

EISTEDDFOD OF THE PERFORMING ARTS



Parents Guidelines 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians, Family and Friends of our Dancers.

This letter of guidelines and rules for parents is not aimed at finding fault or to criticize any individual, but rather to inform and create awareness of rules under parents and to protect teachers and participating children.

1. REHEARSALS

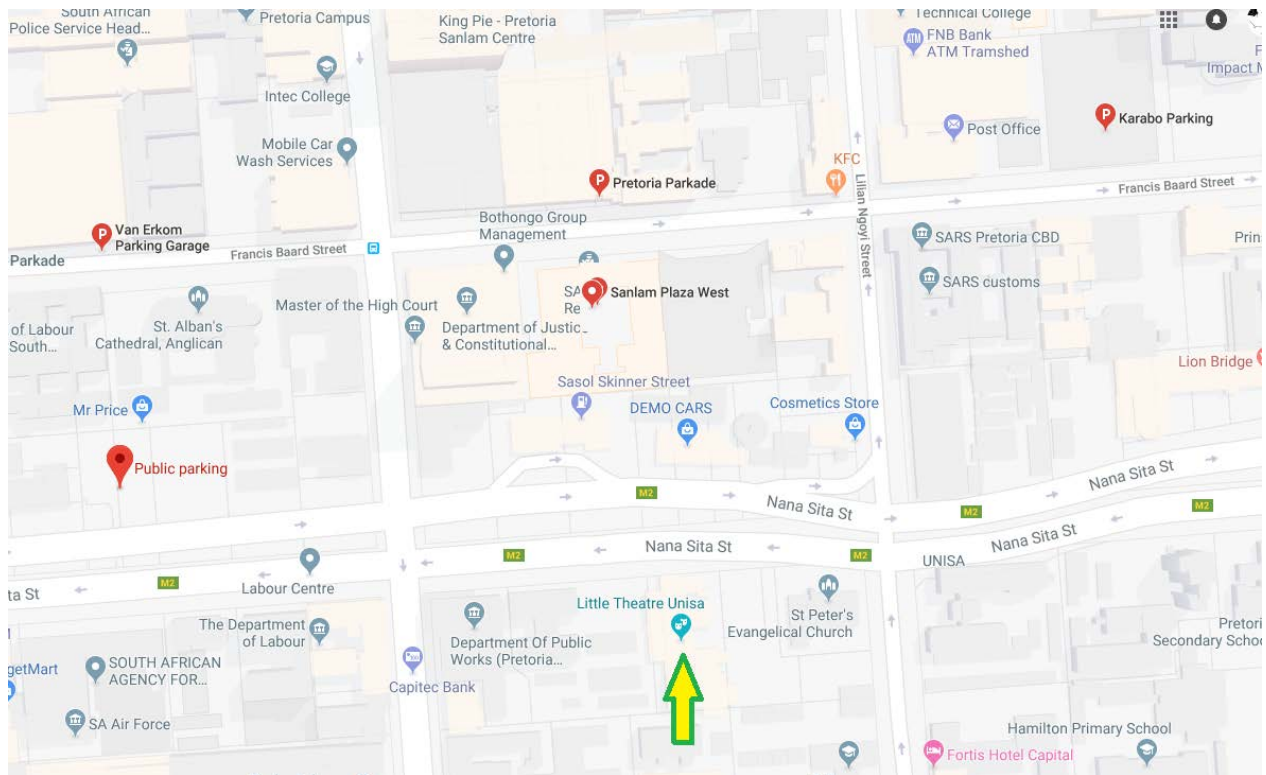
- **Nobody is allowed inside the auditorium during rehearsals.** Teachers may use the stage and the dressing rooms only.
- Parents are to wait in the dressing rooms ONLY – the prop room is to remain vacated in order for teachers to be able to deliver props.
- Teachers may only use the stage/go on stage as per their booked time, even if the stage seems available.
- Please walk around to the back of the theatre to the Artists' entrance, and not across the stage.

