

MFA Studios Competition Etiquette

You must arrive 2 hours before your performance time ready to perform with your costume on, hair done, and makeup complete. This allows time for stretching and going over the routines. Competitions usually run ahead of schedule. We have been to a competition before that was running 2 hours ahead!

Entering/Exiting Auditorium

When music is playing in the auditorium, a dancer will be on stage. It is important not to enter or exit while the music is being played. Once you hear the music stop, quickly and quietly find a seat or exit the auditorium. In between acts, keep talking to a minimum, with a hushed tone. There should be no talking while someone is performing. As with any performance, remember to silence your cell phones. Please also remember while watching routines to keep all thoughts to yourself. Clap for all dancers. Parents try to sit together as a group in the audience so we can cheer loud and proud for our dancers.

Backstage

The backstage area is for teachers and dancers only. Dancers, please remember there will be a lot of other dancers and teachers in the wings while someone is performing. You must act appropriately. Show respect to your fellow competitors by staying out of the wings during routines.

Camaraderie

This doesn't just mean to your own team of dancers, it extends to all the dancers competing, even if from another dance school. When watching performers, clap along with the audience. If backstage, congratulate them, a simple "good luck," "great job" is perfect to support other teams. It shows no rivalry or animosity between different schools.

No photos/video

Competitions do NOT allow audience members to take photos or video when dancers are performing – it will result in our dancers being disqualified. The event will have media available for purchase. Photos and videos are allowed during awards.

Award Ceremony

Students are not allowed to have headphones, earbuds, or tablets on stage. We also encourage students to stay off of their phones and actively listen and applaud for all dancers at awards. Students are not allowed to have snacks on stage. (unless for medical reasons) What to wear: Company bow, company tank top, company jacket,

black leggings or MFA leggings, shoes are your choice. Don't forget to say thank you to the person giving out the medals/trophies and show gratitude for the award you received even if it's not the one you wanted. Please let your choreographer or MFA directors know when you leave the venue.

Lastly, it's important to remember when you attend competitions, you are an ambassador for MFA Studios. The dance world is very small and no one remembers what score you got or your overall ranking - they remember your character and attitude. Many competitions give a "Studio Spirit" award to the studio that exemplifies outstanding character. Remember, someone is always watching! What you do and how you act reflect directly back on the studio and earn it a reputation. With the above tips, that reputation will be one of praise and admiration.