

Job of The Week

Dancer

Key Skills

- physical fitness and endurance
- knowledge of the fine arts
- ambition and a desire to succeed
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- physical skills like movement, coordination, dexterity and grace
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device
- persistence and determination
- the ability to use your initiative

Salary
Variable

Working hours
28 – 30p/w
Evening/ weekends/
bank holidays
Away from home

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

Dancer

Top Tips

Classical ballet dancers start training very young, usually at 10 or 11 years old. It's possible to make a career in contemporary dance if you start at a later age, if you're prepared to work hard and put in a lot of training..

University

You'll usually need a degree or diploma in professional dance or musical theatre. These take 2 to 3 years to complete and are offered by dance schools, performing arts schools and universities.

Academic qualifications may not be essential if you show enough talent at audition.

You could get a Dance and Drama Award to help with fees and living costs.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree and to pass an audition

College

There is no set entry route to become a dancer but it may be useful to do a relevant subject like:

- Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts
- Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts – Dance
- Level 3 Sport

For entry to some courses at level 3 and above you may need to attend an audition.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3, or equivalent, for a level 2 course and 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, for a level 3 course

Volunteering

Dancing is very competitive and you'll need to develop your skills by getting as much dancing experience as possible.

You could do this through:

- amateur dance clubs
- college and university dance societies
- student dance festivals and competitions

This can also help you to build a network of contacts in the dance profession which will be useful when looking to get work.



Career path and progression

Many dancers combine their performance work with part time teaching or behind the scenes work in the arts. With experience, you could become a choreographer or become self employed and set up your own dance school.

With further training, you could go into community arts development or dance therapy.

Day to Day tasks:

You'll specialise in a form of dance:

- classical ballet
- contemporary dance
- modern stage dance, like jazz, tap, and musical theatre
- African or Asian dance
- street dance

Typically you could:

- rehearse routines
- prepare for and go to auditions
- take part in dance classes and maintain your fitness
- perform in front of a live audience or to a camera
- promote yourself as a performer

Working conditions

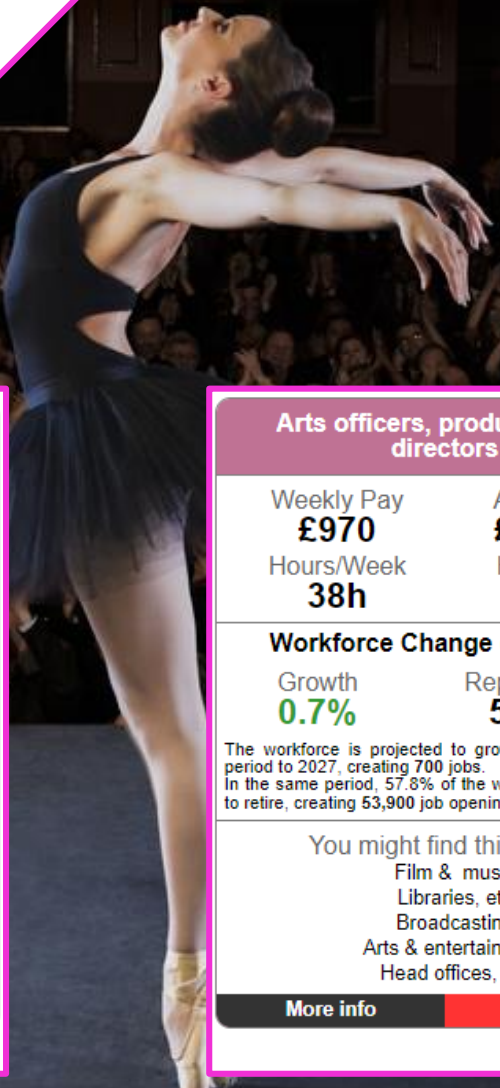
You could work in a creative studio, in a theatre, at a TV studio, at a film studio, on a cruise ship or in the community.

Your working environment may be physically and emotionally demanding, you'll travel often and you may spend nights away from home.



Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.
Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.



Dancers and choreographers	
Weekly Pay £760	Annual Pay £39,520
Hours/Week 29h	Hourly Pay £26
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 0.7%	Replacement 57.8%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 0.7% over the period to 2027, creating 100 jobs. In the same period, 57.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 11,000 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Education Arts & entertainment Membership organisations</p>	
More info	Clear card

Arts officers, producers and directors	
Weekly Pay £970	Annual Pay £50,440
Hours/Week 38h	Hourly Pay £26
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 0.7%	Replacement 57.8%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 0.7% over the period to 2027, creating 700 jobs. In the same period, 57.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 53,900 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Film & music Libraries, etc Broadcasting Arts & entertainment Head offices, etc</p>	
More info	Clear card

Actors, entertainers and presenters	
Weekly Pay £1,120	Annual Pay £58,240
Hours/Week 43h	Hourly Pay £26
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 0.7%	Replacement 57.8%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 0.7% over the period to 2027, creating 400 jobs. In the same period, 57.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 32,400 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Other personal service Sport & recreation Arts & entertainment Membership organisations Libraries, etc</p>	
More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information

Dancers and choreographers

Dancers and choreographers devise, direct, rehearse and perform classical and contemporary dance routines.

Common tasks in this job:

- builds and maintains stamina, physical strength, agility and general health through fitness exercises and healthy eating;
- attends rehearsals to develop and practice dance routines for performance;
- participates in dance performance;
- demonstrates and directs dance moves, monitors and analyses technique and performance, and determines how improvements can be made.

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Actors, entertainers and presenters

Actors, entertainers and presenters sing, portray roles in dramatic productions, perform comedy routines, gymnastic feats and tricks of illusion, train animals to perform and perform with them, and introduce and present radio and television programmes.

Common tasks in this job:

- studies script, play or book and prepares and rehearses interpretation;
- assumes character created by a playwright or author and communicates this to an audience;
- performs singing, comedy, acrobatic, illusion and conjuring routines;
- trains animals to perform entertaining routines and may perform with them;

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Arts officers, producers and directors

Arts officers, producers and directors assume creative, financial and organisational responsibilities in the production and direction of television and radio programmes, films, stage presentations, content for other media, and the promotion and exhibition of other creative activities.

Common tasks in this job:

- chooses writers, scripts, technical staff and performers, and assumes overall responsibility for completion of project on time and within budget;
- directs actors, designers, camera team, sound crew and other production and technical staff to achieve desired effects;
- breaks script into scenes and formulates a shooting schedule that will be most economical in terms of time, location and sets;
- prepares rehearsal and production schedule for main events, design of sets and costumes, technical rehearsals and dress rehearsals;

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