

# Tips For Success-Guiding You Through The Year

## Financial Commitment

By joining Performance Company you are also making a financial commitment. We want our families to feel prepared to budget for the expenses associated with Company. It is important to us that there are as few unanticipated expenses as possible.

Here is what you should prepare for:

### Monthly Tuition

Tuition is paid monthly for the classes you take each week. This fixed expense begins in September and continues through June.

### Choreography Costs

Choreography fees are paid for each dance your child competes that requires additional time outside of Company Classes. Dan, Heather, Wild Card Faculty, and outside choreographers all contribute to choreographing competition routines. This expense ranges from \$50-\$200/dance depending on what the choreographer charges. There will be a charge of \$5/rehearsal for additional times that we meet to clean dances.

### Company Costumes

Each competition dance you are in will require a costume. At Wild Card, we try to keep the costumes as affordable as possible. For estimating, they run between \$75-\$150 per dance.

### Convention Fees

The average convention runs about \$300. This covers the cost of the workshops and classes you will attend throughout the weekend.

**Note:** Additional expenses to plan for convention (not paid to Wild Card):

- Hotel room expense (typically \$110-140/night)
- Travel & food expense for the weekend
- Observer bands (\$20-\$50/event, optional)

### Competition Fees

Every competition has entry fees for each dance. This cost is also considered separate from the convention fee. For most group dances the average cost is \$35 per routine. If you are in a solo, duo or trio, the cost of registration for each of those dances is estimated between \$45-\$90.

### **Master Classes (each month)**

Throughout the year, we will offer a variety of guest instructors to challenge and work with our dancers. This is not only an amazing experience for the dancers but also a necessary part of creating a quality dance program. Each master class runs between \$15-\$25/class. This amount is not included in your monthly tuition. Please budget in 1-2 master classes per month.

### **Rehearsal Fees**

Rehearsal fees begin after a routine has been completed and needs additional time to be cleaned up. It is usually a small amount \$5-\$10/hour.

### **Rehearsing & Dress Rehearsals**

Rehearsal is done in 3 ways at Wild Card:

- In studio
- Video
- At home

Company Members are expected to practice utilizing all three methods. Once choreography is taught, the dancer is held responsible for remembering the choreography AND having it perfected even further at the next rehearsal. We will be posting all choreography videos on the Company Website for dancers to reference (no competition routines should be made public on YouTube, Facebook, or any other media site). Music will also be available for each routine for dancers to use. We recommend that you load your dancers music into a playlist and send it with them to each performance event. This will allow them to go over routines in the car, at the hotel, and backstage to prepare for competition.

Dress rehearsal is incredibly important. This is how we make sure costumes are complete & secure, hair & makeup guidelines are met, and for dancers to rehearse like it's the real deal. Company Members will not be allowed to compete if they are not present at dress rehearsal(s). Please mark your calendars accordingly.

### **Understanding Convention Events**

Conventions are exciting events for our dancers!

- A dance convention, located at hotel, is where students attend various style dance classes taught by professional dancers and choreographers who are currently at the top of their industry.
- A dance competition involves performing our rehearsed routines for judges.

When a dancer attends a convention they will be taking classes all day Saturday, competing their routines Saturday night, and taking more classes on Sunday. Some conventions also host competition on Fridays, so we ask that you mark your calendars Friday through late Sunday afternoon for these events.

### **Notification of Conventions**

A week before the event you will be informed via email of the weekend's agenda and competition schedule. Conventions and competitions do not release their official schedule until this time.

### **Getting Ready to Attend the Convention/Competition**

As you prepare for convention and competition it is important that you have a checklist of the supplies you need to have with you. This will ensure that you do not leave any items at home and are fully prepared. Each dancer's checklist will be personalized so please take time to help them with this task.

#### **For competition:**

- Costume(s) –include every piece in your checklist, separate your costumes with individual garment bags
- Makeup -there will be a list of specific brands and colors that dancers must wear as well as video tutorials on how to apply the makeup. These can be accessed through our Company Website.
- Hair supplies-specific instructions and tips can also be found on the Company Website
- Scissors
- Safety Pins
- Double sided tape

#### **For convention:**

- Appropriate clothing
- Shoes for all dance styles
- Hair supplies
- Snacks/food for lunch

### **Arriving at Convention**

All of the conventions start with you arriving early for “check-in” with Dan or Heather. We will have your dancer and observer wristbands. The specific times are given to you in the email we send about the convention.

