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Hints and tips for dance photos

If you want to have good audition photos as a dancer, there are some things to keep in mind. I have compiled some hints and tips for you here.

A good preparation is the best basis for a successful and relaxed photo session.

Professional photos not only show how you look and what you can do, but also show how seriously you take your career as a dancer.



A) Before the photo session

1. Think about what purpose you need the pictures for. Is it about a concrete audition / application or do you only need good and up-to-date pictures of yourself? Or is it for example about photos for the advertisement for a dance school or a public performance?

2. Which dance style is it about? Please tell me beforehand if it's about classical ballet, contemporary, tap dance or something else.

3. Bring your own ideas for poses and movements that suit you. It's good to think about what you can do and what kind of application you need the pictures for. You can find examples on my homepage or on the internet. Every shooting is different. There is no fixed plan that we work off.

For a classical audition you usually need a portrait, an arabesque, a jump and a picture in a contemporary style. A list of the pictures you would like to make is always helpful. You are also welcomed to bring sample pictures with you or send them to me before the appointment if you have anything out of the ordinary.

5. Would you like to have the pictures of a single dance style and in a single outfit or would you like (your) variety to be photographed at the photo session? But you don't need to bring a whole suitcase with different clothes and accessories. Even small changes can change the image style significantly. You'll also be amazed at the variety that can be achieved by changing the lighting.

6. Clothing is a good keyword. Unicolored symmetrical jerseys are always a good choice. If you have, you can bring several of them with you. Of course, it must be fitted well. Depending on your wishes, a tutu, two pairs of white and clean pantyhose (one as a reserve) and lace shoes, the

lace shoes should look new. If we have arranged a shooting outside, you should also bring some older toe shoes that can be damaged. Skin colored underwear, a transparent skirt and transparent pantyhose can accentuate your figure when you move without distracting. For contemporary dance it is often advantageous to be barefoot.

7. You should not wear too tight clothes or stockings before the appointment. Imprints on your skin will be visible for a while.

8. Small things like hair rubbers, a brush, dental floss, decent lipstick or powder are helpful.

9. It always looks good if your hair and nails are well groomed. Remember to shave disturbing hair growth.

10. I would be happy to ask a make-up artist to join me for the photo session.

11. A second person, who supports you with the photo appointment and expertly corrects you in each case meaningfully. You are welcome to bring someone with you. Of course, it is also possible that you come as a group of 2 or 3 dancers and support each other.

12. I can also ask a professional dancer to be your coach for the photo session. This can give you valuable tips and hints.

13. If you have a fancy idea, we can consider together how and where we can realize it.

14. In any case it is helpful if you come after taking a good rest. Before the shooting a light meal would be good. You should also bring a drink and something to nibble on.

B) At the photo shoot

15. The shooting will not be taken place in the studio at my private address. We meet in a big and well-equipped dance studio in Karlsruhe. Check the way to the studio in time and please try to be punctual. Please let us know if it is foreseeable that you will be late for any reason.

Of course, it is also possible that I will come to you for the photo session. This is especially suitable for groups, dance schools or dance academies.

17. Before the shooting we will discuss the procedure together. In any case you will have time to warm up. In between you will have time to change your clothes and I also need time to change the light settings from time to time. Small breaks are of course also possible at any time.

18. An application must be accompanied by a good portrait. If you don't have a current one, we can do that at the beginning of the shooting. You are welcome to put on a simple daily makeup before the shooting. It should slightly accentuate your natural style. A jersey is suitable for the portrait, but you can also bring a dress or a blouse (not too dark, preferably one colour and no bright colours). For shoulder-free portraits, please remember not to wear tight underwear before the shooting, so there are no marks on the skin.

19. If something is unclear to you during the photo session, you can always ask questions. We are happy to talk about spontaneous ideas or wishes.

20. Many things won't succeed at the first or second time, so you have to be prepared to take a few poses several times, until the optimal picture has been succeeded. A good shooting is work.

21. A little smile enriches every pose and we will have a lot of fun on that day, too.

C) After the photo session

22. I need some time to select and edit the images. So, you can't take the finished pictures with you right after the shooting.

23. Of the photos we take during the shooting, I will upload a selection to a non-public server for you after a review and rough processing. You can choose the pictures you would like to have. Then I will process these pictures for you and send them to you on a CD or USB stick.

24. During the picture retouching I will remove only discreetly for example stains or shadows. If a dancer has cut himself while shaving before the appointment, I will gladly remove the wound on the photo, as well as smaller bruises. But I won't change your pose or your body with image editing.

25. If the thumbnails show a watermark in the middle of the picture. These pictures may not be used, published or passed on by you.

26. We will make a contract for the shooting, which grants us both the rights to use the pictures. You can use the pictures for your work as a dancer (for auditions, your homepage, for dance forums, Facebook, Instagram, at dance schools for advertising and so on). I can use the pictures for my advertising and for publications (homepage, exhibitions, dance publications etc.).

27. If you don't want me to use the pictures, please tell me before the shooting. The price for the photo session will increase then.

28. You will get the finished pictures on a CD or a USB stick. For paper prints please do not use the image optimization offered by many laboratories. The pictures are already optimized, and the automatic methods of the laboratories can ruin the pictures fast with the large white or black surfaces. I am happy to offer you professional paper prints from a specialist laboratory at a reasonable price.

29. A few tips if you want to publish the pictures on Facebook, Instagram or other platforms: even if you are enthusiastic about the finished pictures, don't show them all at once. You'll get a lot more attention if you only show one image at a time in every few days. It goes without saying that you mention the name of the photographer. If you can mention him with his page link on the respective platform, you also attract his followers to your page and get considerably more Likes.

30. One more hint for the social media: Some offer filters that can significantly change the image impression. Since you need the permission of the photographer for this, I ask you to use these

only cautiously or after consultation with me. Unfortunately, some filters also cut the images so that the hands or feet, for example, are cut off. This is of course a catastrophe for dance photographs. Therefore, I ask you not to publish such pictures in any case.

Of course, the hints and tips I put together here apply more or less to sports, yoga and much more. Just contact me with your wishes. Further information and example pictures on my homepage: www.tanz-fotografie.de

If you have any questions or would like to discuss ideas with me, please feel free to send me an email. If you are from the Karlsruhe area, we can meet for a coffee before the shooting and talk about the shooting and your wishes. I'm looking forward to knowing you. With a really good shootings not only the result counts but also the way there are and surely, we will have a lot of fun together.

Many greetings

Bernd Hentschel