

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q. Why must we purchase tickets?**

**A.** When an auditorium is rented for a performance, there are many costs involved. We must pay for the rental of the facility, custodial staff, technicians, scenery, security guards and other associated costs. The charge for tickets is to cover these costs so we don't have to pass them on in the form of higher tuition fees. We try to keep the ticket prices at as reasonable a level as possible, and are usually lower in price than comparable studios in the area.

### **Q. Why are the students required to wear their hair in a bun without any bangs?**

**A.** The students receive professional level training here and we want to make their performance experience professional as well. Because they dance as a group, it is important that they look like a group on stage. Hair, make-up, and costuming are all a part of the presentation. Even the younger students will feel a sense of unity and team spirit when they are a part of this type of quality performance etiquette. We ask that make-up be worn to highlight the faces so the audience can see them, rather than being "washed out" in the bright lights of the stage. Also, underwear should not be worn under costumes. It is surprising how visible it is on stage under the lights.

### **Q. How long will the show last?**

**A.** Each performance will last approximately three hours, with one intermission between acts.

### **Q. Can the students watch the show? If not, where do they stay?**

**A.** The children can watch the show on a closed circuit television that is provided in every dressing room. Unfortunately, this is not possible to allow students to watch the show from the audience and there are two important reasons why. First, the students' safety and security is our top priority. If we let them leave the dressing rooms during the show, we would not be able to monitor their whereabouts. The dressing rooms are the best place for the children during the show where they are supervised by volunteer parents. At the end of the performance, parents can pick up their children from the dressing room and the volunteer parents can insure that each child goes with the right adult. Secondly, the shows are always sold out and there are no available seats for the students. We suggest the students watch the other classes during dress rehearsal.

### **Q. Why are parents not allowed back stage or in the dressing rooms?**

**A.** It is not our intention to keep children and parents apart. This is only for the student's safety and security. We have volunteer parents who will watch your child while they are in our care. If we let every parent in the dressing rooms or back stage, it would become chaotic and too easy to end up with a missing child.

### **Q. Can the parents leave during dress rehearsal?**

**A.** During dress rehearsal, we require that a parent accompany all students.

### **Q. Can the parents and students leave during the recital?**

**A.** If you are not attending a particular performance, you can leave and return to pick up your child at the end of the show. If you are attending the performance, we ask that you show consideration to all the dancers by staying until the end of the show and then retrieving your child from their dressing room. If for some reason you need to remove your child from the dressing room before the end of the performance, a letter requesting early release must be given to the teacher and director for approval prior to dress rehearsal week.

### **Q. Why can't videos or pictures be taken during the recital?**

**A.** Copyright laws prohibit the use of video cameras and photographs. The dancer's safety and theater etiquette are two more important reasons. Flashes from cameras can quickly disorient a dancer and lights on video cameras can be very distracting. Since we keep the house lights up during dress rehearsal, we ask that any photos or videos be taken during rehearsal. We also feel the same courtesy should be extended to our performers as would be used at a professional performance. Lastly, out of consideration for other audience members, the distraction of photos (with or without flash) or videos during the show is not appropriate. As part of your child's dance education, we teach proper theater etiquette and we hope you will help reinforce this through example.

### **Q. Why are food and drink not allowed in the auditorium?**

**A.** As guests of the school facilities we must abide by their rules. Food and drink are not allowed in the auditorium. Again, we ask all adults to observe these rules and lead by example.