dance teacher. However I am very grateful for the opportunity presented to us to live and work in South America, a place where I have lived and worked as a missionary for two years in the past.

Sonia Herron Academy of Jazz and Rhythm Dance studio will continue to work together bringing the best quality classes in Dance and Drama and we have made every effort to ensure a smooth and successful transition over the next few months. I have received wonderful counsel and guidance over the last months in how to transition the daily management of the studio into the very capable hands of my teaching staff and studio manager.

I will still be involved in the following ways:

- I will be able to monitor and ensure quality control of classes with an online connection to the cameras currently connected in the studio.
- I will be writing all Theatre Kids syllabus and sending through teachers notes for teachers to follow according to the Trinity College requirements.
- I will have weekly meetings via skype and regular email contact with all my staff.
- I will be returning to Hong Kong to conduct summer programs and plan the end of year show each year.

My teaching staff are being trained in all syllabus and are currently studying for their teachers certification in the JazzAddict syllabus which they will sit in August. While some of the staff are junior teachers our senior Dance instructors both have teachers qualifications and teaching experience in putting students into examinations and preparing for annual shows. Our drama teacher is highly qualified in Drama and Music and previously held the position of Head Of Drama at a very prestigious High School in New Zealand.

I am blessed to have an amazing team of people, and I believe your children will also benefit from their passion and dedication to dance and drama.

## **Dancing For Freedom**

Dancing for Freedom is a not for profit organization that I am setting up to provide dance classes for talented children from impoverished home situations. Having lived in Colombia before I know how much poverty and desperation faces many of these kids. I believe having something like dance in their lives can give them confidence, to trust that they are good at something, and to see their bodies as worthy of respect and honor. Dance has the power to bring freedom and joy to their lives.

It is my dream that in the future every child who enrolls to dance at Sonia Herron Academy of Jazz in Hong Kong will sponsor one child in Colombia to have dance classes. The way this will work is simple, you continue to support the studio and continue to allow your child to study dance, and part of your child's fees will go towards a child in Colombia's dance lessons. There will be no extra charge to you, and no increase in fees. I will update the **Academy of Jazz** website regularly with pictures of classes and the students who are benefitting from the classes.

### **How can you stay up to date with what is happening at the studio?**

1. Our website: [www.academyofjazz.com](http://www.academyofjazz.com)
2. Our facebook page: Sonia Herron Academy of Jazz
3. Email: [sonia@academyofjazz.com](mailto:sonia@academyofjazz.com)

We have just started uploading regular videos of classes on our fan page on facebook, this is to help your child remember their steps so please do allow them to view it from time to time.

Please email me if you have any questions or concerns and I will do my absolute best to answers any questions you may have!

God Bless you and I'm exceedingly grateful for the support I have received from you all over the past 3 years your support has meant a lot to me personally, I hope and pray you will continue to support the studio over this transition time.

Warmest Regards,

*Sonia Herron x*

