

DANCE TEAM AUDITIONS

“The Director’s Guide to Successful Try Outs.”

THE AUDITION WORKSHOP

AUDITION ROUTINE

Choreography

The second routine might be a jazz number that incorporates basic dance movements, transitions, and skills. Do repeat the chorus in the jazz routine so the judges see the dancers performing longer to the same music. Also utilize pick-ups when choreographing leaps and turns so the judges have more “wait” time to observe the skills. After each group dances have the candidates perform a split to the side. This simple test of flexibility will “tell” what potential the dancer has for higher kicks and leaps. After the dancers have performed their routines they are also warmed-up, and are achieving their very best split. Create audition routines by preparing choreography that reflects your style and ability level; share with candidates a clear understanding of your performance expectations.

Special Skills

Include in the try out routines any special skills that the candidates will be asked to perform later in the season as team members. At no other time in the year are dancers more eager to learn. Take advantage of this opportunity to plan exactly where you want to place emphasis. For example, kicks, pirouettes, axles, switch leaps, jump splits and toe touches might be included as mandatory skills. Inform the candidates of these specific skills well in advance of try outs so they can work on perfecting the movements during dance technique and preparation classes.

ENTRANCE/EXIT

An entrance and exit should be rehearsed with the candidates. Utilize mock try outs to emphasize the importance of not just the routine, but the presence needed in beginning and ending a routine. Rehearse all transitions into/out of the performance space. Share with the candidates whether the entrance and exit will be judged.