



Rose of the Shire Performing Arts

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Navigating the Show: A Guide for First-time Dance Parents

The first dance show can be full of non-stop surprises for the first-time dance parent. Dance has its own culture of expectations and traditions, and they will all converge on the day of the show.

Read through our tips carefully, and if you need help or clarification, ask! We are more than happy to help. We want ALL our dance families to feel prepared and confident as the show day arrives.

Insider Tips:

- ✓ **Bring water and activities:** Shows can seem long to young children. Be prepared to stay and celebrate every number, and, more importantly, prepare for your dancer to be happy when he or she is back stage. Send some things to entertain your child: card games or a stuffed animal can make the wait much shorter. No fizzy drinks and juices- just a cold bottle of water is perfect!
- ✓ **Label everything:** When in the changing room area, clothes, shoes and toys can easily get lost. Make sure that literally everything (even coat hangers if necessary) is labelled so it can be returned to its rightful owner. Do not bring valuables into the changing room.
- ✓ **Costume tips and tricks:** You may have more than one costume to manage. When you pick up your child's costumes, avoid the temptation to let him/her wear them before the dress rehearsal. They should look fresh for the performance. It also helps to keep accessories for each costume in a separate bag inside of each costume bag. And whatever you do, don't forget your dancer's shoes!
- ✓ **Know the hair-style:** Your child will have a specified hair style for each different dance number. Make sure you know how to achieve this hair style. Practise, practise, practise...the more you do this, the better and more secure the hair style will become each time. If a hair workshop is provided, make sure that you attend and ask for a demo if needed.
- ✓ **Come equipped:** Planning and preparation are important. Bring tissues, make-up supplies, plenty of hair grips, hairspray and bobbles.
- ✓ **Arrive early:** Our seating is general admission, so arriving early to secure seats is encouraged. Avoid prolonged goodbyes when dropping your dancer off to avoid any upset on the day of the show.
- ✓ **Plan for a gift:** Receiving a bouquet of flowers is traditional in dance shows. If your little one is old enough to appreciate this gesture, it's a lovely little touch. Purchasing the show programme is also a great treat for the dancer and something that can be enjoyed for many years to come.

It's normal for parents sometimes to feel anxious or nervous about their children's first events. But work to avoid channelling your nerves to your child. If you observe that your dancer is nervous, remind him or her that everyone is there simply to celebrate great dancing and to enjoy the show!

The most important thing is to ask if you're unsure about anything.

"Break a leg"

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