2. PARKING

- There is practically no parking available at the Theatre, especially before 4pm.
- PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE organize a friend, father, neighbour, family member, shuttle service or Uber to drop and collect dancers and spectators at the theatre.
- Alternately Parents can drive as a lift club and drop the dancers and all their valuables at the theatre gate and then go and park at the SANLAM center (two blocks) away in a secure parking lot. Alternate parking areas are "Van Erkom Parking Garage", "Pretoria Parkade", "Karabo Parking", and a Public Parking bay one block West on Nana Sita. Please see Google Map Image below. One person can collect the drivers at the parking and drop them at the theatre or everyone can walk to the theatre in a group. Please keep money and phones on your person – no handbags and jewellery. If you have nothing with or on you to grab then there should be no reason to stress. These cars can be collected at 4pm and moved to the parking behind the theatre.

We realize this situation is not ideal and leaves us all feeling rather despondent, but we are willing to give it our very best with your co-operation. This year has brought together the most amazing schools in dance with phenomenal talent – we would love to give them the opportunity to perform for our adjudicators and audience.

The EPA has committed many, many hours and a few tears, at the detriment of our own families, burning the midnight oil trying to change our program and find a workable solution for all involved in the EPA 2018. EPA 2019 brings a brand-new experience with many great moments ahead but let's make 2018 a memory to treasure as it will be our last year at Unisa Little theatre.



3. DRESSING ROOMS

- **Space is limited, so whenever possible, please dress at home.**
- Each studio has an allocated dressing room, but most are shared with other studios.
- Teachers, parents and dancers need to be considerate in dressing rooms when sharing with another teacher, and to **divide space fairly and equally**, despite the size of the studio's entries.
- Please make use of the dressing rooms, and ensure that dancers do not change in the hallways. This is embarrassing for all concerned. Also, please avoid dressing in the bathrooms.
- Some dressing rooms do not have mirrors and costume rails – please bring along your own if possible.
- Kindly refrain from rehearsing tap items in shoes in the dressing rooms – the sound travels.
- **Please keep noise levels down.**

4. SPECTATOR FEES

Kindly do not enter into verbal arguments with the Ticket Sales person or door keeper. They are just doing their job.

- Tickets are charged per session.
- There are three sessions per day – Morning (up until Lunch), Afternoon (up until Supper), and Evening:
- Session from R15 to R30 adults and from R8 to R15 children (depending on length of session)
- Day tickets: from R60 – R80 depending on length of days
- EPA tickets (*13 days – Hip-Hop, Modern, Tap, Ballet, Spanish*) R 700 (14% discount)
- Modern & Tap season ticket R 380 (10% discount)
- Ballet & Spanish season ticket R 320 (10% discount)

5. **THEATRE RULES**

- **The use of cell phones, tablets, cameras, or ANY electronic device is STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** (A DVD recording will be made, which can be ordered in the foyer).
- No refreshments allowed in the auditorium, i.e. no eating or drinking
- Please stay seated while any dancer is on stage. It is distracting and disrespectful to the dancer if there is movement in the auditorium.
- Only enter and exit the auditorium in between dances.
- The best way to show appreciation is by means of great applause. Please refrain from excessive whistling and shouting, as we are trying to promote theatre etiquette.
- **No child may be left unsupervised at any time.**
- Do not insert fingers in the side of seats – this can result in injury.
- Do not disregard the barrier tape on some of the seats – it is placed there for a reason.
- The Auditorium is to be vacated during the intervals.
- **Dancers are not to enter the Auditorium in Aqua'd ballet shoes or Tap Shoes**
- Kindly inform the person at the door if help is needed to enter or exit the Auditorium – a wheel chair entrance is available by arrangement.
- **Please keep noise levels down** in the foyer.

6. **GENERAL**

- PLEASE bear in mind that the **schedule may run early** due to scratchings or items being shorter than anticipated. Allow PLENTY of time, especially when traveling a distance to watch a child dance, and also inform other spectators of such.
- Competitors must be ready to perform 30 minutes prior to the commencement of their section.
- No parent may approach the Adjudicator, Panel members, Coordinator or Theatre management and staff. Any concern may be lodged with your teacher, who will then handle the complaint with Committee or Coordinator.
- No parents are allowed backstage or on the stairs leading down to the stage at any time, unless the teacher has arranged for a parent to help with props. The parent needs to leave the stage immediately after they have placed the props. If there are any problems regarding a dancer etc., it is the sole responsibility of the teacher to approach the panel and then give feedback to the parents privately in the dressing rooms.
- No rehearsing is allowed on the stage at any time once the Eisteddfod has commenced.
- The services of a cafeteria at the Eisteddfod are purely for the convenience of all present. Should the food or service, not be to your liking, you are most welcome to bring your own refreshments. The Committee will not accept any complaints regarding the cafeteria services or standards.

