

# BACKSTAGE

## DANCE STUDIO

# Everything You Need To Know About Competition!

Welcome everyone! Once again we begin our season with lots of new faces and even more familiar ones! The purpose of this handbook is to answer any questions you may have regarding what is expected of a competitive dancer and a competitive parent at Backstage Dance Studio. Please keep this handy during the season for referral. You will only receive one copy however, you may access it on our website if necessary.

### Attendance

We cannot stress enough how important regular attendance is to be a competition team dancer! All competitive classes are dedicated to learning or "cleaning" the choreography. A dancer who misses a rehearsal holds back the progress of the entire group. We will be taking attendance at each and every rehearsal. You are permitted 3 hours of missed class time for the season. After that, we ask that you pull your child out of the group. No refunds will be given, including costumes that have been ordered or made. If the dancer is sick or injured and is able to come and watch, that will not be counted as a missed class.

### Behavior

Dancers will be expected to focus, concentrate and try their best in every class and rehearsal. Classes and rehearsals will be fun, but not based on 'goofing around'. Class and rehearsal times are not appropriate times for socializing with friends. Our comp dancers will be role models for the other dancers at the studio. Set a great example by placing your boots/shoes neatly on the boot rack, keep the change room tidy, talk quietly between classes, don't run around etc... Most importantly, treat all dancers (comp and rec) with respect.

### Boot Camp

Each August we hold a boot camp that is **mandatory** for all competition dancers. During this week dancers are assessed for final group placement and choreography begins. It is very important the dancers do not miss this week. We have reduced the already low camp fee to \$100/wk and \$50 for the second sibling. The 2009 Boot Camp week is AUGUST 17-21! **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW** We will remind you several times throughout the year so that nobody forgets!

***Failure to attend this summer intensive will have a negative affect on group placement or team dismissal.***

### Class Placement

Placement decisions are based on MANY years of dancing and teaching experience. Not all dancers progress at the same rate. Sometimes dancers will be placed in different levels for different styles of dance. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex. Ultimately, class placement is up to the teacher and her decision is final.

### Communication

In the high tech world we live in of home computers, laptops, Blackberry's etc... we feel that our BEST and most efficient form of communication is through email. Set up a separate folder in your inbox for BACKSTAGE! Don't delete emails because you will likely need to refer to them more than once. Please ensure that Cheryl has your current email address before you leave today! Also, by giving us your email address we will assume that we can share it with other comp team members. If you need to contact someone in the group, you have will have their email address. PLEASE do not abuse this information by sending unsolicited forwards, spam and jokes! If you feel strongly against sharing this info, please let Cheryl know.

For general inquiries please email Cheryl - [backstagedance@rogers.com](mailto:backstagedance@rogers.com)  
For serious or sensitive issues, you may contact Coleta - [coletaco@hotmail.com](mailto:coletaco@hotmail.com)  
and Sheila - [backstagedance@sympatico.ca](mailto:backstagedance@sympatico.ca)

All information will also be on our website...check it frequently  
[www.backstagedance.ca](http://www.backstagedance.ca)

## Competitions

We will be competing in 5 competitions between March and May. We will do our absolute best to avoid both March break weekends and Easter weekend. Please DO NOT schedule any family holidays during these months. Once our travel schedule is set, we will advise you. Your commitment to the team requires that the competition takes priority over all other events planned for that weekend.

We generally receive the competition times 2 weeks prior to each competition. These will be emailed to you as well as posted on our website under "Competitions".

Dancers are to arrive at the venue at your stated "Arrival Time". Arrival time means that the dancer has arrived at the venue, is in costume, specified hair, make-up, jewelry and dance shoes on!! This is one hour prior to their performance time and that hour will be used by the teacher to warm up and prepare the dancers. Often competitions run ahead of schedule and we need to be prepared to go on early.

It would be wonderful if you went over the schedule and made an effort to watch as many Backstage dances as possible! The support a soloist feels at 8:00 am from a group of her teammates is priceless!

## Costume Fittings

Mark your calendars for Friday October 17, 6:00pm - 8:00pm. We will be having our seamstress come in to measure all dancers. There will be a fitting date in December or January. If you miss either of these dates, it will be your responsibility to make an appointment with the seamstress. **BOYS & HIP HOP GROUPS DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND!!**

## Dress Code

**This dress code is for all competition students and will be strictly enforced.**

Class	Bodysuit	Tights	Shoes	Hair
Ballet/Pointe	black camisole, any style	ballet pink or beige	pink ballet	Bun
Jazz/Lyrical	blk/wht/grey cami crop, tank or bra top	black shorts pink/beige tights	foot thong III	Ponytail
Tap	blk/wht/grey cami crop, tank or bra top	black shorts pink/beige tights	black tap shoes	Ponytail
Tech/Stretch	blk/wht/grey cami crop, tank or bra top	black shorts pink/beige tights	foot thong III	Ponytail
Hip Hop	no dress code	no jeans	indoor shoes	

Dancers are permitted to wear last years comp jazz shoes (boots and/or pedinis) if they still fit.