### **Taking Convention Classes**

When attending the master classes offered at convention, the instructors and their helpers are experts in the dance style being taught. As they are teaching, they are looking around to find the students who demonstrate not only the right technical abilities but the right attitude and behavior. During their observations they often pull students up onto their stage to who are demonstrating

these skills. We have had a variety of Wild Card students selected. In addition, in each of the age groups, they give special scholarships to those who are exemplary in the discipline. You never know – so try to do your best.

Company Expectations at Convention:

*The most important thing to remember is THIS IS NOT A VACATION. The dancers have worked hard and the main focus should be the event. Focus, rest, diet all play a part in testing their endurance throughout the weekend.*

- **Prepare a dance bag.** Please include clothing, shoes and snacks/lunch you will need for the day. Keep in mind that the temperature varies in the room so prepare for being hot and being cold.
- **Attend all classes and be early.** This includes the scholarship audition. The classes are great learning tools, inspiring, and build endurance while the scholarship audition helps dancers improve their auditioning skills. If a dancer feels like they cannot make it through all of their classes please talk with Heather and/or Dan before sitting out. Students caught sitting out may be placed on probation. Following these guidelines shows respect to your teachers and represents WCDC in a positive way.
- **Dress in dance appropriate clothing for each master class.** Do not wear overly flowing tops/clothing except in hip hop. Dance is about training your body, and if the teacher cannot see your body they won't be able to make corrections. If you don't have the right shoes, such as tap, that is ok, you can tap with any shoe on, just take the class. Dressing appropriately says that you care and take this seriously. This is the message you want to send.
- **Keep your hair neat and away from your face.**
- **Never Give Up! You can do it!** The classes are designed to challenge students. Do not feel discouraged if you don't get the moves perfectly. Do what you can with confidence. Many times the confident dancer is the one noticed. The master teachers value this attitude too. It is what will make you successful more than any other tool.
- **Position yourself in a location to the front or off to the side so you can be observed.** Do not stand in the back of the room.
- **Pay attention. Look interested. It is not the time to talk with friends.**
- **Have Fun!** At the end of the day you have to enjoy the process. The journey is the most important part.

### **Scholarships**

Every convention will have scholarship auditions. Every WCDC Performance Company Member must audition. Regardless if a dancer receives a scholarship, the audition teaches students how to become better under pressure. Everything in performing arts is audition based and artists have to practice auditioning, like any other skill, in order to improve at it. Bottom line, auditioning is a skill and this is the class you practice that skill. Plus, you might receive a scholarship.

### **Convention Safety**

It is important to remember when attending conventions/competitions that you are not at home and that you should NEVER be alone. Always travel with a partner.

### **Getting Ready for the Competition Portion of the Convention Weekend**

Following classes on Saturday (and possibly Friday), students will get ready to compete their routines against the other studios at the convention. We will advise you where to meet us and when for the competition. At this time you are expected to:

- Arrive early
- Arrive in full make-up and hair ready
- Arrive in full costume for the first dance; bring additional costumes
- Be polite in the dressing room
- Be polite to competitive teams
- Know when you are supposed to be on stage
- When close to competing on stage, stay with your full team
- Be supportive of your team members, even if something goes wrong – we all go out to do our best but sometimes, we do something wrong – that is ok, we’ll grow from the experience together.
- Stay for the awards ceremony
- HAVE FUN!!!!

### **Understanding Competition Events**

Some of the events that we attend are “competition only”. This means that dancers will not be taking classes, only competing their routines. Dancers will get a call time (time you should arrive at the event) and then perform their routines. The routines will be judge by professional dancers and ranked against other competing studios. At Wild Card we ask that you do your best, have fun and support each other. Please adhere to the same competition expectations as mentioned above.

### **Recital & Dress Rehearsal**

Our Company numbers are performed at recital, which is why these events are mandatory for all Company dancers. This is most likely the last time the routines that our dancers worked so hard on will be performed. This is a time for them to celebrate their hard work in a non-competitive environment amongst their supporters. It is important to also understand that recital is about celebrating WCDC as whole and not just its Company Members. Every Company routine will only be featured in one of many of our recitals. So in order to see every Company routine throughout the year, we would like to encourage family members to come watch one of our competitions. This is the best place for them to watch our Company dancers perform in an environment that is geared completely around them.

### **Costumes & Costume Care**

Each performance company dancer will purchase a costume for the specific routine(s) he/she will be performing in. Sizing and ordering of the costumes takes place early in the Fall so that we are prepared for the events during the year. You will be notified when it is time to be sized and to place an order/pay for the costumes for your specific company team(s).

