

# Wizard of Oz

## Parent Handbook

Dear Wizard of Oz Parents,

Your family is going to love watching your performer shine on stage this May! Wizard of Oz is a circus and dance recital designed for students to share all of their newly learned skills and disciplines. For some students, this will be a familiar experience. For others, this will be their first of many productions! We're eager to showcase the skills we have seen blossom this year.

Included here are important details and helpful tips to help you throughout rehearsals and performance days.

### History of The Oz Showcase

Caroline Calouche & Co. (CC&Co.), founded by Caroline in 2006, is the only professional dance and circus arts company in Charlotte and the Southeastern region. Charlotte Cirque & Dance Center (CC&DC) is the training arm of the professional company. As a resident company of the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, CC&Co. is a peer organization to the Charlotte Ballet, Charlotte Symphony, and Opera Carolina. CC&Co. is the first woman-led organization to acquire this status. Caroline achieved this honor through years of developing a reputation for high-quality artistry and industry safety.

Last year was the first rendition of Charlotte Cirque & Dance Center's Wizard of Oz showcase, with 3 casts consisting of over 100 participants. This year, we have structured the show differently, with only 1 cast of around 70 students. This year, all performers will be in all 3 shows!

The Wizard of Oz rehearsal process is a combination of studio learning and personal practice. Teachers will create and rehearse choreography during regular classes, and there will be an in-studio dress rehearsal the Saturday before shows start (May 20). Performers are expected to remember choreography and improve the choreography the next time they perform it each class or rehearsal. **Full attention and participation in class and rehearsals is expected.** Students who need help with choreography should do Open Practice with someone who knows it, or ask for a private lesson from your teacher.

Wizard of Oz is a relaxed showcase. Students should feel comfortable with the choreography and skills they are being asked to perform. Please make a teacher aware of any skills that may feel uncomfortable or shaky, and they will alter it.

## Booth Playhouse

The show is at Booth Playhouse, part of the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. Booth Playhouse is on the upper level **inside** Founders Hall.

**Performers always enter through Stage Door Theater. Stage Door is at 155 N College Street, between Trade and 5<sup>th</sup> Street.**

**As you drive College Street, the Stage Door will be on your LEFT, directly across the street from Rooster's restaurant. Stage Door has the only double glass doors on the block.**

Inside the Stage Door entrance is a small lobby with a security desk. Only people on the security's approved list are allowed through the interior locked doors that lead backstage.

Stage Door lobby is also where you will pick up your child **at the end of rehearsals**.

Tell the Youth Coordinator whether you will be picking up your child in the Booth lobby or at the Stage Door Security Entrance **after performances**.

Arriving at Booth Playhouse as an audience member or merch table volunteer?

- From street level—Enter Founders Hall through the glass doors at the corner of Trade and College Street, go up two levels of escalators to the theater lobby.
- From the Bank of America Center Parking Garage—take the elevator to Level 6. Go through Bank of America Center and cross the over-street walkway into Founders Hall. The Booth Playhouse will be on your immediate right.

More information about the Booth Playhouse can be found [here](#).

## Rehearsals

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please be aware that students will learn choreography IN CLASS. If a student misses class, they are missing choreography/rehearsal time.

**In-studio dress rehearsal and In-theater dress rehearsal attendance is mandatory.**

Parents are NOT required to stay at or near the theater during dress rehearsals. Your children are safe and supervised. You certainly may stay nearby if you choose. **Please note: Parents do not watch the dress rehearsal—we want you to experience the real show, in all its magic, with a full audience!** Founders Hall will be open during dress rehearsals. It has tables, chairs, and couches. There are also several coffee shops within walking distance. If your child does not have their own phone, plan to communicate backstage through their “Big” (more on this below) and through Band App.

**Dress rehearsal end times are approximate!!!** The cast needs to rehearse until they are finished, which is hard to predict. Directors will message the Band App to say they are close to finishing. We appreciate your patience and flexibility.

## What to Wear Under Your Costume

Costumes are provided.

However, **you will need to provide a base layer** that matches your skin tone and is minimally seen behind your costume like a nude leotard.

Additional undergarments and costumes will be discussed for specific roles.

Costumes are subject to final approval by the Production Manager / Costume Manager.

**NOTE: you don't have to buy something new!** Using what you have at home, checking the CC&Co. costume inventory (ask Production Manager), borrowing from friends, or shopping Goodwill/consignment are all great options!

## Hair and Makeup

Please read the CC&Co. / CC&DC hair and makeup document [here](#).

Ask teenagers in Student Company for help, if needed, with hair and makeup questions and demonstrations. Practice at home. Helpful items to send backstage: makeup (for touch-ups), Q-tips, baby wipes, safety pins, extra hair pins, hair binders, hair nets, and hair spray.

**Ballet Bun Tutorials** for a variety of hair types can be found [here](#) and [here](#). We recommend wrapping a hair net around the finished bun for extra security. These are available inexpensively, in various hair colors, at most pharmacies, Target, Walmart, etc.

