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Notes and Tips for Audition Photos for Dancers

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Dear Dancer,

To get really good photos at the end of an audition photo session, you need to consider a few things in addition to your dance, technical, and artistic skills. I have compiled these points for you in this text.

Good preparation is the key to a successful and relaxed photo session. Professional photos not only show how you look and what you can do but also demonstrate how seriously you take your career as a dancer.

A) Before the Photo Session

1. **Purpose of the Photos:** Think in advance about the purpose of the photos. Are they for a specific audition or application? Or do you just need updated photos? Maybe they are intended for advertising a dance school or a public performance. Please let me know the intended use of the photos.
2. **Dance Style:** Let me know beforehand which dance style you will be showcasing—whether it's classical ballet, contemporary, tap dance, or Taekwondo—so I can prepare accordingly.
3. **Ideas:** Feel free to bring your own ideas and specific visions. It's helpful if you think about the poses you want to perform ahead of time. Each session is unique, and we can also go with spontaneous ideas. You can find example images on my website or online.
4. **Required Photos for Auditions:** Find out what type of photos are required for the audition. Classical ballet auditions often need a portrait, an arabesque, a jump, and a contemporary style photo. For other dance styles, different shots may be needed. A list of the shots you want is always helpful. You are welcome to bring or send example photos in advance.
5. **Variety or Focus:** Should the photo session showcase your versatility or focus on one dance style? You don't need to bring a suitcase of outfits—small changes can have a big impact on the style of the photos. Lighting can also significantly change the effect of your images.

6. **Clothing:** Solid-colored, symmetrical leotards are always a good choice. If possible, bring several well-fitting leotards. For ballet, you may need a tutu, white tights, and clean pointe shoes. Older pointe shoes are suitable for outdoor shoots. Barefoot is often ideal for contemporary dance. Tight-fitting or loose clothing can highlight the dance style. Spare underwear can help in case of any issues.
7. **Avoid Marks:** Don't wear tight clothing, underwear, or socks before the session to avoid marks on your skin.
8. **Small Helpers:** Bring items like hair ties, a brush, dental floss, and subtle lipstick or powder.
9. **Grooming:** Well-groomed hair and nails are a must. Also, remove any unwanted body hair.
10. **Makeup Artist:** I can bring in a makeup artist upon request.
11. **Support:** It's always helpful to have someone knowledgeable on hand to support you during the shoot. Feel free to bring someone along. Even a group of 2 or 3 dancers can support each other.
12. **Coach:** I can bring in a professional dancer as a coach for the shoot. This person can give you valuable tips and advice.
13. **Nutrition and Rest:** Come to the shoot well-rested and have a light meal beforehand. Also, bring something to drink and a small snack.
14. **Arrival and Punctuality:** Plan your route and parking in advance. The shoots usually take place in a dance studio in downtown Karlsruhe. Try to be on time, and let me know if you are running late.
15. **On-location Photos:** I can also come to you, especially for groups, dance schools, or dance academies.

B) During the Photo Session

1. **Procedure:** We'll discuss the session process beforehand. You will have enough time to warm up. You can change outfits between shots, and I will adjust the lighting. Small breaks are always possible.
2. **Portrait:** A portrait is part of every application. If you don't have an updated portrait, we can start the session with that. A simple daytime makeup look is enough. Your clothing should be plain and solid-colored—bold patterns or logos are less suitable.
3. **Questions and Ideas:** Don't hesitate to ask questions or suggest spontaneous ideas. We can incorporate them at any time.
4. **Patience and Concentration:** Some poses may take several attempts to get the perfect shot. A good shoot requires patience and concentration from both sides.
5. **Smiling:** A slight smile enhances many poses.

C) After the Photo Session

1. **Processing Time:** Editing the photos takes time. You won't be able to take them home immediately after the session.
2. **Photo Selection:** After an initial review, I will upload a selection of the photos to a private server. You can select the ones you want me to edit, and I will send them to you digitally or on a data carrier.
3. **Retouching:** I will perform light retouching to remove blemishes, shadows, or small imperfections. However, no changes will be made to your pose or body shape.
4. **Watermark:** The preview images will have a watermark and must not be used, published, or shared.
5. **Photo Usage Rights:** We will sign a contract that grants both sides usage rights. You may use the photos for auditions, your website, social media, or dance schools. I may use the photos for my own promotional purposes and publications.
6. **Option for Limited Use:** If you prefer that I don't use the photos, please let me know before the shoot. The fee will be adjusted accordingly.
7. **Prints:** If you would like prints, I recommend avoiding automatic photo lab optimizations as they often affect colors and surfaces. I can offer you professional prints.
8. **Social Media Posting:** Don't show all the photos at once—present them gradually to get more attention. Please always credit the photographer and link to my page to direct my followers to your page.
9. **Filters on Social Media:** Don't use filters or crop images without consulting me. Especially in dance photography, it's important not to cut off body parts like hands or feet. If the format, for example, doesn't fit Instagram, let me know, and I'll adjust it for you.

These tips also apply to other fields such as athletics, martial arts, or yoga. Feel free to contact me with your ideas and wishes.

You can find more information and example photos on my website: www.tanz-fotografie.de.

If you have any questions or want to discuss ideas with me, feel free to send me an email. If you're in the Karlsruhe area, we can meet for coffee to discuss everything before the shoot.

I look forward to getting to know you. A good shoot is more than just the final result—the process also matters.

Best regards,

Bernd Hentschel