



February 4, 2010

Re: Individual camera / recording devices

To participating members of the 2010 Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival,

Over the years, many attempts have been made to accommodate the use of individual camera / recording devices. As different situations occurred, Dance Manitoba has amended and altered, and eventually changed to its current policy to not allow the use of personal camera / recording devices. Dance Manitoba makes every attempt to monitor the audience during the festival, and our volunteers are instructed to ask any patron to put their cell phone / camera or recording devices away. We trust that the below information will explain why this policy is in place.

For some time, Dance Manitoba did not have a strict policy regarding personal recording devices. In fact, the only criteria were that no flash photography be used, to ensure stage safety for the performers and for respect of other audience members. The use of personal video cameras was allowed, and patrons were asked to hold their camera in such a way that it would not block the view of the stage. Unfortunately, many chose not to respect other audience members' sight lines of the stage, where the policy was amended in the mid 1990's.

Then the policy changed to having designated areas of the theatre for those wanting to operate a video camera. With the reminder, and for it be done so on good faith, that video footage taken, only to be of their child's/ school's/ group's/ entries. Unfortunately many abuses of this privilege transpired where individuals were found filming performances where there was no association with the operator of the camera, and blatant plagiarism of choreography was taking place. As the number of incidents increased, so did concern of the safety and respect for the festival participants and choreographers. In 2000, the current policy was put in place to protect the privacy of the performers and the choreographers work.

Now, with capability to download, post and share pictures and videos on the internet, without consent, is the reality of our society. And it is disheartening to know that the privacy of a performer and choreographer of the Provincial Dance Festival can be so easily disregarded.

Dance Manitoba will not alter its current policy, as our obligation is to offer a safe environment for all of our participants. However, we would like to introduce an opportunity that we hope will alleviate the frustration and disappointment experienced by all.

For the 2010 Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival, AAA Video Recording will be offering DVD recording services for performances in the categories of solos, duos and trios **ONLY**, as many of these performances are only performed once, at the Provincial Dance Festival.

All orders will be done through AAA Video Recording.

PLEASE NOTE that at the bottom portion of the entry form are three lines for signatures. The performer, or their parent/guardian, if under the age of 18, must sign the entry form. By signing the entry form, permission is being granted to AAA Video Recording to record the performance piece.

All solos, duos and trios will be recorded by AAA Video Recording. The performance pieces will only be available for purchase **ONLY IF** permission is granted by all of the performer(s), parents/guardians. For example, if a performer in a duo or trio does not grant permission, that particular piece will not be made available for purchase. Although, if a signature is missed on the entry form, there will be waiver forms available

at the merchandise table. The signed form must be presented to AAA Video Recording upon time of placing an order.

Order forms will be mailed along with the return of processed entry forms and will also be available in the lobby during the festival. DVD's are \$10.00 each with a 10% discount for orders \$70.00 or over. All cheques are payable to AAA Video Recording.

Once the festival schedule is available, Dance Manitoba will accept orders on behalf of AAA Video Recording up until the start of the festival. Upon the commencement of the festival, all orders will be done through AAA Video Recording's table in the lobby of the theatre. Orders with AAA Video Recording **must be placed prior to the performance.**

Delivery of the ordered DVD's will be returned to the performers dance studio for distribution. This is to ensure the studio director/owner has control on how the DVD's are distributed.

We truly hope that by offering this option will meet both of our needs. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office at 204.989.5260 or info@dancemanitoba.org.

Sincerely,
Nicole Owens
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