

Shaping the Dance Experience

- What kind of manners would you like to encourage: no booking ahead, dancing with wide variety of ages and social groups, matching energy to those you meet in line, being gentle with beginners, paying attention to the caller during walk thrus, respecting tradition (chestnuts, trad music, good choreography], etc. What you want depends greatly on the vision and focus of your dance!
- How do you define good dance style? Have you ever written this down so your callers and community can read it and discuss it?
- How do you incorporate beginners:
 - Do you have a welcoming session before the dance? What is the focus?
 - Do you expect beginners to be swept in without a welcoming session?How do you influence callers and experienced dancers so they promote your vision?
- Who is in charge of promoting manners and style? How do you reach all levels of dancers?

-Organizers can have a lot of influence through use of: Promotional material (fliers and e-media), community-wide discussions (events, e-media, one on one discussion), role modeling, communication with callers, having a beginners' welcoming session, publicizing committee and function at dances, etc.

-Callers you hire need your direction in regards to: Beginner/new comer session, dance style tips (do you want to have small reminders or do you want to raise the level of dancing overall?), appropriate programming, announcements (ask those sitting out to dance, welcome beginners, dance safely), creative hall management to discourage clique sets, identification of social problems, etc.

-Encourage dancers to promote your vision: Ask them to be good role models (listen to caller, assist beginners, see the bigger picture, etc), invite them to assume a sense of ownership through volunteering (set up/take down, admissions, helping beginners, being a part of planning, etc). Positive one on one communication is very effective!