

## 2012 Competition Check List & Help Sheet

Mini sewing kit, safety pins (costume repair)

### Costumes

Baby I'm A Star – Dress, tan tights, tan jazz shoes, head band

Whatever You Want – Dress, tan tights, fishnet tights, black jazz shoes, gloves, extra shorts (optional)

Secret – Dress, biker shorts, heart

Batdance – Girls – pants, silver top, black socks, black jazz shoes; Michael – pants, black & silver top, black shirt, black socks, black jazz shoes

Tango – Girls – dress, tan tights; Guys – pants, shirt, red tie, black leo

Dancin' Fool – Pants, shirt w/silver tie, suspenders, black socks, tap shoes, hat

Laundry Dance – Skirt, top, scarf, character shoes, tan tights, baskets & laundry

Party Time – Pants, top, sneakers (plain white), black spots bra (for girls), white socks, gloves

Beautiful People – Shorts, top, tan tights, fishnet tights, hair piece, tap shoes

Brotherhood of Man – Dark pants, white dress shirt, dark vest or suit jacket, bowtie or long tie, black socks, black jazz shoes

***\*\*Make sure to remove all tags that might show in any way (easiest to remove ALL tags)***

### Odds & Ends

Duct tape (for shoe/costume emergencies)  
Extra elastic for Musical Theatre hats

Extra socks and tights  
Wet wipes, cotton balls, foam makeup applicators, Q-tips, brushes & combs, hair gel & spray, extra hair nets, bobby pins & clips

### Hair

*For buns do hair in bun as per directions in meeting (3 Jan) – they should be LOW, near the nape of the neck*

*Other hair will be instructed by individual choreographers – dancers will NEED to remember*

Use a hairnet (or toe-ball portion of fishnet stocking works really well too) and bobby-pins to make the bun neat and tight – *if it hurts when you put it in it's correct!*

Pin and/or gel/hairspray rest of hair (w/ clips/bobby-pins as needed) to keep ALL fly-aways down

### Makeup

*Do makeup as per meeting (3 Jan) directions:*

All the girls should have similar makeup:

Base (should be darker than skin tone; avoid pumpkin looks though)

Blush (brown tone)

White/Lt Tan & Brown eye shadow  
(white/lt on whole lid up to eyebrow;  
brown over only on lid)

Mascara (NO false eyelashes)

Black/brown eyeliner (bottom lid, right along the lash line starting ~1/4 from inside to outside edge)

Lip-liner & -stick (brown/mocha tone)

**Tips From the Trenches (things to make life potentially easier on competition weekends)**

- Remember ‘veterans’ (dancers and parents) can ALWAYS help out those new to this process – whatever the needs – just ask!

**Before you leave Columbia:**

- Label *all* costume pieces
  - ✓ including shoes, socks, hairpieces, PROPS if you have any, etc with dancers name/initials.
- Garment bags are ideal for costumes
  - ✓ PROPS will fit in too!
  - ✓ the dancers will NEED to keep costumes on hangers when not in use to keep them in good shape (they have to last until recital and potentially other events)
- Dance/Duffle bag for shoes, non-costume dance wear
  - ✓ this bag can be taken with the dancer to classes and competition dressing room
- Bring extra hairnets, bobby-pins, safety-pins
  - ✓ put some in a ziplock bag and make duplicate bags to keep in different places (e.g., dance bag, garment bag, and with mom/dad!)
- Bring Jazz, Ballet, Sneakers and Tap shoes to competitions
  - ✓ Dancers will need them for convention classes even if they don’t use them for competition
- Bring Competition Jacket – this should be worn to and from classes, over any costume (especially if the dancer goes out to watch other dances and has a costume on)
- ALWAYS verify that **ALL** pieces of needed costumes, hair and makeup products, and competition jackets are packed and ready to go a day before you leave for KC (or StL)
  - ✓ Re-check before leaving Columbia (we’ve had instances of people forgetting props, hairpieces, and other items in the past and this results in panicked dancers and potentially point deductions during the competition if they never get the missing pieces)

