

EFFECTIVE COSTUMING

By Teri Rowe

- I. COSTUME CREATION-use your costume and appearance to EARN POINTS!!!
 - A. Originality (either ordered, off the rack or your own)
 - B. Choose a costume that enhances your routine AND use choreography to enhance costume effectiveness
 - C. Effective use of striping/patterns/costume design
 - D. Think of performance floor & background colors
 - E. Creating lines/hiding feet/knees
 - F. Don't create around an accessory..get boxed in
 - G. Think of what is best for the routine, not what the girls want

- II. SIZING/SEWING/FITTING
 - A. Get a sample if you can to fit
 - B. Measure right before ordering to avoid "growth" problems later
 - C. Alterations ARE needed...one size does not fit all
 - D. Sew bras into costumes
 - E. Use stirrups in pants to keep lines clean, keep pants from flopping
 - F. Moms sewing...check depth of knowledge and ability
 1. Don't farm costumes out to several moms (split jobs by parts/pieces for consistency)
 - G. Check out teen sizes/youth sizes for better fits for smaller girls.

- III. ACCESSORIES
 - A. Gems, Eyelashes, Makeup
 - B. Securing hair
 - C. Bows/ribbons/hair accessories that blend with hair color don't work

- IV. PERFORMANCE READINESS
 - A. Uniformity is a must, don't ask...make sure
 - B. Safety pins/duck tape/hems
 - C. The importance of SOCKS that match pants
 - D. Eliminate multiple rolls/lines
 - E. Undergarment issues (no underwear allowed, bras same color, sew straps in)
 - F. Fingernail polish/toenail polish

- V. TRAVELING READINESS AND YOUR EXTRAS BAG
 - A. Be prepared for any emergency or problem with a well stocked "extras bag"
 - B. Bag it, tag it, visually check it...never trust!
 - C. Tubs for travel vs. carrying own costumes or traveling in costumes

- VI. TRICKS/TIPS
 - A. Always dress rehearse costumes many times before competition
 - B. Don't be afraid to cut & tear to create costumes
 - C. Gem application & quality
 - D. Male dancers...to blend or contrast
 - E. Different colors or different costume...make sure it works with choreography
 1. Eclectic costuming is ok, but look for some way to tie it all in
 - F. Stains-Spray & Wash wipes
 - G. Hair tips...Aqua net and good gel, bobby pins matching hair color
 - H. Hats/flowers/head bands/hair pieces-always secure them

1. spray paint bobby pins to match color
2. elastic and foam to make hats fit
3. sew fake hair into ponytail/bun

VII. SUPPLIERS & RESOURCES

A. Los Angeles-Fashion District

B. Shoes/footwear

1. dance paws, foot mittens, pirouette shoes/foot undies
2. dance sneakers
3. fake boots/spats

C. Gems/glue

D. Other accessories

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