

Showmanship by Bill Harrison

Showmanship is defined as a person having flair for the dramatic or visual effectiveness. Showmanship involves verbal and nonverbal communication and interaction between you and the dancers. Showmanship is an important part of entertaining. Showmanship can be utilized for Square Dancing; prior to the dance, at the dance, and after the dance.

Showmanship Techniques

1. Prior to the dance
 - a. Preparation - Programming
 - b. Personal appearance/Demeanor/Presence/Confidence - Smile!

2. At the dance - One Nighters/Classes/Festivals/Shared programs
 - a. Off Stage
 - Entering a hall - Establish rapport with dancers
 - Between tips - Being visible
 - b. On Stage
 - Know the stage and equipment
 - Choreography - Gimmicks/Experimental/Get outs - set the tone early
 - Singing Calls - adaptation - emphasis words, lyrics, and vocal dynamics

3. After The Dance - Leave them wanting more!
 - a. Departing - Salutations to the dancers, use the big circle and thank everyone
 - b. Do not start packing equipment before
 - c. After Party Activities - Use proper judgment, be careful with off color language.

Developing Style/Showmanship

1. Evaluate one's potential - know your abilities
2. Evaluate others – research ideas
3. Various degrees of showmanship applied to the various venues in the activity
 - Visitation Tip
 - Demonstration
 - One Time Party Dance
 - Introduction to Square Dancing
 - New Dancers Sessions
 - Club Dance
 - Guest Dance
 - Festival
 - State Convention National Convention