

the ladies with a large flowered hat and a badge that reads "Committee". She won't know what you're talking about, but after you have repeated your story two or three times to several confused Committee members, one of the older hands will approach and attempt to clear up the situation. Wait another ten minutes, then run up and remind them that you are still around. They will not forget you next year! In desperation, they will make out a number for you, and you will be on your way to fame and fortune. Or at least you will be inside the gate.

Now you wait to hear the last call for your competition and then start to get dressed for it. As a matter of course you come late for solo dancing; it would never do to be on time. After all, the announcer has to get his fair share of work in, too.

Report to the platform just before the announcer blows his top. (Only experience teaches you the exact moment.) Argue with the man in charge if he tries to put you on the platform first. Don't be too surprised if you find yourself in the lead position anyway; these people aren't very obliging.

While waiting for the music, think of a step to do. This is always nice, and sometimes it is even an advantage to have one prepared ahead of time. There are, however, several ways to impress the judges without all that bother. One is to do the wrong dance to the right music; another is to do one step on one foot and another step on the other foot; a third way is to compose the step as you do it (very effective). You can, of course, do it right (thereby demonstrating your lack of creativity).

If the platform is still wet, and you are forced to genuflect in the middle of a step, do so gracefully. And never let the judges see the soles of your shoes; this would eliminate you immediately.

By now you should have succeeded in making your presence known. The next time you go up, it is about time to cause excitement for the musicians. Complain as much as you can