

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE REUNION CAMP: DANCING ETIQUETTE AND SURVIVAL TIPS

If you've never attended an Israeli dance camp before here a few tips to help you - and everyone else around you - enjoy the experience, mostly shamelessly plagiarized from Ken Avner's and Loui Tucker's articles in reprinted in the April 1999 and October 2001 issues of Rokdim Yechfim. It's well worth reading them in full, if you can lay your hands on the magazine, although some of the advice is tuned specifically to US audiences:

- Bring plenty of changes of clothes, and if you have a second pair of comfortable shoes for dancing, bring them too. You will be surprised how many pairs of socks and – T-shirts you can go through and being able to change your shoes may make the difference between lasting the distance and falling by the wayside.
 - Hand and wrist jewelry can get caught in other dancers' clothing and hair and inflict nasty wounds.
 - We shall not be running warm-up sessions, so it is your responsibility to warm up those muscles which only you know are likely to complain later. The School of Performing Arts will be open from 8.30am on both Saturday and Sunday for you to do this before the teaching sessions.
 - Don't forget your water bottle! You will be able to refill it from the water cooler.
 - For half of each session we expect to be running parallel teaching sessions for less experienced dancers at which a single dance will be taught more thoroughly. Please join in during the regular sessions, too, but, if you haven't come across the dance being revised and are finding it difficult to keep up, follow behind the circle of more experienced dancers.
 - During teaching please don't talk. Some people also find it distracting when other dancers talk while they're dancing.
 - Few of us have professional dance teaching qualifications. Please be tolerant and if you think the teacher has made mistake, approach her or him about it after the session.