

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How long will the show last?

A. Each recital will last approximately 2 ½ hours.

Q. Can the students watch the show? If not, where do they stay?

A. Unfortunately, it is not possible to allow students to watch the show from the audience. The students' safety and security is our top priority. If we let them leave the dressing rooms during the show, we would not be able to monitor their safety. The dressing rooms are the best place for the students during the show where they are supervised by our faculty and parent volunteers. At the end of the recital, parents can pick up their students from the backstage area and the parent volunteers can ensure that each student goes with the right adult. Recital DVDs are also an excellent way to re-live the magic of recital at home after the show.

Q. Why are parents not allowed back stage or in the dressing rooms?

A. This is for the student's safety and security. We have parent volunteers who will watch your student while they are in our care. If we let every adult in the dressing rooms or back stage, it would become chaotic and too easy to end up with a missing student. Our streamlined system makes safety the top priority.

Q. Why are students required to purchase a T-shirt to participate in the finale?

A. As a part of a professional show, it is important that all dancers look uniform each time they are on stage. Instead of requiring students to purchase an additional costume for the finale number, we have chosen to only require T-shirts, which are a fraction of the cost of a full costume and can be worn numerous times in the future. Students are not required to participate in the finale number but it is one of the most fun and exciting parts of the show!

Q. Can the parents leave during dress rehearsal?

A. During dress rehearsal, we require that a parent accompany all students under the age of 12.

Q. Can the parents and students leave during the recital?

A. If you are attending the performance, we ask that you show consideration to all the performers by staying until the end of the show. If for some reason your student needs to leave before the end of the performance, **you must fill out and submit an early release request form prior to recital week.** These forms can be found at the front desk.

Q. Why can't videos or pictures be taken during the recital?

A. The performer's safety and theatre etiquette are two important reasons. Flashes from cameras can quickly disorient a dancer and lights on video cameras can be very distracting. We also feel the same courtesy should be extended to our performers as would be used at a professional performance. Out of consideration for other audience members, the distraction of photos (with or without flash) or videos during the show is not appropriate. As part of your child's performing arts education, we teach proper theater etiquette and we hope that you will help reinforce this.

Q. Why must the audience enter and exit between numbers?

A. Proper theatre etiquette is such that audience members should not enter and exit at will. Also, as the lobby doors open, light comes into the auditorium and creates a distraction for the performers. There will be ushers at the doors during the shows allowing the audience to enter and exit. Please remember, if you must visit the lobby allow yourself ample time to return to your seat before your student performs.

Q. Why are food and drink not allowed in the auditorium?

A. As guests of the Van Trease PACE, we must abide by their rules. Food and drink are not allowed in the auditorium or dressing room. Again, we ask all adults to observe these rules and lead by example.

Q. Why are the students required to wear their hair in a particular way & wear make-up?

A. The students receive professional level training at Theatre Arts and we like to make their performance experience professional as well. Because students dance as a group, it is important that they look like a group on stage. Hair, make-up, and costuming are all a part of the presentation. Even the younger students will feel a sense of unity and professionalism when they take part in this quality performance etiquette. We ask that make-up be worn to highlight the face so the audience can see the performer, rather than being washed out in the bright lights of the stage. Also, girls' underwear should not be worn under costumes. It is very visible onstage under the stage lights. Please wear tights only underneath the costume.