### **Caring for Your Costume (Best Practice Recommendation)**

It is important that dancers maintain all of the pieces of your costume neatly throughout the year as we order them once for the full year. The dancer is responsible for it being together and being “performance ready”. When you receive your costume, we ask that you label each piece as everyone dresses together in public dressing rooms. We highly recommend that you store and bring it to competition in a clear plastic garment bag with all pieces together so they you could quickly and easily see the pieces, grab them quickly and be ready for performances on time. The clear bags come in handy when you are in multiple numbers. These are an inexpensive investment that is wise to easily maintain costumes. They can be purchased in many stores such as Bed, Bath and Beyond.

### **Stage Make-up**

As a company dancer, you will be expected to wear stage make-up during performances as it is essential that all dancers look the same. This will count as part of your teams’ score during competition. We ask that all dancers learn to apply the make-up. There are tutorials on the Company Website, Performance Company veterans, and parents who can help if needed.

#### **Required Stage Make up Supplies**

As a member of company, you will need the following make-up supplies. It is best that you always have these packed and ready for competition in a case that allows you ease to get at and utilize them.

- Oil Free Base Foundation (slightly lighter than skin tone)
- Concealer (best color for skin tone)
- Bronzer (best color for skin tone)
- Blush –specific color needed
- Loose Powder (best color for skin tone)
- White eye liner pencil
- Black eye liner pencil
- Eye shadow-specific color needed
- Red Lipstick-specific color needed
- Make up applicators or sponges
- Make up remover and/or baby wipes
- Miscellaneous items as needed such as: q-tips, cotton balls, hand wipes, tissue, make up remover wipes for fast changes or quick fixes

#### **Applying Stage Make-Up**

We recognize that many of you are just learning how to apply make-up and perhaps are unsure of the appropriate order to put the make-up on or even where to apply the make-up. To help you, we created a few short videos showing you how to apply the make-up. Learning how to do this

properly will take practice. Give yourself time to learn. Remember, when you are at competitions, there are people who are experienced in doing this and will be able to help you, should you experience difficulty. We are a team. We work together to do our best.

Please login to the Company Website to view the tutorials. We recommend that you review these and practice in advance of going to the competition so that you will have it mastered.

### **Your Face Make-Up Step by Step**

After reviewing the videos showing how to apply stage make up, you are ready to begin trying these steps on your own. To assist you, we have created step by step instructions so that you can practice.

#### **Step 1: Apply Foundation.**

Using your fingers, sponge or brush, apply the foundation all over your face and neck. Pay particular attention to your neckline and hairline, blending evenly. You don't want to look like you are wearing a mask.

#### **Step 2: Apply Concealer**

Apply wherever you have a blemish or dark circle (if you have any) to cover them.

#### **Step 3: Apply Bronzer**

Apply with a brush to define your cheek bones, forehead, nose and chin.

#### **Step 4: Apply Blush**

Apply with a blush brush at the front of the cheek and a little down the nose.

#### **Step 5: Apply Loose Powder**

Apply all over with a large brush blending in particularly around the neck area.

This concludes all of the face make-up and you are ready for the eyes.

#### **Step 6: Apply the white eyeliner.**

Apply white eyeliner to the lid of your eye beginning in the inside corner (close to the nose) bringing it out a little before the center of the lid.

#### **Step 7: Apply black eyeliner pencil.**

Apply the black eye liner, beginning the line where you ended the white liner, and continuing it out to the outer corner of your lid.

#### **Step 8: Apply the purple eye shadow.**

Brush the purple eye shadow on the outer half of the entire lid.

#### **Step 9: Apply the charcoal shadow.**

Apply this (over the purple) on the outer third of the lid and slightly beyond.

**Step 10: Apply the white shadow.**

Apply this over the entire inner third of the lid.

**Step 11: Apply the black mascara.**

Apply mascara to your top lashes only. Hold the wand just below the top lashes where they start to curve and blink several times to apply mascara.

**Step 12: Apply lipstick.**

Apply lipstick to your full lip.

## **Stage Hair Style**

As a member of company, you will need the right hair supplies to style your hair in the required style for competition. Most often, we are required to compete with hair in high ponytails. It is essential that you use the right supplies to eliminate any “fly aways” as they count against us when performing. As a best practice, we recommend you have the following available to you:

- Hair ties (that closely match the color of the hair)
- Spray water bottle
- Hair gel
- Hair spray (the cheaper, the better, AquaNet works well)
- Bobby Pins
- Hair clips (that closely match the color of the hair)

Please login to the Company Website to view the ponytail tutorial. We recommend that you review these and practice in advance of going to the competition so that you will have it mastered.