

Basic Performance etiquette – booking and dancing at a solo show

- the now what guide to being a performer

Professional or amateur gig?

This is an important point because you need to know what your level is **as a performer** and what the audience expects. Professional performances should be compensated (more on that later) and amateur performances are usually free (community fairs, charity shows, etc.). Know what the employer and audience expects before agreeing to any performance. If you are not sure if you are ready yet for professional performances, ask your teacher, another professional dancer, or check my skill level guide for a rough estimate if no one is available to help you.

So – you are asked to perform...

1. Get all of the important information. A short list of basics in below:
 - a. Contact information of customer
 - b. Type of performance expected
 - i. Style
 - ii. Length
 - iii. Professional/amateur
 - c. Is this a paid performance/What is the pay/How will you be paid
 - d. Date/Time/Location
 - e. Music availability
 - f. Props
 - g. Occasion
 - h. Costuming preferences/number of costume changes
 - i. Whether there will be a changing area or you should arrive in costume
 - j. ANYTHING else you think might be important
2. After you get all of the information, decide if you are qualified and available for the performance
 - a. If you are not able to do the performance, recommend other area dancers if possible
3. If you **are qualified** and **are available** and choose to accept the gig based on this information, then you will want to place it on your schedule and either
 - a. Rely on your verbal contract, or
 - b. Ask for a signed contract.

Ok – now you are booked for a performance...

1. Pre-performance
 - a. Get your music ready
 - i. Choose your music
 - ii. Create a back-up of your music
 - iii. Place your music in your gig bag with the gig information
 - b. Get your costume ready
 - i. Check your costume for any necessary repairs and fix any issues
 - ii. Remember to add any jewelry you plan to wear
 - iii. Don't forget your matching undergarments
 - iv. Performance test your costume if **anything** has changed
 - v. Place your costume in your gig bag
 - vi. Do not forget a cover up if you will be seen by the audience between performances
 - c. Get your props ready
 - i. If using any props, examine them for issues then place them in your gig bag
 - d. Get your make-up and hair products ready
 - i. Place a travel bag of all the make-up you will need in your gig bag
2. If gig was set in advance, call to confirm the day before the performance

Getting ready to dance...

1. Arrive at the location for the performance early
 - a. Always take into consideration traffic and travel time

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- b. If you will be changing into your costume at the performance location, always make sure to bring everything you could possibly need and have enough time to change and deal with any unforeseen circumstances
 - c. If you will arrive in costume, wear a cover up
 - d. Check in with your gig contact
2. Music
- a. If you will be dancing with a band, try to get a chance to speak with them before going on stage
 - b. If you have recorded music, try to have the dj or contact person do a sound check with your music to be sure that your cd will play correctly.
3. Entrance and Performance
- a. Make a grand entrance
 - b. Smile!
 - c. If you look like you are enjoying yourself, the audience will enjoy themselves as well
 - d. Remember you are a 3 dimensional dancer
 - i. Dance to all of the audience
 - ii. Use your space
 - iii. Try different angles to present your movements
 - e. Have fun! This is what all of your practicing and rehearsals have led to
4. Exit
- a. Remain a performer as long as you are visible to any audience member
 - b. Thank your host and leave your contact information