

Tips and Techniques - #2 Performance and Stage Etiquette

October 25, 2018

1 - Respect your uniform.

You represent the police community ... be neat and tidy ... well-groomed ...with shiny shoes, clean shirts and gloves, and a clean and pressed uniform ... if your uniform doesn't fit you properly, have it altered.

2 - Be at the venue no later than Call Time.

There is an expression in the theatre: "Early is on time, on time is late, and late is fired!"

3 - Respect the venue.

Where we perform we are guests ... in churches, community centres, private venues, seniors homes ... be well-behaved and respectful.

4 - Be quiet in the green room and elsewhere back stage.

... and especially while waiting to make an entrance.

5 - Treat every show like it's the biggest show of the year.

Know your lyrics, know your melody/harmony lines, know your entrances and exits. When one member is unprepared or undisciplined, it reflects badly on the entire Chorus.

6- No gum, no unnecessary water bottles, no food on stage ...

7 - Focus on the director.

When it is time to sing be ready for your cue, know your first note and line ... a ragged entrance to a song tells the audience we are unfocused and unprepared.

8 - Don't be a distraction on stage!

- You are wearing white gloves. The slightest movement of your hands is visible to everyone in the hall: no scratching, picking, patting, zipping/unzipping, etc.
- On stage movement should be kept to a minimum ... stand still, especially during songs ... no wandering around to socialize, take photos, tell jokes, greet audience members, etc.
- No talking during songs ... whisper between songs, if necessary.
- No gizmos: phones, cameras, MP3 players, etc.

- On stage guests (guest performers, retired Chorus members, etc.) are also expected to adhere to these guidelines while on stage. Chorus members help guests understand what is expected of them.

9 - Remember that a chorus is a group of singers that sing together.

The goal is blending, not trying to outdo each other. Listen to the voices of other Chorus members to be sure you are harmonizing and save personal embellishments for solos.

10 - Respect your audience.

- Acknowledge your audience's applause ... smile ... show your pleasure ... soloists say, "thank you" ... soloists take a bow ... talking while the audience is applauding tells the audience you don't care if they applaud or not.
- Help the audience know where to direct their attention. Side conversations, rubber-necking, and waving at friends distracts and confuses the audience. Chorus members should focus on the performer who has the "spotlight"!
- Don't turn your back to the audience ... it shows disrespect.

11 - Enter and exit the stage and hall as directed by the Sergeant At Arms.

Pay attention when directions are being given. Even if you are finished singing, you are still "on stage" until you have left the performance hall ...