

I want a career in

DANCE WHAT TO DO?

There are many rewarding and fulfilling careers involving dance, other than within the theatre. You don't have to BE a dancer to have dance in your life. You can have any career and still have dance IN your life.

To be a dancer you have to be very capable, practical, independent, be prepared to travel anywhere on your own, very good at working in a team, very good at working very long hours with very little reward & no encouragement (except from your mum). After an audition rejection you have to pick yourself up, dust yourself off and go for the next audition with conviction & determination. You have to be happy living & working from home for the beginning of your working life as a dancer. What ever your genre of dance , once you have finished college you need agents, they put you up for auditions.

You have got to self-disciplined. To be at the right place with the right kit at the right time and ready to start at the bottom.

I have trained some very talented dancers but even with the training & funding, once in the real world they did not have the work ethic or humility to accept anything and every thing in order to keep in the dance job market. Choreographers will get to know someone's face/body/abilities & even more important their **RELIABILITY & APPROACH TO HARD, UNCOMPLAINING WORK**. Ask any of the choreographers who come and work with you.

- **Are you going for a Diploma Course** & seeking a DaDA? This course does not require A Levels. You can update your level 6 **Trinity Diploma into a BA (Hons) Degree** at any later date with a one year, work based learning course at various Universities. Students with the top marks in the Diploma audition are offered a National Government DaDA award to cover or contribute towards fees, this is means tested SEE CHART. A DaDA is a grant NOT a loan & is not repaid. Subsistence is available for low income families.

This is hard... but best said at the beginning. If you are not good enough to get a DaDA... ie in the top marks... please remember you will be competing for jobs against those that did get the DaDA.

- **Or a Degree Course** for which you need A Levels. Students undertaking a degree at a vocational college may apply for a University loan for fees & subsistence which is repaid under normal National conditions..
- Most vocational colleges now offer a years **Foundation Course** which helps prepare to audition again. There is NO funding available.

TRAINING FOR AUDITION

Boys & girls must be “getting to” / preferable passed Intermediate Ballet. You should also have studied Jazz, Tap, Modern, Contemporary and for commercial work be able to sing and act.

You must prepare a song. You need the sheet music.

You must prepare a drama monologue or poem

You must choreograph solo 2 min MAX for artistry, technical ability, tricks

Step 1 FIRST: CHECK THE COSTS OF TRAINING/LIVING.

Go to performances of the sort of work you want to do, get the programme, **where** were the employed dancers trained? **That is where you need to be** - at those few accredited colleges. Work out the money. Discuss the money with your parents.

Step 2

Pay £35 - £45 to audition at each accredited vocational performing college. Do not forget travel costs & in some cases over night stay costs.

You audition with a Ballet class plus Jazz or Contemporary plus drama & singing etc. Each college has a different format to the day. Each class is watched by a panel & you are marked for each class. Students with the top marks are offered places. You will be auditioning with every other potential dancer from the United Kingdom for a DaDA. Each accredited College has a specific funding amount from the Government.

Go and watch the end of year college performances at the major vocational dance colleges. If possible, attend a Summer/ Easter course.

“I want to be a commercial dancer”

You **have** to be able to sing very well

You **have** to be able to act very well

You **have** to be very very slim if you are female.

- Dancers spend far more time unemployed than employed.
- Payment is sporadic. You can do a job in Nov & get paid for it in Feb.
- You need to get to London weekly for auditions & class fees. You need to keep your brain (picking up choreo) & physic sharp & ready.

As a dancer who has under gone 3 years VERY expensive training (details later in document) you audition for a job which, for the very few, involves a years contract. Each college produces 60 -120 dancers a year. They are all after the same few jobs. You have to be VERY determined & persistent. Usually the good jobs are for 3-6 months for summer seasons, pantos & cruises. You will usually earn £250 a week max. Most contracts will be for a week, a day or two, for adverts and pop videos.. To see what happens at an

audition watch “Chorus Line” or the beginning of “All That Jazz”. There is no point thinking it might be different for you, it won’t. There are hundreds of people for each job. Apart from looks, body, talent and personality it’s also about a huge chunk of luck, being in the right place at the right time with the right colour hair. You will need to have “a day job” like waiter/ress, barman, for rent & food. That is why it is a very good idea to equip yourself with an additional skills/qualification for reliable, regular income.

“I want to be a ballet / contemporary dancer ”

Before you look at web sites and start paying for auditions/ travel to auditions & in some cases over night stay before auditions.... Just think.... How many ballet / contemporary companies are there in the UK to employ dancers? How much do you earn as a ballet / contemporary dancer? How much does it cost you/ the family to train dancer?

If you want to be a ballet dancer then audition for the Royal Ballet School in school year 6. There is a Royal Ballet School Associate Saturday course - places granted through a very rigorous audition process, for regular Saturday London classes that can help prepare for the audition. Look on the Royal Ballet School Website. There is some means tested government help for attending the Royal Ballet School. You re audition annually.

There are well known & reputed colleges like Central, Rambert, London Contemporary Dance, Northern Contemporary Dance, LSC that offer full time ballet/contemporary training / degrees after A levels

There are other well known & reputed ballet boarding schools, for example Elmhurst, Tring - who also audition in year 6. Look at their web sites. There is NO financial assistance available .

Annual costs of attending college for Diploma course – Dada

CHECK the full final table at end for student fee & maintenance 2013/14. If your family income is above £70 000 – you do not qualify for anything. PLEASE check the means related table.

EG Figures from 2012 for a family income of B7 DaDA means tested level

Term Time Bed & Breakfast digs (incl bills/laundry/land lady)

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|--|
| £1 275 – compulsory parents contribution to DaDA funding |
| £3 600 – one weeks B/B x 12 weeks x 3 terms |
| £1 800 - £50 per week x 12 weeks x 3 terms travel, living & food |
| £ 200 – sundry college expenses eg theatre fund |
| ----- |

£6 875 per year

£6 875 a year x 3 years = your parents pay **£20 025** over 3 years

Rented flat – 12 months a year

£1 275 – compulsory parents contribution to DaDA funding

£4.800 – 12 months for 1 bedroom in rented accomm

£1 000 - Bills : approx

£1 800 - Travel, living & food

£ 200 – sundry college expenses eg theatre fund

£9 475 per year

£9 475 a year x 3 years = your parents pay **£27 225** over 3 years

There will also be the cost of a compulsory uniform, examination fees etc

- Once qualified you DO NOT pay the Dada funding back.
- You can pay your parents back !!!

Degree Dance Courses Loan – the same as any university degree

- If you get a degree course you apply for a loan That pays for your fees.
- You can apply to them for a maintenance (living) loan as above - or your parents pay for your living expenses.
- At a vocational college there will also be the additional cost of a compulsory uniform, examination fees etc

You pay your loan back with 3% (at the moment) interest, after you are earning over £21 000. That means you pay back your loan PLUS 3%.

Essex Dance Theatre students have trained at the following accredited colleges

Arts Ed London, Bird College, Central School of Ballet, Elmhurst, English National Ballet, Laine Theatre Arts, London Contemporary Dance, London Studio Centre, Northern Ballet School, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Performers College, Rambert, Royal Ballet School, Urdang.

Check out their web sites, costs, courses, & down load application form

Useful sites

www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/childrenandyoungpeoplestudentssupport/a00203099/dada-scheme

www.dadaainfo.org.uk under income bands