

PRESENTATION TECHNIQUES FOR CREATIVE CHOREOGRAPHY

by Ed Foote

1. Use "off the street" words. This means explaining the material in words that are so simple, that if we brought someone in off the street who had never square danced and put them in a square, they would understand what we wanted them to do.
2. Must convince the dancers you mean what you have said to do. They may hear you say it, but they not believe you if they have never been told to do this before. If they don't believe you, they won't move.
3. Use the word "GO" to propel the dancers into action.
4. Raise your voice to emphasize something different. This will force the dancers to pay attention and to get in motion.
5. Use sex terminology in describing the action after you have named the call. Don't do this in teaching a call, because most calls do not have sex terminology as part of the definition. But do use this in presenting choreography, because it makes it easier for the dancers to follow quickly.
6. Do not leave the dancers unusual for very long. Preferably no more than 30 seconds. Then get them back to "normal." If dancers are left unusual for a long time, they become nervous and much more likely to break down.
7. Think very simple for getting out of an unusual setup. You do not want the dancers to break down on the resolve after they have been successful with your choreography. Also, thinking simple will make it much easier for you to see in your mind how to get the dancers back to "normal."
8. If you have a good idea, ride it for all that it is worth. Analyze all the places you can use your idea. If you are going to go to the effort to get the dancers to do something creative, then use this as a theme for several tips.
9. At most, only 20% of a dance should be Creative Choreography. (Depending on the group, this percentage could be much lower.) The other 80% should be plain vanilla. Creative Choreography is the icing on the cake, but it is not "the cake."