

Teaching Techniques for Choreography

The two most critical ways you should approach the teaching of the choreography or planned physical movement are:

Know the plan well enough to execute it confidently and correctly for the chorus.

Take a positive approach to teaching. Look for the things they are doing well and compliment each member by name.

THE FIRST PRESENTATION TO THE CHORUS:

1. Work from the BIG picture to details. This way they understand the grand concept of the visual plan.
2. Teach in mirror image or have someone demonstrating with her back to them so that they don't have to think of left and right, just following the correct side.
3. Identify the "pre-move" or "goes-into" move and the completion or "anchor" of the move for greater precision and unity. Be specific on recovery of moves with precision, unity and energy. This can be polished at a later date, but the choreography should be taught incorporating these important facets of the movement.
4. Keep it moving - don't get stuck in details or potential problems,
5. Compliment using names...no correcting by name yet
6. Concentrate on characterization (intention of the move, motivation of the character) and energy of the delivery of the plan.

. WORKING THE VISUAL PLAN:

1. GENTLY correct individuals – make sure to continue to praise by name.
2. Refine details now. – especially the "pre-moves" and "anchor moves" and recovery.
3. Show wrong way as well as right and make them do it both the wrong and right way.
4. Do the choreography at warp speed - VERY FAST
5. Overdramatize as a cartoon character.

THE BIG PICTURE and PERFECTION:

6. Attend to unity by making sure each chorus member understands that she needs to be within the same storyline and emotion as all her risermates. Her expression of the emotion of the choreography and physical expression needs to be both uniform and personal. The movement should not draw attention to the individual. The choreographer and director will be able to identify any problems.
7. Remember all will be in the same costume and some "mistakes" or inaccuracies will be lost. Keep it in perspective.
8. Remember the judge/audience sees it one time only. You KNOW the plan and any

weaknesses, they won't. Keep it in perspective.

9. Remind them that in the performance, if you miss a move, you miss it. If the move is one late it will draw attention to the individual and break the unit.