

## THE DANCE MAKER SERIES

### Choreography and Props

#### PROPS IN LARGE SPACES

Keep in mind when choreographing that larger and more energetic movements are needed the further away the audience is sitting. Smaller, more detailed movements for a field routine are often not effective because of the audience's distance; therefore using hand held props may be more effective. Do consider spacing further apart to create the illusion of filling up the space. Keep the dancers moving with many formation changes and interesting spatial designs. This will create energy and keep the eye moving. By using props along with creative choreography, you can give the appearance of an energized group of dancers who use the space well.

#### COLOR AND PROPS

Use color as a choreographic tool. For example, paint one side of a fan a glistening green and the other side a hot pink. The audience views a surprise color each time the fan is twisted and turned. Choose a shiny, bright texture rather than a flat surface. Use fluorescent and sequin/glitter or glossy combinations to attract light for added "pop".

Use an unexpected color on a prop and still remain true to the theme but with more originality. For instance, with a patriotic theme instead of using the traditional color of white for fences and ladders, use an unpredictable color such as blue to paint the fences and red to paint the ladders. The props are still reflective of the theme, but a lot more attention-grabbing.

Consider what combinations of color complement each other. For greater vibrancy juxtapose complementary colors: orange/blue, yellow/violet, and red/green. Add contouring to enhance a flat prop. Use shading to emphasize the spokes in the wheel of a car or the body of a rocking horse. The contouring will add a three dimensional quality to the prop, and therefore make it appear more lifelike. By thoughtfully choosing the most appealing colors and using contouring the prop adds vitality to the performance.