Younger performers should have hair and makeup done before they arrive at the theater. Full hair, makeup, and costume are required for all dress rehearsals. The in-studio rehearsals are full hair and costume (including your base layer and Overture outfit from home!), but makeup is optional...it's a good chance to practice, though!

## Rehearsal Call Definitions

Call Time = Backstage preparing for the rehearsal and signed in on the call sheet.

Regular Theater Rehearsals = Warmed-up with proper attire and shoes if needed.

Technical Rehearsal = Full Costume + Hair

Dress Rehearsal = Full Costume + Hair + Make-up

**Do not come onto the stage until the Stage Manager calls you. Never walk onto stage without asking the Stage Manager if it is safe to do so.**

Younger performers should have hair and makeup done before they arrive.

**Being on time** allows your performer ample time to settle into their dressing room, check props and rigging, get into costume, touch up hair and makeup, and warm up.

### Things to send with your student backstage:

- Hair and makeup supplies
- Water bottle
- Snacks
- Packed meal (depending on time of day)
- Wear your base layer to the theater, **covered by street clothes** with **buttons/zippers** that do not need to go over the head (since you worked so hard on that makeup and ballet bun!).

## Backstage

Parents, for the most part, will NOT be backstage, because the space is small.

This applies to both dress rehearsals and performances.

It might feel strange dropping them off uptown for hours, but it really will be fine. Talk to your child about listening to directions, respecting adults, and **not leaving the theater** for any reason until you are there to pick them up.

Performers ages 16+ are allowed to leave the theater, but must check in and out with the Youth Coordinator (note this could be a different person each show).

**When dropping off young performers, bring them to the Stage Door lobby for check-in. A volunteer will guide your performer to the dressing rooms.**

## Parking Options

Specifics on Booth Playhouse parking can be found [here](#).

- Metered street parking on or near College Street is \$1.50/hour. Meters are free after 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and free on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Drop off/Pick up at the curb of Stage Door. Coordinate with an older student to meet your child at the door.
- Park for free in the back gravel lot of The Charlotte Ballet, 701 N Tryon Street (enter parking lot from W 10<sup>th</sup> St). This is a 6-block walk (approximately 15 minutes) from Stage Door.

Tip for curbside pickup: park a block or two outside of uptown in a free lot of a retail store or restaurant. Drive into uptown only when your student texts they are finished, or when Band App says that dress rehearsal is wrapping. Pull up to the left curb of College Street, in front of the Stage Door, with your flashers on. Text your child or message a teacher in Band to say you are there.

## Meals

Keep in mind that breaks between shows aren't as long as they look. By the time performers have greeted guests in the lobby and then changed out of costume, there's usually not a lot of time before they need to be getting ready again.

When it comes to meals, FAST will be key.

### Packing food will be the most convenient.

The second-best option is getting food at street-level restaurants within one or two blocks. Best bets: Sabor, Jimmy John's, Soho Bistro, Qdoba, Burger King, China Shuttle.

Plan ahead....a few packable family favorites, prepped ahead of time and ready in your fridge will go a long way! Think nutritious food and lots of water.

## Managing the Schedule

Assume you will hit traffic going into uptown. Give yourself plenty of time.

Avoid going uptown and back home multiple times a day, if possible, to save you time and money, and reduce the stress.

Ideas:

- Stay uptown during rehearsal and work remote, or read, or do errands.
- Consider carpooling in order to share the driving with other families. (Here is the [Oz Performer Contact List](#))

Gauge how your child is doing. If they seem tired or overwhelmed, you might want to help them take a break. They won't want to miss the fun happening backstage between shows, but it's ok if they take a little quiet time with you instead! (Younger kids, especially)

## Tickets and Promotion

### Tickets

Buy your tickets here(link not active yet, but will be updated soon).

We have a [volunteer incentive program](#)...your volunteer hours can earn you complimentary tickets!

Additionally, Merch Table volunteers see the show for free!

Volunteer [here](#).

### Promote the show!

Tell your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, teachers, and classmates. Pick up posters and promotional cards at the CC&DC front desk. Post them at doctor and dentist offices, schools, places of worship, civic clubs, hair and nail salons, gyms, college arts departments, and scout troops. Post them at Panera, Starbucks, grocery store and public library community boards. Share on social media and neighborhood communications. Spread the word!

### **\*###! Stress !###\***

The kids will be stressed. Parents will be stressed. Directors will be stressed. **Ask questions sooner rather than later.** As the show gets closer, direct your questions to experienced students and parents rather than directors, because directors are juggling a lot of responsibilities!

## **Volunteering**

If you are driving to uptown anyway, stay and volunteer! Especially if you have a young performer and you are not comfortable leaving them uptown, volunteering is a great option. It's also a way to get to know other cirque-connected people while contributing to the show's success.

Sign up [here](#) to volunteer.

## **Criticism**

There will be things that you think could be done better. However, voicing critique during the run of the show is usually not helpful. Write it down, cool off, and then share it in a constructive way when Wizard of Oz ends. The artistic and production team welcome feedback.

## **After Show Blues**

Your young performer just had the time of their life! They were with friends for hours on end, day after day, high on applause. Expect some transition time as they come down off the high.