

After Parties

by Tim Marriner

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Any official activities that go on after the end of the normal dance event are often called After Parties. When asked to organize or to be a part of one it is good to find out exactly what type of event is being sought after by the planners. The following list might not be all inclusive but here are some of the most common after party events.

1. Dance Party: This type of party might include more square dancing, round dancing, contra, lines, country western two stepping, or competition event. There could be a DJ involved or an MC to keep things moving during the allotted time.
2. Singing Party: This type of after party might include anything from someone singing a few songs to a full concert by a group. Audience participation might be required with a sing-a-long or some type of Karaoke event. Again, a MC might be needed or a Karaoke VJ with equipment might be required.
3. Game Party: This type of after party would be used to get audience involvement. Relay races or crazy stunts or task would be performed with the winners awarded some prize or trophy. The MC would need to have all the necessary props ready to play the games and move the event along so everyone can get a chance. TV game ideas, board games, card games, and puzzles, would all fit under this category of after party.
4. Skit Party: This after party might involve the staff of the event and/or the dancers. A MC should program the party prior to the performance to filter the material and to set time limits for each act or skit. Having access to props helps. Pantomimes, short jokes, visual dress ups, all fall under this category of party. Be careful of content and language as to not offend anyone. Laughter is great medicine.
5. Variety Show: This type of after party might include bits from all the before mentioned categories, wrapped around some special theme with people or groups performing several acts. These events usually are more time consuming taking on a more theater type performance. Costumes and music are integrated to enhance the performance. The MC could be used to introduce each performer or act as needed.

With all of these parties it is best to program ahead of time what is to happen, when it's to happen, and with whom. Sometimes a rehearsal might be needed but be careful not to over do it; spontaneity has its merits. As an MC for such an event your task is to keep things moving from one act, dance or game to the next filling in with fun material as necessary. If you are in need of more material look towards the internet, book stores, variety shows, comic channels, game shows, and Readers Digest.

Most after parties are to provide a different form of entertainment to increase fellowship and fun. Sometimes food and drink are added to the mix either by the location or by the dancers. Remember, as a leader, you are still being watched, so set a good example.