

Why Does My Child Need to Wear Stage Makeup?

During dance recital season, we often hear two common questions from parents: “Why does my child need to wear makeup?” “Why does she have to wear so much makeup? She’s too young.” Your concerns about applying makeup to your child’s face, especially your toddler, are real.

Dancers wear stage makeup to enhance their facial features to be visibly clear to the audience. Simply put, stage makeup is the only way we can clearly see your dancer’s face from the audience.

1. Stage Makeup Enhances Dancers’ Facial Features

It is not uncommon for dance moms and dads to have some reservations about having makeup applied to their child’s face. It is extremely important to understand that without stage makeup, a dancer’s facial features will not be defined or visibly clear to the audience.

Stage makeup creates a clear face from a distance. Unlike everyday regular makeup, stage makeup is more dramatic so that the dancer’s facial features are more pronounced.

2. Distance Can Diminish the Facial Features and Expressions of a Dancer

If your dancer does not have on stage makeup, your child will appear on stage—as a faceless dancer. Stage makeup will help your dancer’s facial features look bigger, brighter, and more pronounced on stage.

3. Stage Lighting Can Wash Out a Dancer’s Face

If your dancer does not have on stage makeup and they are performing on a stage with bright, shining lights, their face and facial expressions will be washed out and hard to see. You want the stage lighting to enhance your dancer’s facial features, not wash them out. For dance performances, stage lighting works to highlight and place emphasis on where the audience should place their eyes. Stage lighting also works to set the mood or tone of the dance.

Dancers are storytellers who project words and emotions through movement. For dancers to properly tell the story to the audience, they will need their entire bodies, including their facial expressions, to be visibly seen.

But, with bright lights shining on the stage, a dancer without stage makeup will appear washed out and faceless and the story would be misunderstood, lost, and left untold.

4. Dance Costumes Can Overshadow Your Dancer’s Beautiful Smile

Dance costumes are over the top! Tutus, ruffles and sequins are only a few of the many extravagant features attached to costumes. Dance costumes are created to “wow” the audience. If your dancer does not have on stage makeup, their costumes will easily overshadow their beautiful smile and beautiful face. Without stage makeup, your dancer’s facial features will disappear behind their costumes and the bright stage lights. Stage makeup is a part of your dancer’s costume.

In Conclusion

For first time dance moms and dads, we understand that the initial acknowledgment that your dancer must wear stage makeup may cause some concern. Just remember that stage makeup is key in enhancing and highlighting the facial features and expressions of your dancer to be seen from a distance.