



COMMUNITY DANCE CAREERS



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CONTENTS

What is Dance in the Community?

What will you do?

Where does it happen?

Skills and Qualities

Who might employ you?

Entry routes

Testimonials

Acknowledgements



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What is Dance in the Community?

Dance in the community is when skilled dance professionals engage anyone and everyone in a variety of settings. The aim is to provide enjoyment using diverse styles of dance, whilst developing creativity, individual expression and a sense of community.

(This definition is subject to change due to the continuing development of dance within the community).



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What will you do?

You might work independently as a freelance artist or as part of a company or organisation. You may work with groups of all ages, abilities and backgrounds in different communities, facilitating and leading dance activities. It will be important to encourage your participants to become artists in their own right. The group should be positively supported by accommodating their needs and ambition, also ensuring that you and your participants operate in a safe and healthy environment to promote wellbeing.



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Where does it happen?

Education:

Early years settings
Primary schools
High school
Colleges
Universities
Special Needs schools

Health settings:

Hospitals
Nursing/Care homes
Day care centres
Therapy centres

Other Arts venues:

Leisure centres
Village halls
Outside spaces

Arts venues:

Theatres
Arts centres
Dance houses



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Who might employ you?

Dance agencies, companies and organisations
Freelance community work
Private dance schools
Schools, colleges and universities
Local Authorities
Hospitals
Prisons
Sports & Leisure facilities, Sport organisations & agencies
Theatres & performance Venues



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Entry Routes

The community dance profession can be accessible through higher education in the form of undergraduate degrees in dance, available at a range of universities in the UK qualification. Alternatively other avenues that can lead to a career in community dance include, establishments across the country, degrees, postgraduate diplomas and master programmes. Apprenticeships and placements can also lead to a job within the community. These opportunities can allow you to work intensively with different companies and organisations to extend your skills and develop your employment. If you are interested in working in schools whether that be in primary or secondary education, you will need a postgraduate certificate of education to undertake a PGCE in dance teaching or a graduate training programme (GTP) in a school.



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Skills and Qualities

In a communiting setting, certain skills and qualities are essential to your practice as a Community Dance Artist.

Good communication skills

To have a broad knowledge of dance as an Art form and a discipline

Being adaptable to community settings

A keen sense of values and consideration towards others

Having good organisational and motivational skills

The ability to use your own initiative in a creative manner

A commitment to continuing professional development

To be able to plan, deliver, evaluate and develop sessions

Having a positive presence and always being approachable



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Testimonials

'Dance has a great deal to offer people young and old, irrespective of ability and background. Dance can take many forms and embody elements of fun, creativity and performance that makes it an attractive route to a fitter and healthier lifestyle'
(Former Minister for public Health, Caroline Flint)

'Beyond all the fantastic health benefits of being active, dancing together can have a powerful effect on the human psyche'
(Jacqueline McCormick, Cheshire Dance)

'Creative Dance helps people to build confidence, get motivated, think creatively, work with others, communicate and express themselves'
(Viv Gordon, Mean Feet Dance)



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