- **DOUBLE (and triple) CHECK** that PROPS are packed in Garment Bag with costumes!
  - ☆ *Marie has in the past said “Heads will roll if [fill in the blank] are forgotten”*
- Dancers should develop a routine/process by which they change costumes in organized fashion – *practicing at home sounds silly but when dancers come to the first dress rehearsal (16 Jan) they will want to be on best behavior, professional and QUICK. Dancearts prides itself on being professional and quick backstage at competitions*
  - ✓ while this is especially true for those in multiple dances, this applies to ALL dancers – quick, efficient changes are a MUST (not only at competitions but also at REHEARSALS and the Spring recital)
  - ✓ a little planning and organization will go a long way to making the dressing room work well
- **Parents:** *Consider packing a cooler with drinks, fruit, veggies, lunch and snack foods*
  - ✓ *this makes snacking at breaks and lunch much easier (and cheaper in many ways). There are usually morning breaks during convention when snacks are helpful*
  - ✓ *Don't forget the protein!*

### **Friday Night in KC (or StL)**

- Scope out the Ballroom/convention areas of the sponsoring hotel Friday night
  - ✓ this will allow you to get oriented and know where stuff will be Sat morning and beyond
- Get LOTS of sleep Friday night

### **Saturday Morning & Convention Classes**

- Dancers will meet the teachers Saturday mornings between in convention area WELL before class (times will be sent around as we get closer to convention/competition dates) – look for the D-Arts jackets (this is another reason to ALWAYS wear your competition jackets at Conventions)
  - ✓ receive identification bracelets that are used to get into ALL convention/competition events
  - ✓ Dancers **MUST keep bracelets on ALL weekend (even during competition)**

- ✓ *At some competitions parents can purchase a bracelet (typically >\$10-20 per day) to be able to sit in the classes and watch their dancer*
- ✓ *Schedules will be posted of the convention (often time on-line before the convention). Competition schedule should be posted later that day (w/ order of dances)*
- Dancers should dress for convention classes as they would for classes at Dancearts
  - ✓ one color (preferably black, although a colored top is nice to stand out in the big classroom a little more – although it's not meant to DRAW undue attention remember) single layer w/tights
  - ✓ wear Competition jacket as a cover up when not dancing
- Dancers should be on their BEST behavior at ALL times in convention classes and at competition – they are representing themselves, their families and Dancearts!
- Participate in ALL classes at convention
  - ✓ except if the teachers indicate otherwise
  - ✓ Classes are an opportunity to learn and show team spirit. Dancers should try to get up front where they can see – don't be shy, try everything, work hard, have fun and make friends!
- Have a bottle or two of water in dance bag at all times; some snack stuff is good to have too—no gum or colored drinks that could damage costumes
- **PARENTS:** *If eating out for lunch, plan ahead*
  - ✓ *Dancers generally get about an hour for lunch (the schedule of classes, etc will be on hand) but keep in mind several hundred kids get out of classes at the same time*
  - ✓ *it works nicely to find out what your dancer wants for lunch before lunch and get it for them –you can meet them at the convention area or order ahead and meet them at the restaurant area*
- Take a nap or at least some down time at the end of classes/before competition (which are usually Sat evenings/nights)

