



DANCE EXPRESSIONS

BY ERICA

Showcase Handy Book

Philosophy, Policies and Procedures

Dance Expressions by Erica's Showcase is a rite of passage for dancers of all ages, a chance to shine in front of family and friends that is anticipated with the most special kind of excitement. DEBE's end-of-season June Showcase offers our students a professionally directed performance that allows them to present to their families and friends with the results of a year of hard work, dedication, and progress.

A big part of the dance training process includes learning through performance. The experience helps build self-esteem and confidence. On stage experience can also result in better school presentations, improved social skills and strong interview skills for future college or job opportunities. Participating in rehearsals helps children develop retention skills, teamwork and adaptability.

We've created this handbook in an effort to clarify what is required in terms of commitments and responsibility in order to make the June Showcase a great experience for students, parents, teachers, tech crew and audience members alike. We're going to have a GREAT show and we look forward to sharing it with you!

- Miss Erica and the DEBE faculty & staff

IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

Showcase Dates

The DEBE Showcases take place the first or second week of June. All rehearsals leading up to our showcases are mandatory.

Reminders

We will send reminders via email. Please make sure your account is set up to accept our emails. Emails are sent directly from our registration system.

Updates

As the season progresses, additional Showcase information or updates will be published in additional email communications as needed. Make it your responsibility to keep abreast of this important information. It's a team effort; students, parents, teachers and the directors are key players in the show's success!

Home Practice

Students are encouraged to practice their choreography on a regular basis. Each routine will be uploaded to a dropbox link that will be shared with each student.

SHOWCASE TICKETS

Ticket Sales Procedure & Policies

Each family will receive 4 tickets with their performance fee. This procedure is to ensure each family has enough show tickets for their dancer's fan club. If you do not need 4 tickets, you are more than welcome to sell them to those that will need more than 4. Tickets will be sold to the public beginning May 1st at the DEBE location (depending on capacity limits). We will also sell tickets at stage rehearsal and at the door of the showcases. Tickets are \$12 each before Show Day. Tickets are \$15 at-the-door. This will depend on the capacity limits. There are no discounted tickets for children. If the child will be sitting on a parent's lap for the showcase, they will not need a ticket. Anyone using a seat will need a ticket. Our DEBE dancers do not need to purchase a ticket.

COSTUMES, TIGHTS, SHOES, HAIR & MAKE UP

Costumes

We spend many hours determining the right costumes for each class. They are always age-appropriate and of the highest quality possible. Costumes include accessories, but not tights or shoes. Costumes are distributed as they arrive to the studio; usually in January or February. Costumes come from a variety of manufacturers, so students with multiple costumes may not receive all of their costumes at the same time. To ensure that there are no costume problems, students should not wear their costumes prior to their photo session or showcase performance.

Although rare, alterations and/or exchanges are sometimes needed. DEBE will also exchange costume sizes within one week of distribution at no cost to you, if returned in its original packaging. After that week, there may be additional shipping/handling fees and /or limited availability.

Tights & Shoes

To ensure that there are no discrepancies in color and style, students wear special dance tights (not nylons) and specific shoes for their performance. These items are available from our DEBE Boutique. A list with specific tights colors and a reminder of required shoes will be published over Winter Break. The Costume Look Book can be found on our website and posted at the studio.

Hair & Makeup

Stage lights are very bright and can wash out special facial features of your child . In order to see every dancer's sparkling eyes and smile, girls do wear makeup for the Showcase. Uniform hairstyles are also required.

Please check the costume look book for any information. Please see your teacher for suggestions if you have short hair.

ROUTINES

Routines are carefully choreographed by your child's instructor and approved by the director on or before the March 1st deadline. Routines may be adjusted at this time to accommodate the groups' needs. Song choice and concepts are at the choreographer's discretion and approved by the director.

STAGE REHEARSAL

Due to covid, we will be having in-studio rehearsals the day before your showcase day. We will run the exact schedule/timeline as the showcase line up. Your child may leave when they are finished.

