

Audition Rules & Guidelines

Tooele Valley Academy of Dance

What to wear to an audition

For ladies, black leotard and ballet tights. Skirts, wraps, legwarmers, and any other type of attire is discouraged. If you feel strongly about wearing a skirt/ballet shorts, plain black only. The judges find other colors to be distracting. For gentlemen, a fitted plain black short sleeve t-shirt, black jazz/sweat pants [worn below the knee but above the ankle] & thin, knee length black socks are preferred. *If an adult, auditioning only for an adult role, you may forego these rules and wear casual clothing.*

Shoes

Ballet Flats are absolutely required. Ladies, pink. Gentlemen, black. Ladies who are auditioning for a role that is to be danced on pointe must bring pointe shoes to audition in as well as flats. *If an adult, auditioning only for an adult role, you may wear character shoes or regular heels. No stilettos please.*

Hair

Ladies: hair must be pulled back away from the eyes. Hair that is long enough should be in a bun or french-twist. Hair that is too short for a bun must still be secured back with a headband and/or bobby pins.

Gentlemen: should look well groomed & hair should be styled so as to be away from the eyes.

Be on time

Prepare to be at least 5 minutes early to an audition. The doors will close 5 minutes after the scheduled start time and late comers turned away.

Upon arrival

Ideally, you will have printed off & filled out the necessary audition paperwork before arriving to the studio but if not, arrive early to give yourself at least 10 minutes to complete the required paperwork. After turning in the paperwork you will receive a number. This number is to be worn above the waist, clipped onto the leotard [for gentlemen, onto the shirt]. After receiving your number, you should change into your dance attire and begin quietly warming up near the barre/center floor. Do not be a distraction while stretching/warming up. You will be judged on professionalism the moment you enter the studio.

Observation by parent/guardians

Parents are welcome to fill out paperwork at the studio. This will be a closed audition, however, meaning that parent/guardians are not invited to observe after the audition has started.

What to expect

Based upon the audition sheet, the director will call certain numbers to audition at certain times. Know your number so when it is called you are ready to move center floor. The director will then explain and demonstrate what you are to do. If you are confused or have clarifying questions, raise your hand. Make sure to prepare and finish in the manner the director indicates.

Respect

Respect yourself and others during and after the audition. This includes being considerate and polite to others, before *and* after the audition. Respect the decision of the judges and the director.

Dismissal

Due to the nature of auditions, a set dismissal time is not guaranteed but we will likely conclude around noon. Auditioners are welcome to leave after auditioning for the roles they desire [see additional audition paperwork for more specifics]. After concluding the auditions, the director will dismiss all remaining auditioners. Auditioners will then have 15 minutes to leave the premises so the judges can begin deliberation.

Casting Results

The results of the audition will be posted online and emailed that evening. Be positive with casting results. Not everyone is cast in the role they desire every time, not even professional dancers. Inevitably some will not receive the role they desired. The way you handle the results of the audition is extremely important to the director and the cast at large, especially your peers. Be humble about your successes and your failures. Everyone will have both at some point in life and how you handle the aftermath of auditions speaks volumes about your personal character.

Other Auditioning Tips:

- Audition for as many roles as you are able and willing to receive.
- Look the judges in the eyes when you execute a movement or combination, not the Director.
- Do not make excuses for yourself. If you feel you would like to repeat a movement or combination, raise your hand and ask to do so. Do not assume you will be able to, though.
- Never draw attention to your mistakes. Mistakes are a part of performing and how you “cover up” your mistake will indicate to the judges how professional a performer you are.
- Remember, the way you audition is likely the way you will perform. The judges are looking for the best all-around performer for each role. This includes not only how you execute a movement or combination, but how well you express yourself & generally perform. If you have questions regarding what facial expression to maintain or what type of mood you should convey, ask the Director. A neutral face full of energy and ease is the most commonly auditioned expression. This can be difficult to achieve for some dancers. Keep tension out of your neck. Make dancing look effortless. Remember to try your best and have fun!!

NOTE: The deliberation of the judges will be confidential. Do not ask the director why you were or were not cast in a particular role. Instead, ask yourself how you can learn from the audition. Many factors can determine whether/why a particular dancer receives a particular role. In some companies height or body type can contribute, even hair color.