

## **COSTUME CARE SHEET**

Dear Parents & Dancers,

Here is some information about your costumes. Between now and the show, you will want to keep your costume in the garment bag that it is sent home in.

- Most of the costumes are made with a delicate fabric or have sequins on it that can usually catch on other materials and snag. By keeping your costume in the garment bag, it will help protect the costume.
- Hanging your costumes will also lessen the chance of wrinkles and damage
- Remember that dance costumes are NOT EVERY DAY WEAR. Dance costumes should not be worn before recital. This prevents them from getting dirty or ruined. Once recital is over, you can wear the costumes as much as you like.

***PREPARE YOUR COSTUMES, DANCE BAG & MAKE UP/HAIR ACCESSORIES BAG 2 DAYS PRIOR TO THE RECITAL DATES-- (THAT'S APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> OR MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> as RECITAL DATES ARE MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup>)***

Preparing 2 days in advance will allow you to see if you are missing anything for the show, which in turn allows you time to go and pick up those items. Plus it is a great skill to teach your dancer-- Be prepared in advance!!

### **BEST RECOMMENDATION FOR PREPARING COSTUMES:**

Use a steamer, if you have one or hang your costume near the shower (not where it will get wet) and the steam will naturally flatten out any wrinkles it may have. This is important with very delicate fabrics, costumes with sequins or rhinestones and especially ballet costumes.

You can check the label to see if ironing your dance costume is safe.

**Please be advised that most costumes CAN NOT be ironed.** If the label does say it is safe to iron, turn your costume inside out, set your iron on its cool setting and consider placing a thin towel between the iron and your costume fabric for extra protection.

**\*\*Don't forget to pack an emergency kit for the day of the show that has safety pins and some needle and thread. It is always better to be prepared.**

## **CARE AFTER THE RECITAL**

After recital there is a number of ways to clean your costumes. Most importantly check the label. Spot Cleaning or hand washing is usually the best method.

### **Choosing the right method.**

Some fabrics can stand up to the heat of dry cleaning, others can be thrown into the washing machine and others need some TLC. You can dry clean sturdy fabrics like wool, leather, pleather, chiffon and velvet—but choose a dry cleaner that has experience in dealing with dance costumes or intricate, detailed pieces of clothing. Machine washing is suitable for polyester, cotton/polyester blends, nylon and acrylic. Hand-washing is a must for pieces made of delicate material like lace, linen, Lycra or tulle—or any piece with sequins or rhinestones, which can be easily damaged at a dry cleaner or in the washing machine.

### **What not to wash!**

There are some costumes that can never be washed- for example, ones made of fabrics with extremely delicate embroidery, painted costumes, heavy jackets or jackets with shoulder pads constructed out of anything other than standard polyester.

*How do you care for these types of costumes?*

Use a commercial spray designed to eliminate odor in fabrics, making sure to test it on a swatch or small corner of the costume before using (this checks for discoloration.)

Make sure you allow for enough time for the costume to dry before storing it.

### **Other uses...**

**Once recital is over**, many students like to take their costumes to camp or even wear them as Halloween costumes or for special dress up days at school.

*We look forward to seeing all the dancers perform in their beautiful costumes!*