

Careers in Dance

Dancers must be exposed to the wide range of possible careers in dance and related fields. Different venues for dance performance include professional artistic and cultural dance companies of varied genres; musical theater productions; dance- or music-oriented entertainment videos; performances at theme parks or on cruise ships; trade shows; and more. Equally important are career options beyond dance performance, including dance teaching, choreography, artistic directing, dance administration, dance-concert theatrical design (e.g., costumers, makeup artists, stage and lighting designers, music/audio editors), production (e.g., producers, public relations/marketing staff, media staff), dance criticism and journalism, professional dance-company educational outreach, dance science and kinesiology, dance-related health and medical professions (e.g., physical therapists, somatic practitioners, dance psychologists, orthopedic surgeons), dance history, movement analysis, dance notation, dance therapy, private dance studio ownership, and more. (Dr. Marita Cardinal)

- **Dance Teacher** - teaching dance in community centers, public/private schools, dance studios and universities
- **Choreographer** - for professional dance companies, cruise ships, amusements parks, music videos, commercials, film, theatre or musical productions
- **Professional Performer** - dancing for professional dance companies, cruise ships, amusement parks, music videos, commercials, film, theatre or musical productions
- **Dance Science and Somatics** - adding extra career options within the field of dance science and somatics including:
 - **Dance/Movement Therapist** - for anyone needing psychological help (primarily non-dancers), using dance/movement as psycho-therapy to help people express themselves
 - **Physical Therapist** - for individual dancers, companies or schools of dance; helping dancers to rehabilitate from dance-related (or other) injuries
 - **Dance Psychologist** - for individual dancers, companies or schools of dance; helping dancers to improve performance through various psychological skills
 - **Somatic Practitioner** - for individual dancers, companies or schools of dance; helping dancers and others through various mind-body practices, such as Alexander, Feldenkrais, Ideokinesis, Pilates, Structural Integration, and Yoga
 - **Fitness Leader/Trainer** - for individual dancers, companies or schools of dance; helping dancers improve their fitness and conditioning through personal training and/or group exercises programs
 - **Doctor of Osteopathy/Orthopedic Surgeon** - for a variety of patients, but could specialize in dance and/or sports-related injuries
- **Dance Critic/Journalist** - for newspapers, magazines or online forums
- **Historian** - for a library, preservation society, dance company, television, film or museum
- **Researcher** - in history, pedagogy, notation or kinesiology
- **Composer** - for individual performer, dance company/ production desiring original music
- **Accompanist** - (piano or percussion) for dance company rehearsal, college dance classes
- **Theatre Designer/Technician** - for dance company venue or festival
- **Costumer/Designer** - for dance/arts company, television, film
- **Arts Administrator** - for dance company, arts agency, individual performer.
- **Photographer/Computer Specialist** - for educational use, entertainment industry, art photography
- **Dance Model** - for editorial, commercial and art photography
- **Lawyer** - in the entertainment field and organizations dealing with artists