### **Sat Evening - Competition**

- **DOUBLE CHECK** garment and dance bags before heading to the dressing room

- ✓ Dancers should **MAKE** sure ALL costume pieces, shoes, props are present
- Remember to bring water!
- Get to the dressing room **EARLY** to stake out a ‘Dancearts’ area
  - ✓ dressing rooms are usually in one or more of the class ballrooms, thus all studios are mixed together
  - ✓ it’s best if everyone sticks together in one area, this will allow more experienced ones to help newer dancers, etc
  - ✓ by arriving early dancers should have plenty of time for hair, makeup, costume prep, and necessary pre-comp mental time!
- **PARENTS:** *while dancers are going to dressing rooms it is a good idea for a few parents to get into the line early for seats (it’s Southwest Air style – first come first serve, so the closer to the front we are the better) – a few parents can save a lot of seats for the Dancearts Crew*
  - ✓ *Mannie and a couple others usually stake out spots in line but they would welcome company and help!*
- **PARENTS:** *Mom’s might check in on Dancers in dressing rooms (especially younger ones) to make sure they are ready and have help with difficult costume changes or other costume issues*
  - ✓ *it’s also nice to be supportive and encourage the team*
  - ✓ *of course, we don’t want to be in the way, so use your judgment about how long to stay*
- Dancers should use their dance bags or some other container (e.g., a Dollar Store collapsible laundry bin) as temporary storage place for already worn costumes at competitions
  - ✓ This minimizes the chance of losing costume pieces and keeps confusion to minimum (e.g., keep ‘to be worn’ costumes in garment bag; ‘already worn’ costumes’ in dance bag/laundry bin)
- **NO earrings, watches, necklaces, or other jewelry pieces** are to be worn with the costumes at dress rehearsals, competitions or during convention classes unless part of the costume – also **NO nail polish** at any of these events

- During the actual competition, Dancers should not be outside the dressing room in costume *except* when dancing or lining up to dance
  - ✓ if dancers have time to watch dances between their pieces they can have a costume on as long as they are wearing their competition jacket over the costume – NO EXCEPTIONS!!
  - ✓ **if dancers watch other pieces they MUST be in the proper backstage/dressing room area at least 5 dances prior to their next piece** (unless told otherwise by Marie, Maggie, Marisa, Kristina, Amy or Becca)
- The competition experience can be very intense for the dancers, so dancers should try to continue to provide encouragement and avoid criticism of teammates throughout the weekend – look out for and back-up teammates when appropriate
- **PARENTS:** *remind your dancer to be a good sport (some teams can be negative toward other teams). It is important to respect the hard work and talent of other groups, everybody has worked hard to get to these weekends*
- Pack up ALL of their costume stuff, props, shoes, etc. before leaving the dressing room area. Be sure to bring any extras you find back to Dancearts

### **Sunday Convention**

- Classes usually start up again early Sun morning and run until lunchtime or shortly thereafter – as was the case on Sat, dancers should be going to ALL classes if possible
- The first two Winter/Spring conventions/competitions (Jump and Tremaine) have Teacher/Student Showcases that follow immediately after the end of convention classes on Sun – these usually only last about 30 minutes to an hour, the kids love watching their teachers from the classes perform (parents usually enjoy it too!)
- DOUBLE check that ALL costume pieces, props, shoes, etc are packed up before you leave StL (or KC)
- Pat ourselves on the back for a job well done! ☺

## **Competition Costume List**

### **Baby I'm a Star**

**Dress, tan tights, tan jazz shoes, head band**

### **Whatever You Want**

**Dress, tan tights, fishnet tights, black jazz shoes, gloves, extra shorts optional**

### **Secret**

**Dress, biker shorts, heart**

### **Batdance**

**Girls- pants, silver top, black socks, black jazz shoes**

**Michael- pants, black & silver top, black shirt , black socks, black jazz shoes**

### **Tango**

**Girls-dress, tan tights**

**Boys- pants, shirt, red tie, black leotard**

### **Dancin' Fool**

**Pants, shirt with silver tie, suspenders, black socks, tap shoes, hat**

### **Laundry dance**

**Skirt, top, scarf, black heels, baskets, tan tights**

### **Party Time**

**Pants, top, sneakers, black sports bra (for girls), white socks, gloves**

### **Beautiful People**

**Shorts, top, tan tights, fishnet tights, hair piece, black tap shoes**

### **Brotherhood of Man**

**Dark Pants, White button down shirt, dark vest or suit jacket, bowtie or long tie,**

**Black jazz shoes, black socks**