7. AWARDS

THE ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION IS FINAL AND NO CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE ENTERED INTO. DO NOT APPROACH THE ADJUDICATOR, EITHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE AUDITORIUM.

REPORTS AND CERTIFICATES

- ONLY TEACHERS may collect certificates and reports, and during intervals only.

PINS

- Three pins (gold, silver and bronze) will be awarded for the **top 3 solo winners** with the highest marks in each age group & section, Novice & Amateur, including Mime & Improvisation, provided that they have achieved a mark above 80%. Pins will be awarded to the winners at the applicable adjudication, except for all Championship Own Solo results and awards, which will be given during the Champs Ceremony.
- Pin recipients **may not collect pins in a costume** for a dance which they have not yet danced – in case of a quick change, please cover with a robe.
- If a child was not present to receive his/her pin, please wait until interval and then inquire with your teacher who can then collect the pin.
- Unfortunately no pins will be awarded to DTO's, Groups or Productions.

TROPHIES

- All trophies are floating trophies and are the property of the Eisteddfod of the Performing Arts and *MUST* be handed back to the Committee on ENTRY closing date, thus it must be returned to the teacher in ample time.
- Do not remove any stickers or tags from the trophies.

CHAMPIONSHIP SOLOS

- Championship solos are marked at a high standard by three Adjudicators.
- Championship solo marks are only read out at the completion of the Championships.

PRIZE-WINNERS

- The list of Prize-Winners will be available about 3 hours after the completion of the Ballet or Modern and Hip-Hop sections.
- Teachers are to collect and sign for the trophies and awards.

8. PARENTS' CODE OF ETHICS

- Our love and passion for dance should always be greater than our need to win for then we can enjoy the performances and celebrate together with those who win. They are the dancers who have achieved something great!
- Competition can be healthy and winning is great. Displaying good sportsmanship and character is as important as winning humbly. Arrogance and unhealthy envy do not constitute good character.
- It is good to see that competing studios, dancers, teachers and parents appraise and support each other throughout the Eisteddfod. After all, the Eisteddfod is primarily about achieving your best standard, and secondly about evaluating your own standard against the best. We are all unique in our own way, individuality is a gift and good sportsmanship portrays great character.
- We know that all parents are proud and passionate about their children's achievements. Support your child in building character, good sportsmanship and to be humble through example – we all want them to learn composure and grace.
- Let us remember to exercise restraint as profanity (using bad language / swearing) does not contribute towards good etiquette, especially at a children's eisteddfod.
- It is the responsibility of the parents, as well as teachers, to reprimand inappropriate behaviour of their child e.g. children making derogatory remarks, comments towards fellow competitors. This encourages fellow rivalry which does not lend itself towards the good principles and behaviour which the Eisteddfod wishes to promote. It never seems wrong when your child behaves jealously and makes inappropriate remarks towards another competitor in a group set up; but once the situation is reversed and your child is on the receiving end of these remarks and negative noises, then it will become a major issue for you. It is the responsibility of the parent to teach their child to behave appropriately in a competition. Jealousy and envy will always be part of a competing environment, but it is the way in which a child expresses this, that separates the healthy, confident leader from the nasty, selfish, bullying and emotionally ungrounded child. Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. Is your child an example of an envious heart?

Our vision for this Eisteddfod is first and foremost to promote dance and give dancers of all ages the chance to perform on stage and receive an evaluation.

Our goal is to develop the character in dancers to work through successful performances as well as the ones that did not go so well. We believe this is a vital life-skill that can be used in all spheres of life.

We would like to see the dancers grow in technical ability as each year progresses and master new and more challenging work.

We want to create an atmosphere that is supportive, friendly and uplifting between the teachers, fellow competitors dancing and parents, but also realistic in the standard at which they are being adjudicated.

- **Should any of the abovementioned rules be broken or disregarded by parents, the Eisteddfod then reserves the right to disqualify their child. It is not our wish to disqualify any child as a result of parents or family members disregarding the rules and this is why we would like to create awareness of the rules. Let us primarily consider our children.**

The Eisteddfod Panel
Eisteddfod of the performing Arts