

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

SIZE: 2 XSC 4 SC 6 8 MC 10 12 LC 14 SA MA LA

## **PERFORMANCE PREPARATION**

### **COSTUMES:**

**STRAPS** are often not attached to the back of the costume. If they are, or if your child's costume has sleeves, you need not do anything! If straps need to be attached, they should be pulled **STRAIGHT DOWN** over each shoulder and stitched to the back of the costume. For added comfort, a small piece of elastic can be sewn to the end of the strap before attaching to the costume; this allows for a snug fit with a little "give". **NO CRISS CROSS OR HALTER** styles, please. It's also a good idea to restitch the straps where they are attached in the front of the costume to assure security.

**TUTUS** are also often not attached. They should sit just below the waist and above the hips. They should be tacked with a few stitches in front, in back and on either side to make sure they don't ride up around the waist. Some costumes come with a half tutu – they need to be attached to the back of the costume, from hip to hip, across the "cheeks". Sequins or some sort of trim is usually attached to the **TOP** layer of netting.

**WRINKLES:** both the netting used for tutus and the chiffon used for skirts is extremely delicate when it comes to ironing. If the costume has become wrinkled, first shake it out and hang it up. Hang it in the bathroom when showers are taken so the steam can help get rid of wrinkles. If this doesn't do the trick, try a steamer. If you must use an iron, use a **VERY** cool iron, **VERY CAREFULLY**. One touch with an iron that is too hot and this material will literally melt and your costume will be ruined. *Use an iron only as a last resort and with **extreme caution!***

**HEADPIECES** come in a wide variety- some are easy to deal with and others can be quite challenging! The hardest ones to keep secure are the headbands and tiaras; experiment with bobby pins, clips, barrettes, etc. to see what works best for your child. Sometimes attaching elastic to the ends of headbands to go under the chin works well. Either soak the elastic in strong tea to get it flesh colored, or cover it with foundation.

All costumes should be worn with **LIGHT PINK TIGHTS** (not hot pink, not white, not black) and pink ballet slippers. **AVOID WEARING UNDERWEAR** as it usually shows. The drawstrings on ballet slippers should be double-knotted and cut off to eliminate the possibility of strings hanging out to trip on and look sloppy. Make sure they are adjusted correctly and are not too tight **before** you cut them. If you do not have pink ballet slippers, please purchase or borrow some.

**HAIR** must be neatly pulled back out of the face. No ponytails or loose hair! Buns are beautiful, as are French braids if the ends are tucked in. Bangs **ARE NOT ALLOWED** for students in A levels and up. Hair spray, styling gel and bobby pins do wonders! Younger children may wear bangs only if there is nothing you can do with them- please keep them as light as possible, neat and hair sprayed. Hair that is too short to be put up should be pulled out of the face with barrettes.

**MAKE UP** should be worn to keep faces from being washed out by the lights. A foundation with a little eye makeup, rouge and lipstick is a good guideline. We ask that you come to the recital with your little dancer dressed and ready; there *may* be volunteers backstage to assist with hair and makeup for anyone who needs it, but no guarantees.

**NO JEWELRY** of any kind may be worn, with the exception of tiny stud earrings, or if the jewelry is a part of your costume. No rings, necklaces, anklets or bracelets- please take off your friendship bracelets at home where you have time to unknot them! Only clear nail polish is acceptable.

More details and instructions will be distributed as the dress rehearsal approaches. Remember, you may **ONLY** take personal photos and videos during the dress rehearsal, so plan on having your child prepared as if for performance. The recital will be professionally filmed and you may order a DVD of the full show or just one half. Flash photography will not be permitted during the actual show. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby; please choose an area in which you can help out during the show. Thank you in advance- this is a big production and your help is **CRUCIAL** to make it run smoothly.