

Dance Theater Etiquette

1. Voices may carry beyond backstage and into the audience. Be mindful of this when approaching the backstage area.
2. If performing in an ensemble, the stage manager should count all dancers about to perform. Next, dancers should enter/exit the stage space at the same time. Walk quietly, especially if performing in tap shoes, and remain still while awaiting your cue.
3. Remain flush beside the wing curtains before your entrance. If you can see the audience, they can see you. Avoid touching the curtain because any movement will draw attention away from the performance on stage.
4. Standing in the wings for anything other than an entrance is at most a distraction and can prove to be an issue of safety for other performers and crew working in the space. Hang-out in the green room.
5. Once call time for the cast has passed, all performers should remain in the backstage area. The front of house, lobby, and any other space in view of in-coming audience members should be avoided.
6. All costumes should remain on-site following a performance. Hang the costumes and organize them in the order needed to perform in the next show. Avoid drinking and eating in costumes to eliminate stains that you may not be able to remove.
7. A quick change may be required to make a timely entrance. Pre-set your costume prior to the show and change behind a backstage screen on the side of the stage you will be entering.
8. Keep your focus, energy, and behavior consistent in each performance. Although you may be performing in numerous shows, for the most part, your audience members only attend one. This professionalism will be noted by the director, which may earn you future work.
9. Visitors are off-limits in the backstage area for reasons of safety and respect for fellow cast members. Friends and family may be seen following the show.
10. After the last show, promptly begin to strike, meaning that you will return the stage and dressing area to its original order. Be safe, keep a positive attitude, and listen to the directions of the technical stage director so all will be completed in a timely manner.