Elastics will be handed out for \$1 each if dancer comes to class unprepared. The money will go to fund-raising. We will also have a "dress down day" fundraiser where you can wear whatever dance clothes you want by paying \$1/day. This will occur the last week of every month.

Sue Kenny from Suit Yourself Bodysuits will be selling all of the above clothing to meet our dress code needs. Sue can be reached at [kkenny01@rogers.com](mailto:kkenny01@rogers.com) or 519.763.1801

Please put your child's name on EVERYTHING they wear or bring to class. You would be appalled by what gets left behind!

## Extra Rehearsals

Occasionally it is necessary to pull groups/duets/trios and solos in for extra rehearsals close to competition time. This is generally done on a Sunday afternoon. You will be given notice if you are required to attend.

## **Fund Raising**

We had an extremely successful year last season. Lynne Friel organized ongoing BBQ's and Pizza Days that were a huge hit! As well, our Elmira Chicken and MacMillan's campaigns were terrific. All monies raised are split 50/50 between the committee and the individual.

Last year we were able to provide our team with garment bags, jewelry, shorts, t-shirts etc...all in a recycled, reusable exclusive cloth Backstage bag. The jewelry is part of the competition costume that the fund-raising committee purchased for each dancer. **If you choose not to participate in our fund-raising campaigns, you will need to purchase these items from us (value \$75). You will also forfeit the 'swag bag' given at the comp showcase.**

Be prepared to spend time on this very worthwhile committee. By giving an hour or two of your time, we will all benefit greatly!!

**EXECUTIVE** - While we love our committee and never tire of their smiling faces, they tend to burn out quickly!! Please, speak up if you would like to be a secretary, head a campaign or just volunteer some time. **Did I mention, we can't do it without you!!!!**

## **Hotels**

At least two of our competitions will likely require a hotel. Once we know our competitions, it is advisable to book your rooms right away. Please book for the Thurs/Fri/Sat nights to be safe. You can always cancel any nights you do not need. The Competitions will specify a host hotel and that info will be given to you when we receive it. It will also be posted on the website under "Competitions".

## **Parking**

Please park in the back parking lot if you plan on staying at the studio. The city is quite diligent in ticketing cars parked on the street. If possible, drop your child off and pick them up when they are finished classes.

## **Punctuality**

It goes without saying that arriving late to class is not acceptable. It is extremely disruptive to the teacher and fellow dancers. Please make every effort to arrive at the studio 10 minutes early to allow your child to be ready on time.

## **Shoes**

Please do not purchase shoes and tights for competition until you have been informed what your group will be wearing. They may vary from group to group. We are having our annual Backstage Shopping Day at Inspirations Dancewear on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 - 3:00. We will be given 20% off all tights & footwear. [www.inspirationsdancewear.com](http://www.inspirationsdancewear.com)

## **Showcase**

This is a really fun event for family and friends. It is the competition team's first opportunity to perform for the public! This is also when we make sure all the costumes fit properly (and function properly - to avoid any 'malfunctions'!) All dancers must have their proper competition tights and shoes as well as any hats and accessories that accompany their costume.

This event is also a HUGE undertaking for our Fund-raising Committee. We cannot do it without parent volunteers. There will be more information to come as the date gets closer, Please mark Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup> as the tentative date for this event.

## **Snow Days**

In the event of bad weather we will make our decision to cancel classes by 3:00 pm. At that time there will be a recorded message on our answering machine as well as an update on our website. You can also check with Magic 106 and CJOY for weather cancellations. Just because school buses are cancelled does not mean classes will be cancelled. Also, buses may be running but because of a storm late in the day, we may feel cancelling class are necessary.

## **Sponsors**

Each year we have several local businesses sponsor our Competitive Team. For \$300, the sponsors logo will appear on our Comp Showcase Program, our Year End Recital Program (approx. distribution 2500) and any t-shirts we have made for our Comp Team. If you have a business or know someone who would like to advertise this way, please let us know ASAP.

**Viewing Windows** The windows will not be open every week for competition rehearsals and classes. It will be at the discretion of the teacher. Some parents may compare their child's progress or class placement to others in the group. A negative focus or comparison creates an uncomfortable atmosphere. In addition, speaking negatively about your child's teachers, fellow dancers or other parents in front of your child - or other parents and students - could result in problems far beyond your original concerns.

**Warm Up Suits** Every Competitive student MUST have a Backstage Warm-Up Suit. It is mandatory for all new comp dancers to purchase the new warm-up. Boys may purchase a hoodie. Returning comp dancers are encouraged to wear last years suit!!! You do not need to purchase this year's model unless you really want to! Order forms will be sent out the second week of classes. Along with the warm-ups we will also be offering garment bags, a large dance bag on wheels, make-up cases on wheels, hoodies, pants and shorts.