~~Participation in the Stage Rehearsal is **MANDATORY**. The Stage Rehearsal allows the students to become familiar with the theater and feel comfortable with their performance and being onstage. Lighting, music cues, entrances, exits, formations, and all other logistics are rehearsed so the students have the best experience possible on stage.~~

~~Our rehearsals are long, but mostly relaxed, organized and timely. All rehearsals are stage rehearsals. Stage rehearsals are not dress rehearsals. Dancers are not to wear their costumes. Students should arrive with hair and makeup done. Once you are done rehearsing, you may leave. However, it is always fun to stay for a while with your child and watch quietly from the back of the theater so they can see other groups rehearse. You can find your assigned rehearsal time in the newsletters or in your email. Videotaping and photography is allowed at the Stage Rehearsal, but not at the Showcases.~~

Dressing-Room Etiquette

Students are reminded to respect other students' space and property in the dressing rooms. The students will spend more time in the dressing rooms than onstage, so keeping these areas organized and clean is important. A parent "pep talk" in this department goes a long way in preventing lost shoes and accessories. Only water is allowed in the dressing rooms. Drinking fountains are located nearby. Please limit snacks to portable, non-messy ones such as fruit snacks. Dancers are reminded not to go into the theater or lobby areas in costume before, during or after the shows. Dancers are able to join the audience after their final performance.

Grand Finale

Due to covid, we will not have a Finale this season.

~~The finale is rehearsed on Saturdays in May. We encourage all of our dancers, tiny to grads, to participate in our Finale. It's a great experience for everyone and always a fan favorite. The Finale shirt and practice time is included in the Performance package fee. Hair and make up during the finale performance is your choice, no shoes are required and dancers are to wear their finale shirt & black shorts. Finale shirts will be distributed at stage rehearsal.~~

STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK UP

Dress Rehearsal Arrival and Dismissal

Due to covid, parents will drop their child off and pick them up outside of the building. If your child is under 6, one parent or guardian may accompany them into the studio. Students may leave when they are finished with their routines.

~~A parent or guardian will bring their dancer to the registration table in front of the dressing rooms upon arrival, where they will be checked in and placed under the supervision of their teachers. Please be on time! All students will sit with their class, by row, on the left side of the theater. When a class has completed its time on stage, the teacher will take the class to the side hallway to be checked out to a familiar face if they are finished for the day. If the dancer has another routine, they will be taken back in to the auditorium by a helper to sit with their class. Please be sure to send a note with any guardian that your child's teacher may not recognize. Debut Dancers and Baby Ballet parents will come down the aisles to take their dancer directly for the stage. Dancers will receive their Finale shirt and pre-ordered Yearbook at check in. Tickets and Yearbooks will be available for purchase at this time as well.~~

Showcase Arrival and Dismissal

Parents should bring their children to the dressing room area located down the long hall to the left.. They will be signed in by a parent/guardian at the check in/out table and placed under the supervision of their teachers for the length of the performance. Parents are permitted into dressing rooms for changing purposes. We will stream the showcase on TVs. Dressing rooms will be stocked with various activities. Parents may pick their child up directly following their last performance or we can keep them in the dressing room until the end of the show. They will need signed out at the check in/out table. Debut Dancers and Tippy Toes dancers will be picked up directly from the stage following their performance. (Parents will bring their flowers to their child at this special moment.) We regret that we cannot accommodate backstage visits during the show. Please arrive 30 minutes before the start of your Showcase!

BACKSTAGE

The only parents allowed in the backstage area are our prop dads and 1 guardian for our Debut Dancers/Tippy Toes, if necessary.

SHOWCASE MEMORIES

Performance Package

The Performance package includes: 4 Showcase tickets, 1 Showcase T-shirt, ~~Finale practices~~ and Digital Media. The performance package is \$85.

If you have more than one dancer in our program, they will need to purchase the a la carte sibling option for \$25, which includes a t-shirt, digital media ~~and Grande Finale practices~~. You may also pre-order additional t-shirts at \$15 for yourself or another fan.

Showcase Yearbook

DEBE publishes an annual yearbook-program booklet for the Showcases. Our yearbooks include senior letters, group photos and intros, individual photo pages with well-wishes, behind the scene moments from throughout the season & more. It is a remarkable keepsake. Yearbook-programs are available for purchase via pre-order, at the stage rehearsal or at the showcases. Our Yearbook-Programs contain each show's line up information. When you purchase an individual quarter, half or full page in the yearbook, you receive one free yearbook!

Check it off your list!

- √ Yearbook Individual Page
- √ Yearbook
- √ 4 Tickets
- √ Showcase T-Shirts *additional T-shirts may be pre-ordered
- √ Digital Media