

Dance Explosion

An inside look into
the world of dance

Putting together the
PERFECT recital

Studio of the Month:
DeFino II Dance Studio

**1,2,3...
It's All
About Me**

*Dancers
Guide to
a Healthy
Lifestyle*



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YOUR TIME TO SHINE

Steps in Creating the Perfect Recital

By Brittnee Reed



Recital day: the most exciting yet stressful day in a studio owner's life. Dance studio's everywhere spend months preparing for this one special day in hopes that everything goes off without a hitch. Before getting completely overwhelmed, STOP! Take a deep breath, and read the following steps! Breaking everything down into simplest form will not only help studio owners produce an amazing recital, but it will relieve the stress and set the butterflies swarming your stomach for months free!

Setting the Date

As much as parents, family, and friends love to see their dancer perform, sitting through hours of dancing can be rough, especially for men. When choosing a recital date, it is important to make sure the day does not conflict with any other events such as national holidays and sporting events. Although dance studio's see their recital as their very own Superbowl, men in the audience do not, and will be furious if they are stuck watching ballet during the most important game of the year.



Choosing Correct 🎵🎶

Every recital needs variety and uniqueness. Mix it up! Never have 3 slow ballet dances in a row, intertwine some sharp tap moves, funky hip-hop, and upbeat jazz routines in the mix, followed by beautiful modern performances. Make sure the music relates to the story and genre of the routine. Audience members do not want to leave a recital feeling confused as to why they just watched Pointe dancers perform to Nicki Minaj.

Furthermore, it never hurts a recital to carry out a theme. Consider producing "Dancing through



DeFino II Dance Studio
Tuesday Group II
"Single Ladies" June 2013

the Decades” or for a dominantly female studio, “Girl Power”. Themes amp up the excitement and wow factor of a performance and give the audience something different to look forward to. Just make sure your music choices stay in whichever theme you choose.



Costumes that Shine

Parents spend hundreds of dollars on costumes for their children each recital. It is important to consider every dancer’s body type when deciding on the costumes. Be aware of the dancer’s feelings and insecurities! Though it is never anyone’s goal to publicly humiliate someone, the wrong costume can do just that.

However that being said, there has to be a happy medium in costume decisions. Never punish an entire class because of one student. Just because the color black is a sliming color, doesn’t mean everyone in the class enjoys wearing it every year. Sally, the heavy dancer, is in the class. Have variety, different colors, tutus, glitter, and shimmer! Make each dancer on that stage stand out!



Lights, Camera, Action

It’s show time! The big day has arrived! Do not panic and definitely do not let your dancers sense any signs of fear. The last things performers need is added stress from their teachers. Be optimistic and encouraging! Make each recital day a time in the life of a dancer they will never want to forget.

The show ends and it’s time for curtain call, not 15 minute speech making. Keep your acknowledgments short and sweet! Trust me, your audience will appreciate it much more this way. Be sure to include the parents and thank them for supporting your studio year after year. Make them feel important to insure a returning client.

Whether the day was a huge success or had a few bumps along the road, be sure to congratulate each dancer on a job well done. Encourage them yet feel free to give them constructive criticisms on ways they can improve for next time. However, do not take away from the performance they just gave. It takes a lot to get out on the stage and perform. Without your dancers, there would be no recital to look forward to each year.

As you move forward in your recital production I wish you nothing but the best, *Break a Leg!*



DeFino II Dance Studio
Senior Ballet
"Yellow" June 2013

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STUDIO OF THE MONTH



DeFino II Dance Studio *Celebrating 50 years of dance*

DeFino II Dance Studio is devoted to instilling a passion for the performing arts in its students throughout the Northeast Philadelphia community. They offer various forms of dance and music classes year round. Classes are taught in a non-competitive atmosphere that strives to cultivate creativity, confidence and self-determination within each of their students.

Each year, DeFino II produces two recitals: a Holiday and Spring performance. Dancers from this studio have been featured on Fox 29 news, dancing to promote the motion picture *Ice Age*.



In addition, last year DeFino II dancers performed during the Philadelphia Wings Game at the Wells Fargo Center.

Students of DeFino II Dance Studio are taught by a professional teaching staff with much experience in the field.

The studio offers beginner classes for children as young as three years old, all the way to advanced lessons for adults.

At DeFino II, every student becomes not only a part of the studio, but part of a huge family. This year, DeFino II invites the community to attend their June recital in honor and celebration of their 50th anniversary!

A JOURNEY TO THE PAST

Exploring the Roots of Each Style

By Brittnee Reed



TAP

A dance performed wearing shoes fitted with metal taps, characterized by rhythmic tapping of the toes and heels.

On May 24th, 1998, the greatest ever number of tap dancers gathered for a single routine at the Stuttgart City Square in Germany. Choreographed by Ray Lynch, the 6,952 dancers tapped away for 2 minutes and 15 seconds. The event was organized to commemorate the birthday of Bill “Bojangles” Robinson.

BALLET

An artistic dance form performed to music using precise and highly formalized set steps and gestures. Classical ballet, which originated in Renaissance Italy and established its present form during the 19th century, is characterized by light, graceful, fluid movements and the use of pointe shoes.





DeFino II Dance Studio
Pointe Duet
"James Bond Medley" June 2013



MODERN

A free, expressive style of dancing started in the early 20th century as a reaction to classical ballet. In recent years it has included elements not usually associated with dance, such as speech and film.

Modern dance values a weighted use of the body in relation to the earth - as opposed to ballet, which is more concerned with resisting gravity. Dancing in bare feet enables the dancer to connect directly with the floor. After dancing in bare feet for a long time, generally the soles of a dancer's feet adjust and toughen. Some modern dancers put tape on their toes and the balls of their feet to make it easier to turn and slide.

POINTE

Pointe technique is the part of classical ballet technique that concerns pointe work, in which a ballet dancer supports all body weight on the tips of fully extended feet.

The first pointe shoes were little more than soft slippers, heavily darned at the toes. Today, pointe shoes are made of multiple layers of burlap, paper and glue. The hardened glue gives pointe shoes their stiffness.

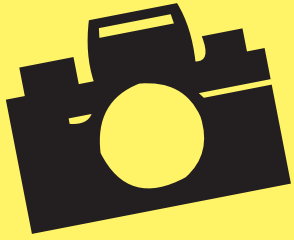


HIP-HOP

Hip-hop dance refers to street dance styles primarily performed to hip-hop music or that have evolved as part of hip-hop culture. It includes a wide range of styles primarily breaking, locking, and popping which were created in the 1970s and made popular by dance crews in the United States.



Photo Contest



Think your photo has what it takes?

Upload your best dance photo to *danceexplosion.com* for your chance to win!

First Place: \$1,000. Second Place: \$500. Third Place: \$100

Deadline for Submission: December 20, 2013

